

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CIVIL SERVICE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE BENEFIT ACT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, most people believe that they are covered for long-term care by their health care plans, disability insurance, or by Medicare. Unfortunately, many learn the hard way—when they or a family member needs care—that they are not adequately covered and must pay for long-term care on their own. By 2030, the average annual cost of a nursing home stay will increase from \$40,000 today to more than \$97,000 (in 1997 dollars).

Long-term care insurance provides protection from these catastrophic financial risks and reduces reliance on Medicaid.

As one of the Nation's largest employers it is appropriate that the Federal Government offer long-term care insurance as a benefit to Federal employees. An amazing 86% of Federal employees have expressed interest in long-term care insurance in response to survey questionnaires.

Today I will introduce the "Civil Service Long-Term Care Insurance Benefit Act" that establishes a program through which Federal employees and annuitants may obtain group or individual long-term care insurance for themselves, their spouses, and any other eligible relative. This benefit option would be available by January, 2000.

This bill will make long-term care insurance affordable to the Federal community through competition and choice.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE—DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE PROGRAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, five years ago in the District of Columbia, the Do the Write Thing Challenge Program was established. The program was started by the Kuwait American Foundation as a way for private Kuwaiti citizens to give thanks for America's support during the Gulf War. The program attracted the interest of a variety of groups who formed a coalition that created the National Campaign to Stop Violence.

Young people in the seventh and eighth grades were asked to write an essay, poem or song that responded to the question, "What can I do to stop violence?" This spring, the writings were reviewed by community leaders and 60 finalists were selected from 22 states. A leather bound book of their essays was presented to General Scott at the Library of Congress, and the young people enjoyed a reception, in their honor, in the Cannon Caucus Room.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in this chamber to celebrate and encourage the aspirations of the finalists from the District of Columbia, Nia Hepburn-Nelson and Mark Parker.

Nia is a seventh grade student attending Jefferson Junior High School who aspires to be a computer programmer. Nia and her family reside in Northeast Washington, DC. Mark is in the seventh grade at Stuart Hobson Middle School. He has an avid interest in international relations and would like to serve his country as the Secretary of Defense.

CLINTON, MA, NAMED OFFICIAL MILLENNIUM TOWN, USA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce the designation of the Town of Clinton, MA as the official Millennium Town, USA.

They will be celebrating their 150th anniversary in the year 2000 and will truly become a genuine millennium town. Clinton, MA has already had the accomplishments of a millennium town by copyrighting several historic souvenirs—the world's first Millennium 2000 dollar bill, an official Millennium seal—Y2K, the millennium 2000 toasting mug, and the official millennium cookie. These products are the work of local resident Richard L. Harding.

I applaud the town of Clinton, MA for all of their hard work and accomplishments they have had which has given them the right to earn the title of Millennium Town, USA.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Madam Speaker, I speak in support of H.R. 4342. H.R. 4342 includes the text of several pieces of legislation that I introduced. I also wanted to thank Chairman CRANE, the rest of the Ways and Means Committee, the Subcommittee on Trade and their respective staffs for working with me on these bills.

The bills I introduced granted a duty suspension on several products used in the coatings and plastics industry. These products are organic replacements for colorants that use heavy metals, such as lead, molybdenum, chrome, and cadmium. We have all heard about the environmental and health consequences associated with using heavy metals, especially lead. Using organic materials in place of heavy metals is a step in the right di-

rection toward protecting our environment and our health.

Tariffs are generally imposed to protect American companies from an unfair disadvantage from foreign competitors. When a tariff becomes a hindrance to American competitiveness, it needs to be reconsidered. In this case, maintaining tariffs results in substantial costs to U.S. businesses. Removing these tariffs will better enable U.S. businesses to compete, and maintain stable employment and production levels.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. KELVIN KESLER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of a good friend, Dr. Kelvin Kesler, upon his retirement after nearly 30 years of providing outstanding medical care to the families of Fort Collins, Colorado. In 1970, Dr. Kesler opened the Fort Collins Women's Clinic, a facility offering the very best in obstetrical and gynecological medicine. Under his professional care, this small practice grew dramatically and now has 15 care providers, 65 employees, and a laboratory occupying a two story complex.

The medical advances Dr. Kesler helped pioneer, as well as keeping up with the latest medical breakthroughs in his field, are a testament to his remarkable scholarship and professionalism. Performing outpatient surgery in a state-of-the-art facility is a far cry from the days of home visits in the early 1970's. Through it all, Dr. Kesler succeeded and remained true to himself. Now delivering the children of children he once delivered, Dr. Kesler has enjoyed, in his own words, "a very rewarding career." While almost everything else has changed, Dr. Kesler's compassion and personal touch have not.

What makes Dr. Kesler truly remarkable is that he has always been committed to serving his family, community, and country. He was the first married U.S. physician sent to Vietnam. After serving in Vietnam and Japan from 1961–1963, he continued in the service of his country in the OB/GYN Department of the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton, CA, until 1969. Returning to Colorado, he quickly became a valued member of the University of Colorado's School of Medicine OB/GYN Department. In addition, during this same period he was heavily involved with Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, CO. During all of this activity, he still managed to start the Fort Collins Women's Clinic. A true leader in his profession, Dr. Kesler served with distinction as the president of the Colorado Obstetric and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

gynecology Society. In addition, he was named the University of Colorado School of Medicine's 1996 Alumnae of the Year.

More than all the accolades and accomplishments, Dr. Kesler prides himself most on his family. His wife, JoAnn, and his children, Thomas, Jeffrey, and Kelley, he says continue to be his greatest source of encouragement and satisfaction. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to this generous, talented, and outstanding man who has given so much to his family, his many friends, the community in which he lives and the Nation.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support in H.R. 4057, the Airport Improvement Program Reauthorization Act of 1998. This bill contains several important provisions critical to ensuring the efficiency and safety of our Nation's air traffic system, such as "whistle blower" protection and making runway incursion devices eligible for AIP funding.

This bill also authorizes funding critical to the resolution of an enormous back-log of equal employment opportunity complaints filed with the FAA and the Department of Transportation. As most of you know, this current back-log is one of the reasons that more than 200 women have filed a class action lawsuit alleging sexual harassment against the Federal Aviation Administration.

Last year, I read with great interest and dismay an article printed in the Friday, July 18, 1997 edition of USA Today. The story highlighted allegations of sexual harassment and sex discrimination among female air traffic controllers at John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California and at FAA regulated facilities across the country.

On July 23, I wrote to Chairman DUNCAN and Ranking Member LIPINSKI urging them to hold a hearing to further investigate these allegations. The leadership of the subcommittee honored my request and held a hearing on Thursday, October 23, 1997.

On the job sexual harassment is a pervasive and insidious problem. It is made worse when the alleged perpetrators of this heinous activity put the lives of hundreds of innocent men, women, and children at risk by harassing female air traffic controllers while they are directing flights as high as 36,000 feet or giving others instruction for landing or guiding aircraft on the ground to the appropriate gates or runways.

We must ensure that our nation's air traffic control towers are the safest in the world, free of discrimination and harassment of any kind. These activities lower the morale of the employees who are victims of discrimination and their colleagues who witness it. U.S. Dept. of Labor estimates that American business loses \$1 billion in absenteeism, new employee training and replacement costs, and low morale as a result of sexual harassment. (This figure does not include judgments and civil court cases.)

I applaud FAA Administrator Jane Garvey for paying immediate attention to this matter and for taking steps to eliminate sexual harassment from the FAA. In addition to her "Zero Tolerance" policy, Administrator Garvey has created an accountability board that will review all allegations, regardless of origin, and take timely, consistent and appropriate action.

The Administrators efforts, combined with the funds authorized here today, will go a long way towards dealing with the issue of sexual harassment and how the complaints are ultimately dealt with. But this is not enough. We must now work to change the culture within the FAA, and hold those persons who are guilty of sexual harassment accountable.

I'd like to thank Chairman DUNCAN and Ranking Member LIPINSKI for their leadership, and for working with me to include this language in this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the rich history of the Mount Olive Baptist Church on the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Mr. Speaker, on August 17, 1873, the Mount Olive Baptist Church was organized in the home of Brother Robert Terrell and Sister Martha Terrell by a group out of the Second Baptist Church in NW, D.C. who accepted the challenge to establish a church to meet the spiritual needs of families residing in the Near Northeast Community.

From these humble beginnings, the church became extensively involved in the community. The ministerial staff, in conjunction with the Near Northeast Group Ministers Association participated, with John Hechinger, in the development of Hechinger Mall, the Pentacle Apartments and Benning Court Apartments, and initiated a Meals on Wheels Program for the sick and shut-in. In 1975, the Near Northeast Community Enrichment Program which provides social services, employment, and after school and summer enrichment programs was implemented. The "Feed My Sheep" ministry was instituted to provide a nutritious breakfast to children each Sunday morning before Sunday School. An outside community day, "Taking Jesus to the Streets" conducting by the Youth Ministry has evolved into "Love and Unity Day."

Mr. Speaker, with the opening of the Mount Olive Baptist Church Learning Center, the church continues to grow and serve the needs of the near northeast community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members in this hallowed chamber to join me in saluting the officers, members and friends of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, a beacon of light and a safe haven in the near northeast community.

THE MUSIC MAKERS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, two hundred years ago, in May of 1798, the United Irishmen, whose ranks were made up of both Catholics and Protestants, rebelled against the English Crown. In May of this year, as word reached our shores of resounding voter approval of a landmark peace agreement intended to end 30 years of Catholic-Protestant bloodshed, our former colleague, Senator George Mitchell, who helped mediate the agreement, shared a stage at the University of New Hampshire Commencement with a remarkable author, poet, actor, singer, storyteller and songwriter, Tommy Makem. On that sunny, breezy afternoon, each received an honorary degree.

Senator Mitchell, as was fitting, gave the commencement address; Tommy Makem, appropriately enough, sang a song he had written about the search for peace in Ireland. "Raise the cry for peace and justice; let the people sound the call: justice for our battered country, peace for one and peace for all." So many of Tommy's songs, such as "Gentle Annie" and "Four Green Fields" are so well known that they are often mistaken for traditional folk songs and are standards in the repertoire of flocksingers around the world.

A native of Keady, County Armagh, Tommy is the son of the legendary folk singer, Sarah Makem. He came to Dover, New Hampshire in 1956, and established himself as an actor in New York. There he teamed up with the Clancy Brothers: Liam, Tom and Paddy. In the early 1960s, following an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show and a number of sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem were perhaps the best known Irishmen in all the world. At the Newport Folk Festival, in 1961, he and Joan Baez were chosen as the two most promising newcomers on the American folk scene.

In 1984, Tommy joined the ranks of millions of Irish immigrants who came before him and was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in Concord, New Hampshire. He has received countless awards, among them the Gold Medal from the Eire Society in Boston and Stonehill College's prestigious Genesis Award. Irish America Magazine named him one of the Top 100 Irish Americans five years in a row. He was awarded the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards.

While there is no mention of it in his biographical sketch, I am personally aware of his support for "Project Children," a non-profit organization that brings children from Northern Ireland to the United States for a summer holiday away from the Irish "troubles," recruiting them from neighborhoods in which Protestant-Catholic conflicts have taken the heaviest toll. As of 1996, more than 11,000 youngsters from Belfast, Armagh, Strabane, Enniskillen, and Derry can be counted as "alumni" of the project.

History records that the rebellion of 1798 failed in the month of August. Let us pray that peace will take hold in August of 1998 and that in the coming years the children of Northern Ireland will visit the United States as part of a cultural exchange, rather than for a respite from sectarian violence.

Tommy's "Peace and Justice" expresses the hope that "understanding and forgiveness will dry all our country's tears"—something to be wished for on both sides of the Atlantic.

The 19th century poet Arthur O'Shaughnessy wrote of the world's musicians:

We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamer of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams;
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world forever, it seems.

With wonderful deathless ditties
We build up the world's great cities,
And out of a fabulous story
We fashion an empire's glory
One man with a dream, at pleasure,
Shall go forth and conquer a crown;
And three with a new song's measure
Can trample an empire down.

We in the ages lying,
In the buried past of the earth,
Built Ninevah with our sighing,
And Babel itself with our mirth;
And o'erthrew them with prophesying
To the old of the new world's worth;
For each age is a dream that is dying,
Or one that is coming to birth.

Mr. Speaker, I sometimes wonder whether our society fully appreciates the importance of our artists, poets and songwriters. Tommy Makem's journey to our shore, his work for peace and the music he has made famous—including the folk songs of both North America and the British Isles—remind us that our nation has been enriched indeed by the men and women who have come here from other lands.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Royce Amendment to zero funding for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP).

Zeroing-out ATP would amount to the U.S. government turning its back on its obligations. The problem is that ATP funds long-term (three to five year) research grants. The funding for the remaining years of these multi-year grants is termed a "mortgage."

According to the Administration, ATP is likely to have mortgages totaling just over \$120 million in FY 1999. While these mortgages are not liabilities for the Federal Government, they represent commitments made by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to these research projects.

Zeroing-out ATP would break NIST's commitments to its existing ATP partners. It would be like giving a four-year scholarship to a stu-

dent, and then terminate it without cause after his or her freshman year.

Similar efforts to eliminate ATP failed last year by votes of 163 to 261 and 177 to 235. And this House earlier today rejected an amendment to reduce this year's funding. Further, both the House and Senate have passed legislation to specifically authorize the program.

ATP has an important role in bringing companies together, in cooperation with the Federal Government, to bridge the gap between research that creates precompetitive technologies and the commercialization of those technologies.

To date, ATP grants have helped to develop medical equipment that will assist in the fight against cancer and AIDS, increase the capacity of fiber optic cables, improve light-emitting diode (LED) displays, and create a method for combining textile weaving technology with human tissue growth to form biodegradable medical implants.

Mr. Chairman, eliminating all ATP funding in H.R. 4276 is a bad idea. It will force NIST to back-out of commitment it has made to existing ATP grant recipients and it will end a program that has shown promise.

I urge all my colleagues to vote "no" on the Royce amendment.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH ALLEN

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk and even legislation lately concerning the encouragement of Americans to become volunteers in their communities.

I would like to point out to my colleagues that millions of Americans have not waited for the Federal Government to call for volunteerism, they have been doing just that for decades. And nowhere can be found a better example than that of Kenneth Allen, of Dublin, Georgia.

Kenneth became a member of the Boy Scouts of Dublin in January 1976, as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 66. He served in that capacity until 1988, when he became head Scoutmaster.

For ten years, from 1988 until this year, Kenneth faithfully served the young men of Troop 66, producing 76 Eagle Scouts. Kenneth earned the Silver Beaver Award in 1988; the District Merit Award in 1991 and 1996; the Scoutmaster Award in 1986, 1989, 1990, and 1994; the Troop Advancement Award in 1990 and 1997, and the Cliff Moyer Award in 1988.

This year, Kenneth Allen finally retired from active service with the Boy Scouts. In honor of his years of dedication, the Troop Advancement Award has been renamed the Kenneth D. Allen, Senior Advancement Award, and will be awarded annually to a scout leader in the Central Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

I'm proud to know Kenneth. He has proven himself as a credit to the Dublin community and a positive role model for hundreds of young men who have passed through Troop 66 over the 22 years he has given to that organization.

I know his wife Claudia, daughter Sharon, and son Kenneth, Junior are also proud of

Kenneth's achievements, although I'm sure they are also glad to have a little more time with Dad now that he has retired.

Mr. Speaker, if we look for examples of volunteerism to serve as a model for what we need more of as a nation, we need look no further than Kenneth D. Allen, Senior, of Dublin, Georgia.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment by Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE to increase funding for the Community Relations Service (CRS).

At a time when our Nation continues to see the damaging effects of racial tensions, gang violence, and hate crimes, the demand for skilled professionals trained in conflict mediation has reached a new height. We must acknowledge the services this division of the Department of Justice has brought to mayors, chiefs of police, school superintendents, and concerned citizens of the community. In my home city of Los Angeles, the Community Relations Service played a vital role in resolving the week-long turmoil of the LA riots in the early 1990's. The recent events in Jasper, TX, proved another opportunity to employ these trained professionals to resolve conflict and prevent further tensions from rising. Without their interventions, the unresolved tensions of these conflicts will fester and could continue indefinitely, breeding further hate and violence.

I believe all of my colleagues here can agree that our efforts to alleviate violence in schools and communities is not something we should choose to ignore. This is not an example of a duplicated federally funded program. This is the only Federal agency working to provide this type of assistance in times of need and attempt to prevent further outbreaks of violence and hate crimes. The demand for these services is growing and the Community Relations Service has proven itself successful in what has been deemed the most efficient and desirable approach to conflict resolution within the community; but at the current funding level they are unable to meet the demand for such services. The CRS was forced to decline 40 percent of all the requests for assistance that they received.

We hear members on the other side of the aisle speaking of a more efficient government. The CRS is an example of not only an efficient agency, but one that is cost effective. We can choose to help resolve conflict or we can pay the price of the crimes and convictions that will inevitably follow. I say we must meet the need for this demand and fully fund the CRS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Jackson-Lee amendment.

THE MEDICARE SUBSTITUTE
ADULT DAY CARE SERVICE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise with my colleagues Representatives CARDIN, KLECZKA, and LEWIS with whom I serve on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, to introduce The Medicare Substitute Adult Day Care Services Act.

This bill would update the Medicare home health benefit to incorporate modern setting for rehabilitation. While the home had been the only setting in which a homebound person could reasonably be expected to receive therapy, that is no longer always the case. This legislation would allow patients and their families to choose the best setting for their individual needs. This new choice would be provided at no additional cost to the Medicare program.

Adult day care centers (ADCs) are proving to be effective—often preferable—alternatives to complete confinement in the home. Homebound people can utilize these centers because they provide door-to-door services for their patients. ADCs send special vehicles and trained personnel to a patient's home and will go so far as to get the patient out of bed and transport them to the ADC site in specially-equipped vehicles. Without this transportation component, homebound patients would be not able to utilize such a service.

For certain patients, the ADC setting is far preferable to traditional home health care. The ADC can provide skilled therapy like the home health provider, but also provide therapeutic activities and meals for the patients. These centers provide a social setting within a therapeutic environment to serve patients with a variety of needs. Thus, patients have the opportunity to interact with a broad array of people and to participate in organized group activities that promote better physical and mental health. Rehabilitation can be enhanced in such a setting.

It is also important to note that ADC care provides an added benefit to the caregivers for frail seniors. When a Medicare beneficiary receives home health services in the home, these providers are not in the home all day. They provide the service they are paid for and then leave. Many frail seniors cannot be left alone for long periods of time and this restriction prevents their caregivers from being able to maintain employment outside of the home. If the senior were receiving ADC services, they would receive supervised care for the whole day and the primary care giver would be able to maintain a job and/or be able to leave the home for longer periods of time.

From a cost perspective, an ADC setting can provide savings as well. In the home care arena, a skilled nurse, a physical therapist, or any home health provider must travel from home to home providing services to one patient per site. There are significant transportation costs and time costs associated with that method of care. In an ADC, the patients are brought to the providers so that a provider can see a larger number of patients in a short-

er period of time. That means that payments per patient for skilled therapies can be reduced in the ADC setting compared to the home health setting.

The Medicare Substitute Adult Day Care Services Act would incorporate the adult day care setting into the current Medicare home health benefit. It would do so by allowing beneficiaries to substitute some, or all, of their Medicare home health services in the home for care in an adult day care center (ADC).

To achieve cost-savings, the ADC would be paid a flat rate of 95% of the rate that would have been paid for the service had it been delivered in the patient's home. The ADC would be required, with that one payment, to provide a full day of care to the patient. That care would include the home health benefit and transportation, meals and therapeutic activities.

It is especially important to note that this bill is not an expansion of the home health benefit. It would not make any new people eligible for the Medicare home health benefit. Nor would it expand the definition of what qualifies for reimbursement by Medicare for home health services.

In order to qualify for the ADC option, a patient would still need to qualify for Medicare home health benefits just like they do today. They would need to be homebound and they would need to have a certification from a doctor for skilled therapy in the home.

All the bill would do is recognize that ADCs can provide the same services, at lower costs, and include the benefits of social interaction, activities, meals, and a therapeutic environment in which trained professionals can treat, monitor and support Medicare beneficiaries who would otherwise be at home without professional help. All of these things aid the rehabilitation process of patients.

In order to participate in the Medicare home care program, adult day care centers would need to meet the same standards that are required of home health agencies. The only exception to this rule is that the ADCs would not be required to be "primarily" involved in the provision skilled nursing services and therapy services. They would be required to provide those services, but because ADCs provide services to an array of patients, skilled nursing services and therapy services may not always be their primary activity. Otherwise, all the home health requirements would apply to ADCs.

Here is an example of how the system would work if this bill were law. A patient is prescribed home care by his or her doctor. At that time the patient and his or her family decide how to arrange for the services. They could choose to receive all services through the home, or could choose to substitute some adult day care services. So, if the patient had 3 physical therapy visits and 2 home health aide visits, they could decide to take the home health aide visits at home, but substitute three days of ADC services for the physical therapy visits. On those days, the patient would be picked up from home, taken to the ADC, receive the physical therapy, and receive the additional benefits of the ADC setting (group therapy, meals, socialization, and transportation). All of these services would be incorporated into the payment rate of 95% of the home setting rate for the physical therapy service. It is a savings for Medicare and an improved benefit to the patient—a winning solution for everyone.

While we believe this bill would create savings for Medicare without any additional protections, to make sure that that is the case, we have included a budget neutrality provision in the bill. This provision would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to change the percentage of the payment rate for ADC services if growth in those services were to be greater than current projections under the traditional home health program.

This is a small step forward for rehabilitation therapy for seniors. Eligibility for the home health benefit is not changed so it is not an expansion of the benefit. We believe that patients would greatly benefit from the option of an adult day care setting for the provision of home health services and look forward to working with our colleagues to enact this incremental, important Medicare improvement.

CREDIT CARD ON-TIME PAYMENT
PROTECTION ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the "Credit Card On-Time Payment Protection Act" to address the growing financial penalties imposed on credit card holders who pay their credit card bills in full each month.

While most of the information we see on credit cards and credit card debt is alarming, one positive fact has received little attention. This is the fact that over 40 percent of credit card holders routinely pay off their credit card balances in full each month without incurring finance charges or carrying credit balances. This use of credit cards only for transactions rather than credit has been relatively stable over time. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 43 percent of households with credit cards routinely paid off their card balances in 1983, with 41 percent continuing to regularly pay off card balances in 1995.

At a time of escalating consumer debt, paying off of credit card debt should be encouraged. But the credit card companies have taken the opposite approach. Rather than encouraging a reduction of debt they are imposing penalties on card holders who pay off their card balances on time. Rather than encouraging responsible use of credit cards and reducing credit card delinquencies, they are creating new disincentives to reduce credit card debt.

Press articles began appearing two years ago describing how one credit card issuer, then another, had begun imposing minimum finance charges or maintenance fees on the accounts of card holders who regularly paid off the card balances each month. Other card issuers began to reimpose annual fees on the "no fee" accounts of card holders who paid in full. The theory behind this was, if consumers were going to have to pay a fee, they might as well carry credit balances and pay interest charges. Our colleague JOE KENNEDY responded to this problem with a bill to prohibit the imposition of a minimum finance charge or fee on a credit card account solely because a card holder paid off any credit extended in full.

Late last year the press reported that several large national retail company chains were

cancelling their co-branded credit cards for card holders who paid their monthly balances on time. This meant that their most responsible customers were suddenly deprived of the use of their credit cards. More recently, our colleague SID YATES brought to my attention a far more subtle, but equally effective, method that some credit card companies are using to exact fees payments from card holders who pay on time. This involves manipulation of the "payment due" date on the credit card statement to induce earlier payment of the monthly payment amount than is necessary to avoid any finance charges, thus allowing the card issuer more time to hold and earn interest on the payment.

Under the Truth in Lending Act, if a card issuer provides a "grace period" during which any credit charges can be repaid in full without incurring finance charges, it must be disclosed to the consumer in the initial card offering and in the monthly billing statement. There is no specific requirement, however, that the monthly "payment due" date be the same as this disclosed grace period, especially if no interest charge is actually charged until the end of the stated grace period. This has permitted, for example, one Chicago area bank to decrease the 25 day grace period it discloses in promotions and agreements with consumers to only 20 days in the payment due date it includes in statements of card holders who routinely pay off their monthly balances. This permits the bank an extra "float" on these payments of at least five days each month without the knowledge of the card holder. Court documents estimated that this bank has used this tactic to induce card holders to advance nearly \$600 million each month five days before it is actually necessary to avoid interest charges.

This manipulation of monthly payment due dates falsely induces card holders to transmit payments earlier than necessary every month, depriving them of the use of their own money up to 60 days each year! And it allows card issuers to benefit from the additional float on millions of dollars each month. Given the huge percentage of card holders who pay off their monthly bills, and the fact that large national credit card issuers are beginning to use this practice, this problem may affect millions of card holders across the United States with a credit card volume of potentially tens of billions of dollars annually.

I am pleased to join with Representatives KENNEDY and YATES in introducing legislation that would eliminate these unfair and costly practices that discourage responsible credit card use. The bill would make it a violation of the Truth in Lending Act for any credit card issuer to cancel the credit card account, or impose new fees, finance charges or other costs on any credit card account solely on the basis that the credit extended during billing periods is regularly repaid in full without incurring finance charges.

The bill also would make it a prohibited fee or charge for a card issuer to send card holders billing statements with payment due dates that are earlier than the date disclosed in promotions and card agreements and have the effect of inducing the card holder to send payments earlier than would otherwise be necessary to avoid finance charges. Taken together, these charges would preserve the accounts of the most responsible credit card users and save consumers potentially millions of dollars each year in unnecessary fee payments.

While I consider myself a strong supporter of legislation to modernize the banking industry, I cannot accept bank practices that impose unnecessary and unproductive costs on consumers. Imposing new charges and canceling the accounts of consumers who pay their credit card bills on time serves one purpose, and one purpose only—to increase the already record levels of bank fee income. These practices have no other economic or policy purpose or rationale.

At a time of escalating consumer debt and record levels of credit card delinquencies and personal bankruptcy, the banking industry should not engage in practices that discourage responsible use of credit and reduction in credit card debt. The practices I have outlined are discriminatory, they are unfair to consumers and they are wrong. I urge Congress to end these practices by adopting my legislation.

The text of the bill follows:

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Credit Card On-Time Payment Protection Act of 1998."

SEC. 2. PENALTIES FOR ON-TIME PAYMENT PROHIBITED.

Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(h) PENALTIES FOR ON-TIME PAYMENT PROHIBITED—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any credit card account under an open-end consumer credit plan, no creditor may cancel an account, impose a minimum finance charge for any period (including any annual period), impose any fee in lieu of a minimum finance charge or impose any other charge or penalty with regard to such account or credit extended under such account solely on the basis that any credit extended has been repaid in full before the end of any grace period applicable with respect to the extension of credit.

"(2) PAYMENT DUE DATES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a creditor shall be deemed to have imposed a prohibited charge or penalty on an account under an open end consumer credit plan if the creditor regularly transmits to the obligor of such plan a statement for a billing cycle in which credit has been extended under such plan that includes a payment due date as required by subsection (b)(9) of this section—

"(A) that is different from and in advance of—

"(i) the date by which payment must be made for any credit extended under such credit plan to avoid incurring a finance charge that was disclosed to such obligor pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A)(iii) of this section;

"(ii) the actual date by which payment would otherwise have to be made to avoid incurring a finance charge if calculated on the same basis as the date by which or the period within which any payment must be made to avoid incurring a finance charge that was disclosed to such obligor pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A)(iii); and

"(B) that has the purpose or effect of inducing the obligor of such plan to transmit payment to the creditor earlier than what otherwise would be required to avoid incurring a finance charge.

"(3) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as—

"(A) prohibiting the imposition of any flat annual fee which may be imposed on the con-

sumer in advance of any annual period to cover the cost of maintaining a credit card account during such annual period without regard to whether any credit is actually extended under such account during such period; or

"(B) otherwise affecting this imposition of the actual finance charge applicable with respect to any credit extended under such account during such annual period at the annual percentage rate disclosed to the consumer in accordance with this title for the period of time any such credit is outstanding."

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.

The Federal Reserve Board, not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall issue final regulations to implement the amendments made by this Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House of Representatives on July 30 and 31, 1998, pursuant to a leave of absence. During my absence, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 355: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 356: "No"; Rollcall No. 357: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 358: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 359: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 360: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 361: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 362: "No"; Rollcall No. 363: "No"; Rollcall No. 364: "No"; and Rollcall No. 365: "Yea".

Rollcall No. 366: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 367: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 368: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 369: "No"; Rollcall No. 370: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 371: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 372: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 373: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 374: "Yea"; Rollcall No. 375: "No"; and Rollcall No. 376: "Yea".

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of full funding for the Economic Development Agency (EDA).

Despite the country's roaring economy, cities and towns in my rural district have suffered huge job losses over the last year, and the EDA has provided critical support to these economically distressed communities.

The EDA has funded regional economic planning to maximize job creation and development, provided capital for small businesses, and funded utilities and road construction to

create industrial parks in some of the poorest communities in my district.

Most recently the EDA has approved funding to plan the renovation of the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, MA.

The Colonial Theater recently received national accolades when the First Lady visited this historic theater during her save America's treasures tour.

It is truly an American treasure.

With the help of the EDA, a renovated Colonial Theater will serve as a catalyst to generate further economic growth and to revitalize downtown Pittsfield.

EDA programs have helped create new jobs and economic growth not just in my district, but throughout the country.

We should continue our solid support for this successful agency that has proved to be one of the best hopes for economic renewal in struggling communities.

A TRIBUTE TO ADAM AND PEGGY
YOUNG OF WESTHAMPTON
BEACH, LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this historic chamber to share with my colleagues the story of two very special people, whose lifetime of selfless contributions to an array of worthy causes, from national charities to local food drives, has improved the lives of countless individuals across this nation and at home on Long Island. I stand here today in the People's House to talk about Adam and Peggy Young, from my hometown of Westhampton Beach, because their devotion to the well-being of their fellow man has inspired so many Long Islanders and serves as a true example of human charity for all of our countrymen.

This Saturday evening, I have the privilege of helping Family Counseling Service of Westhampton Beach—one of many beneficiaries of the Youngs' generous spirit—honor Adam and Peggy with the 1998 "Family of Man Humanitarian Award." No two people are more worthy of this special recognition. No organization is more deserving of the Youngs' efforts than Family Counseling Services.

Since 1971, Family Counseling Service has provided counseling and support services to more than 90,000 adults and children. Led by Executive Director George Busler, Family Counseling's staff has helped families work through such everyday issues as parent-child relationships or the death of a loved one. When families face much more traumatic experiences, like domestic violence or sexual abuse, these dedicated counselors and psychiatrists provided the support and skills they need to survive and carry on.

The same way Family Counseling Services heals the wounds of society's most basic unit—the family—Adam and Peggy Young are committed to a grass roots brand of philanthropy. As the founder of Young Broadcasting, with television stations in America's in America's major markets, Adam Young is a recognized pioneer in harnessing the power of television to benefit the community. In Los Angeles, KCAL sponsors the largest child anti-violence

campaign in the city, while in Nashville, WKRN has raised more than \$1.2 million for local schools. In Albany, WTEN sponsors the groundbreaking "Children First" campaign to raise awareness of children's issues, while WTVO in Rockford, Illinois is leading the effort in that community to combat adult illiteracy.

Here on Long Island, Adam and Peggy direct their seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm towards the East End Hospice, Little Flower Children's Services and Southampton Hospital. Adam and Peggy are also tireless in support of causes that strike close to home. When cancer took the life of their oldest daughter Susan, they joined the American Cancer Society's battle to defeat this dreaded disease. Peggy overcame serious heart problems several years ago and today, the American Heart Association enjoys their avid support. They also support the Palm Beach Rehabilitation Center, which helped Adam through four hip replacement surgeries.

Mr. Speaker, words can hardly express the deep debt of gratitude that we on Eastern Long Island owe to Adam and Peggy Young for all they have done to serve our community and improve the lives of our neighbors. I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me, Family Counseling Services and all who have benefited from their generosity in thanking Adam and Peggy Young for all of their good work. May God bless them just as he has blessed all of us by sending two such wonderful guardian angels.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE-
YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE KO-
REAN AIR 801 CRASH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, August 6, the people of Guam, the survivors and the family members of the ill-fated Korean Air 801 flight will commemorate the one year anniversary of this sorrowful day. The death of 228 men, women and children is not merely a morbid statistic, these individuals were mothers, fathers, uncles, aunt, grandparents, daughters, sons and friends of hundreds of other individuals spread out across the globe, from Guam to Seoul to California.

While many continue to feel the pain of this tragic episode, others rely on the passage of time as part of their personal healing process. One year ago, a Guam hillside was strewn with wreckage debris and bodies; today, a 24-foot high obelisk stands tall, a memorial to the lives lost on that fateful morning.

Today, I, along with the people of Guam, express my condolences to victims' family members, as well as my gratitude to the various federal, military, government and civilian personnel who assisted in the search, rescue and recovery mission.

Even as this memorial is completed a year after the crash, the investigation process is still underway. I attended the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) March informational hearing conducted to gather more data about the Korean Air 801 accident. While the wreckage examination is complete, a draft of the factual report written by NTSB officials will not be available until the end of September. A

final report determining probable cause of the accident will be submitted to the NTSB Board later this year.

I would like to remind my colleagues that the Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act emerged from the Korean Air 801 crash. I introduced this legislation a little more than a month after the accident, and it became law within 3 months of its introduction. The swiftness of its passage and the strong bipartisan support demonstrated during its development proves how important respect and understanding must be accorded to those affected by the devastating consequences of an airline crash. The law, enacted at the beginning of the year, requires foreign air carriers to implement a disaster family assistance plan should an accident involving their carrier take place on American soil. I am pleased to note that after the Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act was enacted, about 95% of airline passengers are now covered by family emergency plans.

Korean Air 801's one-year anniversary should not only remind us of the grief and turmoil of the crash, it should also serve as a reminder of the stalwart courage and tremendous effort displayed by the survivors, family members and friends, and individuals who assisted in the aftermath, whether they physically carried passengers to safety or provided interpretation services to families.

The people of Guam have experienced an enormous loss; at the same time, we have gained an even greater sense of compassion for others. The Korean Air 801 crash has provided us this valuable lesson, let us continue to practice it in remembrance of all those who perished one year ago.

INTRODUCING THE HERO ACT—
HOMEBOUND ELDERLY RELIEF
OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my Colleague Representative VAN HILLEARY, to introduce a new bill that has as its purpose to resolve the unconscionable mess the BBA made of home health benefits programs when it passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I have been involved in this effort since last November when I introduced H.R. 2912, intended to restore the venipuncture home health benefit that the BBA terminated for all time. As of this date, 105 of my concerned colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me in supporting the restoration of this life-giving home health benefit.

Mr. Speaker, the bad news is that the hastily drawn, ill-considered attack on America's home health industry that took place last year during debate on a balanced budget has resulted in massive harm—both to home health agencies and to the Medicare-enrolled, Medicare-eligible senior citizens who are vulnerable, frail and seriously disabled. This attack on home health agencies has driven 1,100 out of 8,000 agencies nationwide out of business and those who are still open are beginning to refuse to accept Medicare patients.

But the good news is that: Members of this House from both sides of aisle with conservative to moderate to liberal leanings—are finally beginning to band together to try and reverse the trend to shut down the only specialists we have in this country who are trained to provide care for our sickest and most vulnerable population—senior citizens and others who are disabled and homebound.

I take great pride in having introduced H.R. 4339 last week—a bill calling for a three-year moratorium on the so-called temporary payment (interim) system that has caused home health agencies to fail and patients to be left totally without resources to keep them safe.

The Interim Payment system (IPS) was only supposed to remain in place until HCFA could get the Prospective Payment System in place in October of 1999. The horror is that HCFA has advised Congress that due to circumstances, including HCFA's problem with Y2K considerations—it can't meet the deadline next October.

If HCFA doesn't meet that deadline, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter—the BBA says that when next October 1st rolls around it will automatically trigger a 15 percent reduction in all reimbursements to home health agencies.

I deeply appreciate the bipartisan support my bill, H.R. 4339 has received over the past week, and I encourage those Members who haven't cosponsored it, to do so.

But because of a need to provide a solution to the IPS problem while at the same time guaranteeing budget neutrality—we need not only a moratorium—but also a trigger of our own—a trigger that works on behalf of home health agencies—instead of the built-in trigger that gets pulled next October making matters much worse than they are today.

That is why we have introduced the HERO bill today—the Homebound Elderly Relief Opportunity bill—to provide both a moratorium for immediate relief—and a trigger mechanism for future relief and stability among both agencies and the patients they serve.

This is a bipartisan effort to get something done—something positive and constructive to get home health agencies back on their feet—where they deserved to be—and Medicare patients back into home care programs they rely upon for daily comfort, for physical and mental stability, for the chance to remain at home among loved ones while struggling with the infirmities of old age and disease.

That what this joint effort is about today—my colleague Representative VAN HILLEARY of Tennessee and I—it is our rallying cry for action before this Congress adjourns to help those we are sworn to help—vulnerable people who cannot help themselves—the sickest and most frail population in this country—who depend upon home care and the people who deliver it to them.

We need to do the right thing. I strongly believe the combined moratorium to provide immediate relief, and the trigger mechanism in the HERO bill for future cost effectiveness, is the right thing to do.

LEGISLATION TO RAISE THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS FROM 57 TO 60

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to change the mandatory retirement age for U.S. Capitol Police Officers from 57 to 60. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

As every Member of Congress knows, the Capitol Police is one of the most professional and dedicated law enforcement agencies in the country. They perform a vital and important function. The force is blessed to have a large number of experienced and highly competent officers. Unfortunately, every year dozens of officers are forced to leave the force because of the mandatory retirement rule. Many of these officers are in excellent physical condition. More important, they possess a wealth of experience and savvy that is difficult, if not, impossible to replace.

Raising the mandatory retirement age from 57 to 60 will provide the Capitol Police with the flexibility to retain experienced, highly competent and dedicated officers. It will enhance and improve security by ensuring that the force experiences a slower rate of turnover. Please keep in mind that should this legislation become law, Capitol Police officers between the ages of 57 and 60 would still have to meet the standard requirements to remain on the force, including proficiency on the shooting range.

This legislation is a common sense measure that will go a long way in improving and enhancing what is already one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the world. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, August 3, 1998, I was en route back to Washington with family members and missed three roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3743 (Roll Call vote 377); I would have voted "aye" on S. J. Res. 54 (Roll Call Vote 388), and I would have voted "aye" on the Shays/Meehan Campaign Finance Reform Substitute, as Amended (Roll Call Vote 379).

SUCCESS OF CARE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves forward on consideration of fiscal year 1999 foreign operations appropriations, it is worth noting a few of the many successes

CARE, one of the world's largest international relief and development organizations, has had in helping the world's poor. Many of CARE's programs are supported by private donations and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Day-long walks for water forced families in Mozambique to set priorities for water use. Drinking and cooking ranked ahead of washing hands and taking baths. CARE worked with communities to identify health problems related to water and sanitation needs. As a result CARE's Community Water and Sanitation Project was designed to dig wells and install water pumps close to where people lived. Now mothers and children can walk to the nearest pump in minutes and health has improved because of the availability of clean water.

Six years ago, the region had 138 functioning water stations with more than 1,800 people using each. Five years later, the region had 372 water stations, each serving approximately 840 people. As of November 1997, 97 percent of the pumps installed were functioning satisfactorily.

In Ecuador, CARE's SUBIR Project is working with Chachi Indians living in and around the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve and the Yasuni National Park. For years, the country's timber companies have harvested lumber from these protected areas, stripping the land of all vegetation, leaving behind unusable, depleted soil and harming wildlife habitat. Further, the Chachi Indians have gained little or no income from the trees that populate their land. CARE's work is helping preserve the environment and increase the incomes of the indigenous people of the Reserve and National Park. They include working with the Government of Ecuador to obtain land titles to 35,000 hectares for the Chachi, teaching sustainable forest management and negotiating fair lumber prices with the timber companies.

The value organizations like CARE cannot be emphasized enough. Their efforts play an integral role in development assistance worldwide. These programs show how public-private partnerships between the U.S. Government, host country governments, private U.S. citizens and businesses can help others build a better future.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH LUBRANO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Lubrano, the United States Postal Service (USPS) Brooklyn Postmaster. Joseph was promoted to the position of Brooklyn Postmaster in December of 1997 from his prior position of Officer-in-Charge, Brooklyn Post Office.

I wish to commend Joseph for his efforts in vastly improving the quality of postal service in the borough of Brooklyn. Joseph has expanded passport acceptance services in the Brooklyn post offices, encouraged station managers to meet and greet customers in their stations, and increased hours of operation in Brooklyn post offices and substations. His initiatives and responsiveness has improved customer relations between postal patrons and the USPS.

Joseph has served twenty years with the USPS. Within three years of his induction to the USPS, he was promoted to a supervisory position. Joseph has held numerous positions in customer services, including Delivery and Collection Supervisor; General Supervisor of City Delivery; Station Manager; Manager of Delivery and Collection; Manager of Stations and Branches; Area Manager; Postmaster of Far Rockaway; Senior Manager of Post Office Operations in Westchester, New York; and various details at USPS Headquarters and in the New York area.

A product of Brooklyn, New York, Joseph grew up in the New Lots neighborhood of Brooklyn. He attended Public School 171, Thomas Edison High School, and graduated from St. Johns University.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to Joseph Lubrano for his commitment and dedication to ensuring quality service to the people of Brooklyn from the United States Postal Service.

HELP EXPAND INSURANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DEFEND OUR NATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I have introduced the Veterans' Life Insurance Opportunity Act of 1998 (H.R. 4115) to increase the accessibility of the Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) program to men and women of our Armed Forces following their separation from active duty.

Active duty service members, unless they decline coverage, automatically participate in the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. This coverage expires following their discharge from the Armed Forces.

Under current law, veterans have only four months to convert directly from SGLI to the VGLI program. Then they have an additional 12 months to apply for VGLI if they can provide medical proof of insurability. Following this brief time period, veterans have no other opportunities to enroll in VGLI.

How many veterans, who are in transition from military to civilian life, busy relocating themselves and their families, finding housing, returning to school, and working hard to enter and advance themselves in the civilian workforce, are also thinking of life insurance needs? Many are young and have not yet thought of their future beyond the military. The deadlines for conversion are missed because of the many more immediate issues that newly-separated veterans are facing.

Then, a couple of years go by, and the veteran realizes the importance of life insurance. By that time, it is too late!

My bill, the Veterans' Life Insurance Opportunity Act, provides a reasonable and more realistic level of flexibility for our veterans who want coverage under the VA life insurance program. It would allow two years following their date of discharge to convert from SGLI to VGLI. Additionally, a second opportunity to make the conversion would be provided five years after their date of discharge from military service.

Who, in our country, deserves and needs life insurance more than anyone else? This may be a hard question to answer, and indeed, our answers may vary. But high on the list, I believe, must be our veterans.

I urge my colleagues to expand insurance opportunities for veterans. Please support and co-sponsor H.R. 4115.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIOMASS ENERGY EQUITY ACT OF 1998

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleague Mr. MATSUI and our cosponsors—Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. POMBO, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. DOOLEY, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER—to announce the introduction of "The Biomass Energy Equity Act of 1998," legislation that will help sustain the economic and environmental benefits provided to the public by the biomass power industry in the United States.

The biomass power industry is a unique source of renewable electricity. It generates electricity by combusting wood waste and other non-hazardous, organic materials under environmentally-controlled conditions as an alternative to disposal or open-incineration of these materials. In effect, the biomass power industry makes constructive use of waste materials that would otherwise become a public liability.

Mr. Speaker, the organic materials used as fuel by this industry are gathered from the agricultural and forest-related sectors of our economy and from our urban waste streams. In addition to the jobs that are generated by this activity, a range of quantifiable benefits arise: the risk and severity of forest fires is diminished, air pollution from open burning of agricultural residues is avoided, and landfill space is preserved. In the absence of this \$7 billion per year industry, the nation would face a series of negative consequences above and beyond the loss of the renewable electricity itself.

Congress recognized the importance of the biomass power industry when it enacted a biomass energy production tax credit in 1992. Unfortunately, the production tax credit provided by this code section—due for expiration within a year—has never been accessible to the biomass power industry due to excessively narrow drafting. Our legislation corrects this defect in order to recognize and retain the public benefits, including the national security and system reliability benefits, of this important industry.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that this is a "good government" issue whose clear merits and environmental benefits transcend partisan and regional politics, and I would urge all of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to cosponsor this important and much-needed legislation.

CIGARS ARE NO SAFE ALTERNATIVE ACT OF 1998

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1998.

Mr. Speaker, available scientific evidence demonstrates that regular cigar smoking causes a variety of cancers including cancers of the lip, tongue, mouth, throat, esophagus, larynx, and lung. That same evidence demonstrates that heavy cigar smokers and those who inhale deeply are at increased risk of coronary heart disease and can develop chronic lung disease. Despite these serious and deadly health risks, cigar use is up dramatically in the United States over the last five years: small cigar consumption has increased by an estimated 13%, large cigars by 70%, and premium cigars by a whopping 250%. Teenagers are a fast-growing market for these deadly tobacco products. In fact, data from the Centers for Disease Control's 1997 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicate that among high school students, over 30 percent of the males and 10 percent of the females are current cigar smokers.

Mr. Speaker, cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes. Compared to a cigarette, nicotine yields for cigars are 9 to 12 times greater; tar yields 2 to 3 times greater; and large cigars emit 20 times more ammonia, and up to 10 times as much other cancer causing agents.

In order to drive home the message that smoking cigars is not a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes, I am introducing the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative Act of 1998. The CANSA Act will prohibit the sale and distribution of cigars to any individual who is under the age of 18. It will directly impose restrictions on the sale and advertising of cigars directed at youth, and eliminate cigar advertising on electronic media. It will encourage cigar manufacturers to end the practice of paying for, or participating in cigar product placements in movies and on television where a substantial segment of the viewing audience is under the age of 18. And it will direct the FDA to require warning labels on cigars to warn cigar users about the health risks presented by cigars.

Mr. Speaker, the CANSA Act will also require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the health effects of occasional cigar smoking, nicotine dependence among cigar smokers, biological uptake of carcinogenic constituents of cigars, and environmental cigar smoke exposure. It will require the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to report to Congress on the sales, marketing, and advertising practices associated with cigars. And in addition, the Secretary, acting in cooperation with the FDA, the FTC, and the Department of Treasury, shall be required to monitor trends in youth access to, and use of, cigars and notify Congress of the results.

Mr. Speaker, if and when Congress does act to reduce teen smoking, we must send the unambiguous message to children and adolescents that cigars are no safe alternative to

cigarettes. I urge all members to become co-sponsors of the Cigars Are No Safe Alternative (CANSA) Act of 1998, and to support its passage in the House.

COMMENDING LOCAL UNION 101

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Local Union 101 of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry in Belleville, Illinois on the 100th anniversary of its charter.

Local 101 has been serving the needs of the plumbing and pipe-fitting industry for 100 years. It is made up of plumbers, pipe-fitters, steam-fitters, service-fitters and gas-fitters. These men and women work hard, and they have made a significant difference in the community. In part due to the dedication of the members of Local 101, the Belleville community has one of the highest standards of living in the Metro-East. Local 101 has helped complete the two hospitals in Belleville, the area high school and many other building and infrastructure projects in the community. All projects were completed with the highest quality craftsmanship. Mr. Speaker, Southwestern Illinois is growing rapidly. MidAmerica Airport, MetroLink Light Rail and other economic development projects give the region even more potential for growth and prosperity. Local 101 will continue to play a significant role in the development of the region.

Local 101 was one of the first unions in the area. When Local 101 was chartered on August 17, 1898 it had 23 members. Today it numbers over 200. Local 101 has been instrumental in securing pay equity for its members, health insurance, a 40-hour work week, its own pension plan and a continuous training program. 100 years ago these innovations were unheard of. Today, because of the work of unions such as Local 101, the hardworking men and women in the plumbing and pipe-fitting industry are afforded safe workplaces, equitable pay and worker protections.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Local 101 on its fine history of quality workmanship and its laudable record of promoting workers rights. I congratulate Local 101 on its first 100 years and wish Local 101 and its members well in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL WATERSHED REHABILITATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 1998". This bill will address the serious infrastructure needs of our nation's aging community sponsored—USDA assisted dams.

"The Small Watershed Amendments of 1998" provides a responsible legislative proposal aimed at addressing the infrastructure needs of our aging watershed dams. It defines

the problems, calls for an assessment of the problem, creates a cost-share program to address the need, and authorizes funding of the program.

During the week of July 4th, 1998, a celebration in Cordell, a small farming community in Western Oklahoma, marked the 50th anniversary of America's first United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) floodwater retarding structure. Constructed in 1948, the Cloud Creek Watershed Site #1 was built under the authorization of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 534). This authorization was a result of a belief in Congress that rural watershed protection, flood protection, proper land management, and keeping raindrops close to where they fall was best addressed through technical assistance available through the USDA. Works under P.L. 534 were authorized in 11 major watersheds throughout the country. The success of P.L. 534 spawned the enactment of the Pilot Watershed Program in 1953 and the Watershed Protection and Floodwater Protection Act of 1954 (P.L. 566). P.L. 566 is commonly referred to as the USDA Small Watershed Program. Over 10,000 flood retarding structures have been built across the nation under these combined programs.

The Small Watershed Program is one of our nation's most successful public/private partnerships. In all instances, the USDA served as a partner with states and local entities by encouraging sponsorship of sites, providing cost-share funding for construction, doing site and geologic surveys, and providing engineering and design expertise. The local district provided all the land, easements and right of ways, covered local construction costs, managed the contracting process, and continue to operate and maintain completed works.

The Cloud Creek celebration serves as a reminder to all of us that over 1,000 of the structures built under these programs are now over 40 years old. Most of the structural measures built have an evaluated life of fifty years or have been swallowed up by urban development. It is time to address the rehabilitation needs of these aging structures.

Every state in the Union will eventually be impacted by this problem. I would encourage my colleagues to review the legislation, and I look forward to their support.

THE PASSING OF LEOPOLD LEFKOWITZ

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform our colleagues of the passing of an outstanding, remarkable constituent of my 20th Congressional District of New York, who happened also to be a unique American who in many ways personified the American dream.

Leopold Lefkowitz, known and beloved by his followers as Reb Leibish, was 79 years young when he died this past weekend, but many lifetimes were crammed into his busy, productive life.

He was born in Europe at a time when that continent was just beginning to deal with the devastation of World War One. His family worked diligently to overcome economic hard-

ship, but their labors resulted only in the hard heel of oppression when the Nazis came to power and began their relentless persecution of Jews and other minorities. Leibish Lefkowitz was fortunate enough to escape during World War Two, and he settled with the Hasidic community in Brooklyn, NY.

In those years, Reb Leibish enjoyed great success with a glass company he founded, the Crystal Clear Importing Inc., which was headquartered in Ridgefield, NJ. He and his wife, Dinah, raised two children. As Reb Leibish became more and more prominent in charitable and philanthropic enterprises, Dinah became known as a dynamic industry leader, guiding Crystal Clear Importing to phenomenal growth.

In the early 1970's, when the need to establish a new Hasidic home in upstate New York became apparent, it was Reb Leibish, Leopold Lefkowitz, who founded the Monfield Homes Company which purchased 172 acres in the Town of Monroe. It was his dream that the Hasidic community moving to this new homestead—the Village of Kiryas Joel—would come to live in peace and harmony with their neighbors. This was a goal he worked for from that time until the day of his death.

During the first twenty years of Kiryas Joel's existence, Reb Leibish Lefkowitz served as his community's elected Mayor. In that capacity, he was not only the temporal leader of the Hasidic village, he was also the strong right arm of its religious leaders.

Leibish was president of Brooklyn's Congregation Yetev Lev and the United Talmudical Academy, to which he donated substantial funds over the years. He was well known for his compassion and his charity in helping many people in need throughout the years.

The number of charitable and community service causes in which Leibish Lefkowitz immersed himself is truly awesome. Still legendary is the tale of how he put together a coalition of environmentalists, religious and ethnic leaders, families, and other concerned citizens to successfully fight the construction of a garbage incinerator in the heart of the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn during the early days of Mayor Koch's administration. The incinerator would not only have been a threat to the cause of clean air and to the health of the neighborhood, it would have totally destroyed the cohesiveness of the various ethnic groups who have made that neighborhood famous. Leibish earned the respect not only of Mayor Koch but his entire administration for the masterly, gentlemanly way he revealed the folly of this incinerator plan.

On May 25, 1987, then-Governor Mario Cuomo of New York presented Mr. and Mrs. Lefkowitz with a citation on the occasion of their being feted at the annual Door of Hope Banquet of the Pesach Tikvah Hope Development Company. The Governor noted that: "Reb Leibish has been a recognized and respected leader of the Hasidic community. His numerous leadership positions and organizations include the Presidency of Congregation Yetev Lev D'Satmar and United Talmudical Academy, Founder and Mayor of the Village of Kiryas Joel, Chairman of the Board of United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, Founder and President of Opportunity Development Association, Founder and President of S.A.T.M.R. School for Special Children, along with contributions to uncounted charitable and educational institutions."

The Governor's citation continued: "His work on behalf of the community could not have succeeded without the support and active encouragement of his wonderful helpmate, Dinah."

Reb Leibish ironically died on Tisha B'av, one of the most solemn of all Jewish holidays. Over 5,000 persons attended his funeral service, where he was eulogized by grieving mourners as a genuine friend of all.

Leopold leaves behind his wife, Dinah, two children, Abraham and Chana, several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a legacy of humanity that all would be well advised to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with us in expressing our condolences to the family, friends, and many admirers of Reb Leibish Lefkowitz.

DECOMMISSIONING THE USS GUAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the *USS Guam* is slated for decommissioning this coming August 25. The soon to be decommissioned ship is the third to bear the name of my home island. The original *USS Guam* was a 159-foot river gunboat launched in 1928. She carried five officers and a crew of forty-four with a mission of protecting American interests on the inland and coastal waters of China in the period preceding World War II. Renamed the *USS Wake*, the gunboat was captured by the Japanese in Shanghai on December 7, 1941.

The second *USS Guam* was authorized by Congress on November 21, 1943. The second largest cruiser in the American fleet, the ship was manned by over 2,000 men. She entered the war in January, 1945 and earned two Battle Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Area Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, and the China Service Medal.

The current *Guam* was commissioned on January 1965. An amphibious assault ship designated LPH-9, she is designed to transport more than 2,000 Marine assault troops to combat areas and land them by helicopter at designated inland points. During the ship's distinguished service, she was assigned as prime recovery vessel for the Gemini XI mission. Among others, she also recovered a rocket designed to study atmospheric conditions during a solar eclipse, transported marines during several Caribbean deployments, performed humanitarian services in Peru, became part of the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in the Middle East, and assisted in the rescue of 200 American citizens in Grenada. The third ship to be designated *USS Guam* received the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, and two Humanitarian Service Medals.

After being decommissioned, we can only speculate whether this vessel would ever again be called to be of service to our nation or as they say, "just fadeaway." Although we on Guam somehow feel sadness about the decommissioning of our island's namesake, we look forward to the return of several articles.

Back when the gunboat *Guam* was still sailing the Yangtze River in 1927, the people of

Guam learned that the ship had no bell. Although ship's bells are considered obsolete nowadays, prior to the advent of our modern communication systems, bells used to sound when the ship is anchored in a fog, mist, falling snow, or heavy rainstorm. Further, the ship's bell was rung to indicate the time. In light of the situation, the chamber of commerce raised money by urging Guam's school children to contribute a penny a piece. By December, 1928 over \$700 had been raised and a bell and a plaque was presented to LtComdr R.K. Autry, who was then the ship's commanding officer.

Details as to what happened to these items after the first ship's capture but they somehow ended up at the Marine Corps Barracks on Guam. In 1954, the bell and plaque was presented to the governor of Guam who decided to have it displayed at the Nieves Flores Memorial Library where the people of the island could see it. In 1985, Mr. Bill Banning, a retired marine, was able to arrange for the bell and plaque to be loaned to the current *USS Guam*.

On August 25, I will be joining a number of Guam residents in witnessing a solemn ceremony wherein the United States flag and the commissioning pennant will be lowered. As the crew marches off, the United States Ship will be transformed into a mere hull of steel. This is the passing of an era, a truly emotional moment for those who had the privilege to serve and to the people who hail from the island the vessel was named after. On behalf of the people of Guam, the Guam Society of America, and the Guam community of Norfolk, Virginia, I would like to commend the officers and sailors who have made great contributions and focused attention to the good name of our home island by serving on the *USS Guam*. I also thank the ship's commanding officer, Capital Bill Luti, USN, and his crew for allowing us the honor to attend the ceremony. Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

INTRODUCTION OF HERO ACT

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) made many changes to the home health industry. Probably the most significant of these was the implementation of an Interim Payment System (IPS) which changed the way home health agencies receive Medicare reimbursements. The IPS was supposed to be a temporary and efficient solution. Instead, it has been an unmitigated disaster. All parties for the most part seem unanimous to the fact that the system is not working and that something must be done.

As a result many agencies have either closed or dropped coverage from otherwise deserving senior patients. Many of our elderly have died because of these closures and removals of coverage.

Making the problem even more severe is the fact that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), who is supposed to implement the permanent solution to aid home health agencies, has stated that they will be unable to make their deadline to end the IPS of October 1, 1999 due to among other reasons, severe Year 2000 computer problems.

As a result the situation will only get worse. Many agencies that have cut as far as they can will not be able to hold out much longer.

Yet, the bad news does not stop there. If HCFA fails to make the October 1, 1999 deadline, an across the board 15% reduction will occur in all reimbursements to home health agencies. This will surely drive out all the home health agencies left. As a result, even more of our seniors will pass away or be shipped to nursing homes to live their last days in isolation. Not only would this be costlier for taxpayers, but it is simply wrong. Something, very simply, needs to be done.

That is why I am introducing the Homebound Elderly Relief Opportunity Act, also known as the HERO Act. It aims to solve this problem by accomplishing seven things.

First, it creates a "moratorium" on the IPS. In other words the system goes back to the way it did pre-BBA with raised patient per visit cost limits. This is what all home health agencies need across the country to survive.

Second, it allows the home health system to recapture some of the unanticipated savings that the Balanced Budget Act estimated while still keeping the budget balanced. The savings in the home health industry have far surpassed the original savings envisioned by the BBA. This bill quite simply allows the industry the ability to recapture any unanticipated future savings. No longer will agencies be forced to go out of business and people removed from their health care providers. The moratorium will help this to occur.

Third, it establishes a "trigger" that will keep the budget in balance. While most experts in the field estimate that this trigger will likely not even be reached, this trigger is the essential component in attempting to maintain a balanced budget. This bill is designed to be budget neutral by using actual CBO estimates of spending on home health care under the BBA and capping at those levels. This cap will prevent PAYGO problems.

Fourth, the trigger created will then allow states more flexibility than found in another legislation by allowing each agency to choose between the 98% value of two formulas. Some states, like my home of Tennessee, would have the ability to choose a mix of a 75% "regional" component and a 25% "national" component. Other states that are structured differently, like New York and New Jersey would choose a calculation of 75% "national" component and a 25% "regional" cost comparison. Thus, this is one of the first bills that aims to be regional neutral. No longer will Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, and Oklahoma be pitted against New York, New Jersey, and Vermont.

Fifth, it gives agencies who incur unusually high costs due to an abnormal number of high cost patients (such as through emergency care) to claim outlier status. An outlier status would allow agencies to care for patients with more freedom. However, this outlier status would come out of the funds created by the moratorium and fall under the money as used in the "trigger" explained earlier. Thus, even this provision aims to be in balance.

Sixth, it allows relief for new agencies and establishes a proration of Medicare benefits among agencies who share a patient. No longer will new agencies be unable to open due to the draconian provisions of the IPS. In addition, where agencies share the same patient, one agency will not be able to take all

the Medicare payments from an eligible enrollee, thereby leaving the second agency without payment.

Seventh, this legislation relieves the impending doom of the 15% across the board reduction of October 1, 1999. The trigger caps are in place in a similar fashion off January 1998 estimates in order to keep the same budget neutrality the rest of the bill tries to attain.

I urge all other members who see the need for a reform in IPS to back my bill. The Homebound Elderly Relief Opportunity (HERO) Act is a common sense way to relieve this system in a sensible and financially responsible manner.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLENVIEW SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an organization in my congressional district that has supported the needs of senior citizens for the past 40 years. The Glenview Senior Citizen Club has expanded over the years to encompass a variety of health and recreational services needed to maintain the medical and social well-being of senior citizens throughout our area, and I am very proud to help recognize and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of its service.

The Glenview Senior Citizen Club was established in 1958 with eleven dedicated individuals organizing its monthly social events. Presently, more than one thousand members participate in forty active programs including: crafts, choral group, blood pressure testing, counseling, physical fitness programs, educational and informational activities, and a variety of social events.

This organization has attracted many members due to its accommodating services that make it easier for senior citizens to participate. First, there is a transportation service provided at no charge that takes senior citizens to and from the center. They also broadcast the center's programs over local cable television stations to educate their members and the greater public about the work being done there. A joint intergenerational program with the Glenview School System is also a way in which the center seeks to involve its members in community related activities.

It is no surprise that the club's unique programs, services, and achievements have received statewide recognition. They have twice been the recipients of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs "Governor's Hometown Awards" for Community Involvement in 1988 and "Individuals and Issues" programs in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, The Glenview Senior Citizen Club has long been a champion of civic service and of providing a variety of programs established to better the lives of its members. Together with everyone in the community, I wish to congratulate the Club on its 40th Anniversary and send best wishes for its continuing success in all years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN HENRY WILSON, JR.

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend Mr. Jordan Henry Wilson, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from the Los Angeles Unified School District. On Saturday, August 15, 1998, Mr. Wilson, joined by his loving family and many friends, will be honored at a retirement luncheon in the fellowship hall of Park Hills Community Church. It is an honor to have this opportunity to recognize Jordan's contributions to the Los Angeles community.

Jordan was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to Jessie and Jordan Wilson, Sr. The Wilson homestead included 15 children. Always a hard worker, Jordan could often be found helping his father tend the family garden or in the kitchen, helping his mother with the enormous duties befitting such a large household. He also worked part-time to help support his family, and was well known for his positive attitude and determination to focus only on the good things which life had to offer.

In 1953, Jordan joined the United States Army. When not fulfilling his military obligations, Jordan was able to indulge his passion for sports by playing football with some of his Army colleagues. He was honorably discharged in 1955 and shortly thereafter, relocated to Los Angeles, California.

A devoutly Christian man, his first task was to locate a church home, which would serve as his spiritual sanctuary as he set about the task of building a life in his new adopted home. He found such a place at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Joining Mount Moriah Baptist Church turned out to be a very wise and fortuitous decision for Jordan. There, he met Rosa Verrett—the future Mrs. Jordan Wilson, Jr. Rosa and Jordan were married in 1961; they are the loving parents of daughter, Carolyn Renee Wilson Bowles; son, Keith Lamont Wilson; and the proud grandparents of Darryl Lee Bowles, Jr.

In 1987, the Wilson family joined the Zoe Christian Fellowship (ZCF) of Los Angeles. Under the leadership of ZCF's spiritual leader, Bishop Frank Stewart, Rosa and Jordan graduated from the ZCF training institute, and are now actively involved in ZCF's "Committee to Service Ministries." In recognition of his contributions to the ZCF ministry, in 1997 Jordan received the God's Man Award.

1998 marks Jordan's 14th and final year as a plant manager with the East Los Angeles Unified School District. He has provided outstanding service to the school district and I am certain that his presence will be sorely missed by his many colleagues and friends.

Jordan's retirement from the school district will afford him additional precious time to devote to his church and his family. In the past, he has served as chairman of the Deacon Board of the Zoe Christian Fellowship of Los Angeles; supervisor of Junior Brotherhood and vice president of the Courtesy Committee at the Mount Moriah Baptist Church; and vice president of the Good Neighborhood Council of Los Angeles. He also is a member of the Blind Institute of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to use this occasion to salute the career and accom-

plishments of Jordan Henry Wilson, Jr. I know that his family and friends are proud of him, and I join them in congratulating him on this well-earned tribute. As he prepares to set course on yet another chapter in his life, I ask that you join me in extending our best wishes to him and Rosa on a future abundant in the riches of God's love, good health, and much happiness.

GULBIN HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Gulbin, president of Schott Glass Technologies Inc. He is retiring in October after 30 years with Schott. A ceremony in his honor is being held on August 13, and I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

Born in 1935 in northeastern Pennsylvania's Forest City, John George Gulbin graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1961 from the University of Scranton with a degree in accounting. After graduation, Jack spent the next 7 years working for Arthur Anderson & Company, a public accounting firm, in New York City, and Stanley Works, a hardware and tool manufacturer, in New Britain, Connecticut.

In 1968, Jack was hired as the first controller of a fledgling company then named Schott Optical Glass Inc. As his hard work was recognized by Schott, Gulbin began to climb the corporate ladder. In 1970, he was appointed Schott's Treasurer and 5 years later, he was promoted to Vice President of Finance. In 1989, Jack became Schott's Executive Vice President and on October 1, 1991, he was named President of Schott Glass Technologies Inc.

During Jack's tenure with Schott, the company has moved to the cutting edge of glass technology. One of Schott's newest ventures is to build a processing plant in Duryea, Pennsylvania that will produce super-thin glass using "down draw" technology, which allows for thinner glass to be created that requires less polishing. This glass will be used in displays for hand-held electronics for the U.S. Department of Defense ground forces and in avionics displays for military jets. Other uses include displays for laptop computers, work stations, and commercial jet avionics. Schott's new plant will be the first facility of its kind in the United States. In addition to being important for the national security, the expansion is expected to create an additional 100 jobs in Northeastern Pennsylvania, adding to Schott's status as one of the region's largest employers.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Gulbin is an able businessman and a proven leader. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring Jack's many accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues. I thank Jack for all he has done for his native northeastern Pennsylvania and I wish him a happy retirement.

THE NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK
ACT, H.R. 59

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak for the millions of Americans who support H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act.

H.R. 59 will restore basic constitutional rights to the workers of America—freedom of choice and freedom of association. It is morally wrong and economically disastrous for us to allow Americans to be forced into paying their hard-earned money as tribute to Big Labor bosses for the privilege of having a job.

The United States Congress created this injustice. We alone can end it. We must give back to those we represent a freedom that Congress took away—the right to choose whether or not to join a labor union.

It is my hope that this important bill comes to the floor of the House for a vote before we adjourn the 105th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 385, the Scott amendment to H.R. 4276, the fiscal 1999 Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Appropriations Act, it was my intention to vote "no". I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following rollcall vote No. 385.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday evening and today and missed the following Roll Call votes:

Roll Call vote Number 383, the Souder amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 384, the Bass amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Roll Call vote Number 385, the Scott amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 386 the Gutknecht amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Roll Call vote Number 387, the DeGette amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Ap-

propriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 388, the Mollohan amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 389, the Pallone amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 390, the Engel amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 391, the Royce amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Roll Call vote Number 392, the Bartlett amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Roll Call vote Number 393, the Talent amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Roll Call vote Number 394, the Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Roll Call vote Number 395, the Callahan amendment to H.R. 4276—FY 1999 Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

GREENBERG HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Barbara L. Greenberg of Northeastern Pennsylvania. This month, Barbara Greenberg will be installed as the National President of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary.

Barbara was born in New York City and lived there until the end of World War II when she moved with her family to Northeastern Pennsylvania, where she has resided ever since.

Barbara graduated from Rider College with a degree in Medical Technology. After several years as a homemaker, Barbara began a career in the insurance industry in 1972, which she still pursues to this date.

From a very early age, Barbara learned love of country and a hatred of bigotry from her beloved and patriotic father. As a child, she helped her father in his anti-air raid duties during World War II. Barbara volunteers at the Veterans Medical Center and participates in all Veterans and Memorial Day parades.

Barbara is also active in her Temple, holding many leadership positions over the years. She has been president of the Women's Service Club at the Jewish Community Center and

was recently named to the Executive Committee and the board of the Jewish Home of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Barbara first became a member of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary after her marriage to her husband, Sam, who would later serve as National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans. Her love for the organization grew and assumed leadership roles in the national organization with great distinction, serving on the A-Board, Chair of the Membership Committee, National A-Wish, and Aid to Israel just to name a few. During this activity, she somehow managed to raise three children who have produced eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to bring Barbara Greenberg's accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues. I join with the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary in thanking Barbara for her past and future efforts.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to explain my vote against Rep. Engel's amendment to the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill which would have slashed \$5 million from the Title XI ship building program, and given it to the Public Telecommunication Facilities Program (PTFP).

The Federal Ship Financing Program was established pursuant to Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 to encourage ship production and ship improvements. By promoting the modernization of the U.S. merchant marine fleet, we also enhance our national security. As was clearly evidenced in the 1991 Gulf War, our merchant marine is critical for transporting troops and supplies throughout the world wherever they are needed. We must maintain a strong fleet so that we can be prepared in times of conflict, in addition to maintaining our commitments in peace time.

The Public Telecommunication Facilities Program (PTFP) is another worthwhile program. Over the past 30 years, the PTFP has provided funding for both public radio and television stations. Throughout my tenure in Congress I have been a strong supporter of public broadcasting which offers Americans a broad range of quality educational and cultural programming for people of all ages.

However, Mr. Chairman, it is ill-advised and just plain wrong to pit one worthwhile program against another in the appropriations debate. While the PTFP is an admirable program, I cannot vote to strip the Title XI program of \$5 million of the \$6 million remaining in their FY99 Appropriations. I applaud my colleague Mr. Engel's effort to increase funds for public

broadcasting, and I look forward to future votes to further this goal, but in this instance, I had to cast my vote against this amendment so that we can maintain the Title XI program.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION
STAMP CEREMONY IN BARODA,
MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special ceremony being conducted in my district in the town of Baroda. Today, the residents of Baroda are celebrating the issuance of the Organ and Tissue Donation stamp. This stamp has long been of extreme interest to me, and I am pleased to see it finally released today.

Last November, I attended the Dedication ceremony in Washington, DC, and at that time I was given a large, poster-size copy of the stamp. Since that time, I have displayed it in my congressional office, providing all visitors with the powerful message of organ and tissue donation; it gives me great pleasure to know that this message will now be received by the entire country.

Around our State and Nation, recipients of organ and tissue donation can testify to the need for greater public awareness of this issue. Although many lives have already been saved, those life-saving numbers can certainly go up through greater public involvement, education and outreach. The stamp being released today can help greatly in this cause.

I'm pleased that the U.S. Postal Service chose Baroda as the site for one of the "issuance" ceremonies given the long-time involvement of Baroda resident Edward Heyn. For many years, Edward Heyn sought to commemorate organ donation with the issuance of a United States postal stamp. Through letters to my office and the Postal Service, he and thousands of other concerned citizens made a compelling case as to the importance of such a stamp. Although Ed passed away 4 years ago, his memory and willingness to help his fellow citizen will endure through endeavors like today's postage stamp.

As many of us know, the need for organs is greater than the supply. Across the Nation, over 60,000 people are waiting for organs, with over 2,000 of those in Michigan. Ed Heyn was fortunate to receive an organ, and he had the vision to realize that with the issuance of a postal stamp the number of donated organs could only increase. Every time someone uses a postal stamp with the "Share Your Life" image, they will think of the importance of organ and tissue donation, and perhaps in return they will be more likely to donate themselves.

Therefore, this postal stamp has a message that is two-fold: first to express the true life-giving power of organ and tissue donation, and second to raise awareness of medical issues, in hopes that the number of donations and lives saved per year will increase. It is wonderful to see Edward Heyn's vision manifested today, and it is only fitting to have this

ceremony in his hometown where many of his family, friends and neighbors could share in this wonderful experience. One person can make a difference and clearly, Ed made a difference for generations to come.

VARIOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST TO
TODAY'S YOUTH

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today.

STATEMENT BY KARL CLONEY, JESSICA MARTIN AND JONAH MONFETTE REGARDING HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES

KARL CLONEY: Karl Cloney, from North County Union High School. Our topic is healthy alternatives.

The Newport area recently has suffered the loss of four teenagers killed in a drunk driving accident on the way back from partying in Canada. Recently, there was a town forum held to respond to this tragedy. The community came together to discuss the issues and some ways to create healthy alternatives.

JESSICA MARTIN: Our group came together to propose a project to start an area teen center. The center will be a safe place for teenagers to socialize in a healthy manner. We further propose that we buy a space as a long-term investment in area youth and the community as a whole. We are looking at a size that would be large enough for a cafe for snacks to be served, a dance floor, and a space for a pool and ping-pong tables, some arcade games and video games. We also want an outside area for volleyball, skateboarding, and roller blading. We would solicit funds as well as acquire grants and utilize state and federal funds set aside for alcohol-free events and activities and teenagers. We would like AmericaCorps and Vista personnel to staff the center full time. This would make our personnel more cost-effective and would include local, state and federal resources.

We would create a board of directors made up of parents, teens, business people and community leaders to oversee the center. Students would work in the center. This would give the teens responsibility, job skills, and the ability to work with adults to create their own place. The center would be a healthy alternative to hanging out on the streets to see our friends.

Our yellow ribbons symbolize the death of our young people, and also symbolize our hope and commitment to find healthy alternatives within our own community.

JONAH MONFETTE: The teen center could be put where the Department of Employment and Training is now. It is moving to the new building being built in Newport. It is an industrial building with space outside, and we want to buy the space so that it would be permanent.

Newport has high unemployment. The teen center would provide job skills for students helping with full-time staff.

The COURT: Thank you very, very much.

STATEMENT BY BRIAN HODGSON AND JESSICA RILEY REGARDING CHILD LABOR

BRIAN HODGSON: In our world today, there are 250 million people toiling in sweat-

shops around the globe, 250,000 working right here in the United States. These workers endure long hours in filthy, unsafe factories and plants for subsistence wages paying them barely enough to keep them alive.

A typical sweatshop contains unsafe numbers of people packed into poorly lit, dusty, disease-ridden workplaces, with no sufficient ventilation or running water. Supervisors yell, scream, threaten and curse at the workers and put constant pressure on them to work faster. For all their suffering, workers are rewarded with paychecks reflecting hourly wages of 20, 37, as low as six cents, often with unexplained fees and tolls removed from the take-home amount.

Any workers who dare to speak up, to complain about their working conditions or pay, are fired. If the workers try to defend themselves, to meet, to learn their rights, or organize a union, their employment is almost always illegally terminated. The most fundamental human and employment rights of these workers are being violated on a daily basis.

One million of these workers are children, sold or rented out by their parents, in countries such as India or Pakistan, into a life of hard, bonded labor at the hands of clothing and rug producers. Children who should be in school are working long hours in unsafe, abusive conditions. To these children, education is a fantastic privilege, and life a daily struggle.

The move to Third World countries, where the minimum wages are steadily dropping and where environmental and worker regulations are nonexistent, has become an all too common trend in big business. Some of the most heinous abusers of this form of labor produce staples in our everyday lives.

At a Disney sweatshop in Haiti, a worker who handles 375 Pocahontas shirts an hour is paid the minimum wage of 28 cents an hour, or \$10.77 a week, while the Disney shirts sell at Wal-Mart for \$10.97 each. A pair of Nike sneakers that sell in the U.S. for \$140 cost the corporation \$3.50 in offshore labor expenses. That is about a 97 percent profit.

These exploitative companies could easily afford to pay their workers a living wage, but greedily choose not to.

JESSICA RILEY: At the Student Progressive Coalition in Brattleboro Union High School in Brattleboro, Vermont, we have taken positive action against these practices. Devoting our time to these issues, we have gathered hundreds of signatures on a petition to the National Labor Committee calling for President Clinton to end sweatshop practices. We took part in the promotion of and attendance at the National Day of Conscience that took place here, in Burlington, on October 4th. We have educated our community through a candle-lit vigil, as well as taken our knowledge into an elementary school to inform students there. Our letters have also stimulated the local paper to editorialize on the issue. It is almost impossible to walk down the halls of the community center without viewing an informative poster or hearing an issue being discussed amongst the crowds.

By making the community more aware of this one virtually unknown issue, we help to create a more conscientious consumer. But awareness is only one part of the action needed. We also need the power of your law to help with the issue.

Mr. Congressman, the approval of your bonded labor bill is a huge and welcome step

in the fight to keep foreign items made by use of child labor being kept out of the country. He must not let the issue die with that. We need the U.S. to put money into the United Nations for inspections of shops around the world, as well as more money into the U.S. Department of Labor to increase inspections and sanctions right here at home. We also need laws that include prevention of any sweatshop products from being imported into the country.

BRIAN HODGSON: Although none of us on this earth actually choose to support these institutions by buying products without thinking of the effects, we do support them. If we keep buying these tainted goods, if a company involved with sweatshop labor continues to make a profit, then they will not give a thought to what they are doing, and these violations of justice will go on. We must take the time to research safe labor organizations. We must take the time to look at clothing labels. We must make sacrifices in order that these violations do not continue. By being educated, we can help workers in other countries and in our own get the rights they need and deserve.

STATEMENT BY NEALE GAY AND LIZ ROCHELEAU REGARDING EDUCATION AND WAGES

NEALE GAY: My name is Neal Gay and this is Liz Rocheleau.

Let us start by thank you for your time. We will be discussing what we consider to be a wage problem plaguing the United States. In this land of opportunity, dreams cannot be realized as socioeconomic, classes are divided into two groups, the haves and the have-nots. We do not need a faction that is able to control the wealth and prosperity of an entire nation due to their personal and immense wealth. We readily admit that those with higher education may be better suited for management jobs; chances are they worked hard to attain dreams, like becoming CEO of a billion dollar company. But those that work under them are not given an opportunity to earn much more than a living wage.

LIZ ROCHELEAU: Since 1979, blue collar workers earning a wage at or after the 20th percentile have seen their wages drop an astonishing 11.8 percent. These wages are still going down, and even though minimum wage has increased numerous times in recent history, inflation makes this increase not at all worthwhile. Even more interesting, though, those earning a wage in the top ten percentile are the only ones who have seen an increase at all. We see this as a case of the rich getting richer, and the middle class and the poor quickly descending the economic scale.

NEALE GAY: Marx and Engels wrote in *The Communist Manifesto*, "Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeois today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class. The other classes decay, and finally disappear in the race of modern industry. The proletariat is its special and essential product." If we take this as true, that the worker has more worth than the industrialist due to their work, then shouldn't the worker get a reasonable compensation for his output?

LIZ ROCHELEAU: We are not talking about a revolution. We understand that the Federal Government can't put a cap on what people earn, since capitalism grants private industry. What we want to know from you is: What has the government done to make wage distribution just, and what are their plans for the future?

Congressman SANDERS: All right. Very interesting.

DAVID WALKER

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 6, the Nature Coast of Florida lost a longtime resident and advocate—David Walker.

For years, Dave Walker sought to balance economic development with environmental concerns in a changing Citrus County.

Dave Walker was an informed constituent who based his positions on facts. When he had something on his mind, he took the time to let me know his views.

He was always a gentleman who conducted himself in a professional manner. Soft-spoken, he nonetheless always got his point across; and you had to respect him, even if you disagreed with his position.

No person could question his integrity or commitment. All in all, you had to like and respect Dave Walker. He was indeed a great guy.

I want to express my condolences to his wife of 57 years Catherine, and to his children, grandchildren, and his great-grandchild on their loss.

For the RECORD, I would like to include an article from the Citrus Times and an editorial from the Citrus County Chronicle.

[From the Citrus Chronicle, July 10, 1998]

WALKER WILL LEAVE LEGACY OF INTEGRITY

There is a force in some men and women that sets them apart from other mortals, a fine force that others can see, discern and react to very naturally and without question.

David Walker, who passed away this week, was such a man of character.

Walker had a reserved force of character within him, a fierce force of honest integrity that infused his every action and word. He came to serve us and protect the public interest at just the right time.

Ten years ago this county stood to slide into a sad slough of unrestrained cancerous growth, a development that appeared to be inexorable. That growth threatened to overlay the natural beauties of this gorgeous green portion of Florida with one long serpentine stretch of asphalt and glaring storefront glass.

Citrus County was being sucked into a pattern of unbridled development that aimed to tear up and destroy irreplaceable wetlands in order to construct such things as apartment houses and parking lots.

Walker, along with a handful of other dedicated conservationists and environmentalists, or so these dedicated citizens were labeled, stood up to speak against such development, to speak for the greater good.

He listened to others and he worked unstintingly to build a consensus. Largely due to who he was, through the force of his character and his admirable ability to calmly discuss the facts without recourse to shrill emotion, he was able to convince decision-makers that it was unwise to allow such growth for short-term private profit.

Walker devoted countless hours to help draft a development plan for the county that would protect our natural resources while allowing more reasonable and thoughtful growth. With the same vision and drive, he worked on many other boards too, to the same end.

In his life, in his long service to his government as an agent of the FBI, and in his sub-

sequent service to the people of this county and state, Walker was a true patriot.

This county owes a great debt to David Walker, a man who was guided always by granite-hard principles of morality. He was truly a man you could learn from and look up to. His works and his memory will live on.

[From the Citrus Times, July 8, 1998]

LONGTIME ACTIVIST IN COUNTY DIES AT 82

(By Josh Zimmer)

The 1980s were boom times for Citrus County, a rural area experiencing the throes of development as well as the threatening consequences to the environment.

While both forces fought for pre-eminence, David Walker, a former FBI agent, fur trapper and wildlife photographer, did what few thought could have been done:

He found common ground.

Mr. Walker, formerly of Floral City, died Monday (July 6, 1998) in Tampa. He was 82.

Tuesday, Mr. Walker was remembered as a uniquely well-versed, open-minded person who could bridge development and environmental interests.

"I think he set the example for community activists engaging in a reasonable approach to improving our county," said Citrus County Commissioner Jim Fowler, who was a private business owner when he met Mr. Walker at planning meetings. "He could see several sides to an issue."

Mr. Walker, a vibrant public speaker who suffered from Parkinson's disease in recent years, was a "a perfect gentleman," Fowler said.

Mr. Walker, who moved closer to his daughter in Tampa in May, was born in South Portland, Maine. According to friends, he enjoyed recounting his youthful days spent in the state's vast woods, where he later became a fur trapper.

In 1940, he embarked on a long career with the FBI, which ended in 1966 and provided him with additional fodder for his storytelling abilities.

In addition, Mr. Walker was widely traveled, raising a family and holding onto a close marriage all the while.

"I would consider myself to have had a very successful life if I did one-quarter of what David Walker did. The man was remarkable," said Gary Maidhof, interim director of the county's Department of Development Services. Despite his hard-bitten law enforcement background, Maidhof said, "He could go on at length about a bluebird nest he established in his backyard."

One of Mr. Walker's great skills as a conservationist was attention to detail, remembered Maidhof, who said he got to know Mr. Walker through their work together on the county's first comprehensive development plan, approved in the mid-1980s, and other committees.

The plan, which guides development throughout the county, bears Mr. Walker's strong imprint, he said.

"That is a reflection to many of his influences," Maidhof said.

Another favorite cause of Mr. Walker's was conservation, and he actively supported land acquisitions, such as Jordan Ranch and Potts Preserve, Maidhof said.

In later years, as his health failed, Mr. Walker remained keenly interested in environmental issues, such as flood plain maps and ecosystem management "I would receive a phone call or a letter if there was an issue he felt strongly about," Maidhof said.

Friends said Mr. Walker struggled with poor health and the toll it took on Catherine, his wife of 57 years. In recent months,

he required help getting in and out of a wheelchair, said former Citrus Commissioner Hank Cohen.

Cohen and his wife, Miriam, visited Mr. Walker in Tampa less than two weeks ago. Mr. Walker's voice was so weak that he wrote his words on paper instead of speaking, Cohen remembered.

Catherine, who is older than Mr. Walker, wheeled him to the window for what turned out to be a last farewell.

"That was a hard," Cohen said, his voice breaking. "We could see him wave through. He waved to us, we waved back. We knew that would be last we saw him."

GOLD STAR AWARDS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Matagorda County 4-H will hold an awards program on the 20th of August and this is a very important event Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have, in the past, pointed out how important an organization 4-H truly is for those of us who were raised on farms and who represent agricultural communities. As I have said in the past Mr. Speaker, one of the primary missions that this organization undertakes is agricultural education. I believe that this mission is so critical that, earlier this year, I introduced a bill which would exempt the sale of livestock by those involved in educational activities such as FFA and 4-H from federal income taxation. By making young men and women who participate in these activities hire a group of tax accountants and attorney we are sending the wrong message. Young people who sell livestock at county fairs and the like should be rewarded for taking self initiative and allowed to keep the money they've earned to help pay for their education or to re-invest in other animals to raise. My bill would eliminate the current policy of forcing these youngsters to visit the tax man.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the following winners of the Gold Star, the highest award possible at the county level, for achievements in competition at state levels, leadership ability, community service and years of service. They are: Kim Evans, Courtney Wallis and Lindsey Kubecka. Again, I want to commend these young people for their achievements.

TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF CHARTER SCHOOLS IN PEM- BROKE PINES, FLORIDA

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Pembroke Pines for responding to our community's concerns regarding the education of our youth. In an effort to ease some of the overcrowding and to better prepare students for the challenges they will face in the new millennium, the City of Pembroke Pines has taken the bold initiative of creating the nation's first elementary charter

school owned and operated by a municipality. On August 29, 1998, Mayor Alex Fekete, Vice Mayor Frank Ortis, City Manager Charles Dodge, and Commissioners William Armstrong and Susan Katz will proudly participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for this innovative educational facility which represents the first fruition of their vision for greater educational opportunity in South Florida.

As members of the school's advisory board, along with the school principal, parents, and business representatives, they will oversee the day-to-day operation of the school in a partnership that will, as Mayor Fekete so nicely states, "bring education back closer to the people." The school will focus on the core disciplines and modern educational technology. Perhaps more importantly, it will emphasize character development as well as parental and community involvement.

To ensure a nurturing ambiance conducive to intellectual, emotional, and social development, class size will be limited to a maximum of 25 students, and a fully accredited teacher as well as a teacher's aide will be assigned to each class. The school will deliver high quality education while being more cost effective than other schools managed by the district. The per student station cost for the Pembroke Pines Charter School comes to \$8,600 in contrast to the \$13,000 per station average for the state schools.

I commend the efforts of these elected officials, Mayor Alex Fekete, Vice Mayor Frank Ortis, City Manager Charles Dodge, and Commissioners William Armstrong and Susan Katz, who dared to take a step in a new direction. The rest of our country will be closely watching the progress of this new educational alternative and may soon follow the innovative lead of these municipal officials. I share in their excitement because this Charter School provides another creative option for public education. Our future resides in our children, and our schools must commit themselves to excellence as they strive to better prepare them for the next century.

F-1 STUDENTS

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to give American high schools the ability to welcome foreign exchange students into their schools without requiring them to charge tuition. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. PICKETT of Virginia.

It was brought to my attention that individual schools which participate in informal programs to allow foreign exchange students to attend school in the U.S. are required to charge these same students tuition. The F-1 visa is for students who seek to enter the U.S. temporarily and solely to pursue a course of study. Under existing law, even if the school and the local school district do not want to charge the student for accepting an invitation to study in the U.S., the student will not be able to receive an F-1 visa without paying the fee. In some cases, the school, which otherwise would welcome a foreign exchange student, may be deterred from allowing them to

attend due to the administrative burden of administering the fee. In other cases, American schools entering into informal sister-school exchanges with a foreign school may find that they are forced to charge the foreign student tuition while the American student is attending their sister-school for free.

This tuition requirement does not apply to foreign students who come to the U.S. to study in a program designated by the Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA). These students receive a J visa and are not required to reimburse the school for the cost of their attendance. On the other hand, foreign exchange students in the U.S. under an F-1 visa are usually attending school under informal arrangements, with a teacher or parent having invited them to spend time in the U.S. as a gesture of American hospitality and goodwill. Some schools participate in informal sister-school exchanges where one of their students will go abroad and the school in turn will sponsor a foreign student here. Although these are informal, flexible, private arrangements between schools and students that are not designated by the USIA, they are no less valuable in developing goodwill and greater understanding among people of different nations. In many cases, it simply does not make sense to charge tuition to foreign exchange students simply because they have an F-1 visa rather than a J visa.

The legislation I am introducing today will give schools the ability to have the Attorney General waive the F-1 visa tuition fee requirement. Schools that certify that the waiver will promote the educational interest of the local educational agency and will not impose an undue financial burden on the agency will be able to allow foreign exchange students to attend without charging a fee. On the other hand, schools that do not want to waive the fee will still be able to collect it. This legislation will simply give schools added flexibility to sponsor foreign exchange students without limiting the right of schools to collect needed fees. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

MR. STARR DEPARTS HIS PRI- VATE PRACTICE FAR TOO LATE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr announced his decision to take an unpaid leave of absence from his partnership at the well known law firm of Kirkland & Ellis. This decision has been a long time in coming: Mr. Starr's work with his law firm was often a direct conflict of interest with his work as Independent Counsel.

Mr. Starr had been earning up to one million per year and sometimes more for his services as a partner in the firm. Whether or not this steady source of income from private practice allowed him the luxury to drag on an investigation that is going into its fifth year and has cost American taxpayers more than forty million is a matter that is not entirely clear. In the meantime, Mr. Starr has taken on additional law clients and handled their legal matters notwithstanding criticism from some of his allies

and even a few within the law firm who felt it more appropriate that he spend his time on his government responsibilities as Independent Counsel. This does not take into account the additional time he has devoted to academic teaching and public speaking appearances unrelated to either his private law practice or his governmental duties.

It has also been observed that some of Mr. Starr's private representation has been in conflict with his duties as independent counsel. For example, his firm has represented the Republican party. He has also represented tobacco companies, an industry that the Clinton Administration has exposed for misleading and fraudulent tactics, and other corporations that have been in opposition to the Clinton administration policies or have been under scrutiny by federal agencies. In another instance, one or more of Mr. Starr's law partners has worked with the lawyers of Paula Jones. Notwithstanding the appearance of a potential conflict of interest, the law firm of which the Independent Counsel was a member took no dispositive action to remedy the situation. Even the legal ethics advisor to the Independent Counsel, Mr. Sam Dash, said that Mr. Starr's representation of private clients "had an odor to it."

Why would Mr. Starr leave his firm at this point in time as he moves into the fifth year of his prosecutorial responsibilities? Mr. Starr has explained that wrapping up the investigation will be a full-time job. This explanation may betray a failure on his part to understand that during the preceding four years, the investigation should always have been a full-time job. The beginning of his work should have been as important as the end of his work.

It is certainly high time that Mr. Starr has resigned from private practice. It should have come much sooner. Perhaps now the investigation will proceed, and the American people will be able to put the controversies created by allegations of Mr. Starr's abuses and excesses behind them in the near future. Regardless of these reservations about Mr. Starr's belated departure from his private practice, we can assure him and our colleagues that whatever report he submits to Congress will be given a careful and non-political examination. The House Committee on the Judiciary is committed to discharging its responsibilities in a way that will satisfy every citizen of our seriousness and commitment to due process for both the President and the Independent Counsel.

REGARDING H. RES. 507

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1998 Congressman HOEKSTRA stated during the debate on House Resolution 507 that "two IBT employees wearing green uniforms delivered an industrial size shredder to the office of the IBT communication director, Matt Witt, during the week of July 13, 1998, and that the noise of the shredder operating in that office could be heard on Saturday, July 18, when Mr. Witt was in the building." Later that afternoon, at the Committee on Education and the Workforce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing, this accusation was again repeated by the Majority's co-lead

counsel Vicki Toensing who also alleged that Mr. Witt had resigned.

In an effort to determine the merit of these charges, during a break in the hearing, I met with Mr. Witt. I found him to be appalled by the criminations, which he stated had no merit. He asked that he be able to address the Subcommittee in order to deny the charges against him under oath. He told me that he would deny that he had resigned, would deny having a shredder delivered to his office, and would deny being in the building or shredding documents on July 18th. At the resumption of the hearing, Representative SCOTT asked for unanimous consent to permit Mr. Witt to deny the outrageous charges against him. Congressman HOEKSTRA refused to permit Mr. Witt the opportunity to deny the allegations, objecting to the unanimous consent request and ruling the Minority's motion out of order.

Unfortunately, this irresponsible allegation by the Majority has cast grave doubt on the Subcommittee's investigation. The Majority has made a serious allegation of criminal behavior and then refused to permit the person maligned an opportunity to rebut the charges. Rather than admit that their charges were baseless, the Majority refused to allow the individual about whom they made their allegation the right to defend himself. I find this unworthy of a Congressional investigation.

LAS CASAS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the positive impact that can be made by people who care. In East Dallas, there's a small neighborhood that makes a great impact in the lives of many. The Las Casas Neighborhood Association, which is headed by the indomitable Mary Malone, has grown exponentially since its inception, and it has made that part of East Dallas safer and better for everyone in that community and in surrounding areas.

Early in its tenure, the Las Casas Neighborhood Association consisted of a few interested neighbors meeting occasionally to discuss problems in their community. Thanks to Mary Malone, the group has begun to meet more regularly, and its annual meeting draws as many as 300 people. At one time, this simple, neighborhood meeting drew more than 500 people.

Each year, Mary Malone's Las Casas Neighborhood Association annual meeting is the gathering of those interested in making a difference. From fighting crime to improving traffic safety, the Las Casas Neighborhood Association meeting joins residents of East Dallas, elected representatives, and public officials to discuss the status of efforts to improve the neighborhood and the lives of the families that live there. I know that the Mayor of Dallas, Ron Kirk, will be in attendance, as will members of the Dallas police force.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of acting as the Master of Ceremonies at this year's Las Casas Neighborhood Association annual meeting. Since 1993, I have been deeply involved with the Association and the Dallas Po-

lice Department in the fight against crime and drug activity in the neighborhood. And it's my honor to join Mary Malone, the President of the Association, because she has sacrificed to help so many others.

Mary Malone has been honored with a proclamation by the State of Texas. She has been honored by the Dallas Police Department, and I had the pleasure of attending an event in her honor at the East Dallas Rotary. There is not enough room in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to name the things she has done for the Las Casas Neighborhood or the awards she has received to honor her work. But I want my colleagues to know that, when friends, neighbors, and families join in an effort to improve their lives, we can make a difference. And there is no better example of this than the Las Casas Neighborhood Association and Mary Malone.

STEVE HORNİK HONORED BY MONMOUTH-OCEAN CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, August 19, at the Breakers in Spring Lake, NJ, Mr. Steve Hornik will be honored by his many friends at a testimonial dinner on the occasion of his retirement as President of the Monmouth-Ocean Counties Central Labor Council.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Hornik has been President of the Monmouth-Ocean Council for more than 25 years. His has been a career in which he came up through the ranks, serving the labor movement at virtually every level. Through it all, he has put first and foremost the needs of working men and women, whose interests he has defended so staunchly for decades. Indeed, you could say that his enthusiasm and dedication for fighting for working people is in his blood. His father, Stephen, was a truck driver and is a retired member of the Teamsters Union. His mother, Frances, was a counter girl at Woolworth's, who walked picket lines to try to organize her co-workers, and later became a member of Local 56, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (U.F.C.W.).

Steve Hornik first became a charter union member when he was 14 years old while working at Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds as a vendor for Harry M. Stevens Concessions, where he helped to organize his fellow workers. He was later a member of the Teamsters Union Local 814, then the Mailers Union of the big six Newspaper Guild at the New York Times and John Sweeney's Local 32A, working nights while going to school. He later went to work at the Maxwell House Coffee Plant in Hoboken, NJ, where he became a member of Local 56, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union of North America, which has since merged to become the U.F.C.W.

Steve Hornik has been a member of Local 56 for 40 years, during which time he moved up the ranks from Alternate Department Steward and Department Steward of 250 members, then Chief Steward of the plant of 1,200 members, after which he was put on the Local 56 staff as Organizer, Business Representative,

after moving on to the Officer's Staff as Press Secretary, First Vice President and Secretary Treasurer of the 16,000-member local for more than 20 years. He was a charter member and President of the Hunterdon-Warren Counties Central Labor Council for four years, after which he was elected President of the Monmouth-Ocean Counties Central Labor Council.

Some of the other responsibilities Steve Hornik holds or has held, representing labor, include: Chairman of the Rutgers University Trade Union Consulting Council, the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board, United Way of Tri-State Board of Governors, and a Commissioner on the Governor's Employment and Training Commission. He is also on the Advisory Boards of Brookdale College, Monmouth University and is a member of the State Board of Arbitration and Mediation. He was previously on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Central and State Lung Associations, a Member of New Jersey Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz's Courts Committee on Efficiency, the Private Industry Council, the Congressional Award Council and the Manalapan Democratic Club. He has been a member of numerous State and County screening committees, and was a delegate to four of the last five Democratic Conventions. He remains a County Committee Member, a position he has held for the last 35 years. He has been and continues to be active with the Knight of Columbus.

Steven Hornik is also a devoted family man. He and his wife Arline have four grown children and 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, talking about my good friend Steve Hornik, citing his many accomplishments on behalf of working people and his many contributions to our community. At the testimonial in his honor later this month, many of these great accomplishments will be recounted, happy memories recalled and funny stories told. We will miss his hard work, his energy and his honest dedication to fighting for the interests of working people.

Mr. Speaker, labor unions have achieved many important victories over the years, fighting for safe working conditions, living wages, health care benefits and a dignified retirement. The battles fought and won by the labor movement have not only helped union members. America's broad-based economic growth, the expansion of the middle class, the existence of programs like Social Security and Medicare, and the realization of the American dream for tens of millions of families all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to labor unions. These days, unions are under attack. But I believe public support is still strong. I know that the unions will continue to fight for such basic rights as universal health care coverage, increased pension security and fair trade agreements that protect American jobs. It's great leaders like Steve Hornik who have made, and continue to make, the union movement strong.

I regret that Steve Hornik will no longer be at the helm of the Monmouth-Ocean Central Labor Council. But I know that we will continue to benefit from his contributions to the ongoing fight for social and economic justice for working people. Steve Hornik has contributed to that fight more than anybody I know. The example that he set will guide us all for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ISAAC DARKO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and to pay tribute to Mr. Isaac Darko, a constituent of mine and a distinguished student at Columbia University in New York. He will be recognized for his academic and scientific achievements as a participant in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (UGSP) on August 6, 1998.

Isaac graduated from the Health Professions and Human Services High School in 1997 and has just completed his freshman year at Columbia University. This summer he has been working at the NIH Department of Molecular Biology under the supervision of Dr. Alfred Johnson. He has been working on the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), which is expressed in such cancers as breast and prostate cancer and in other cancer cell lines.

Mr. Speaker, the UGSP scholars search is highly competitive and nationwide. Currently, the program has 24 scholars from all over the nation, from institutions such as Columbia University, MIT, Harvard, Georgetown, U.C. Davis, and Stanford. In order to participate in the program, a Scholar must either have a 3.5 Grade Point Average or be in the top 5% of his/her class. Candidates must also demonstrate a commitment to pursuing careers in biomedical research and must be from a disadvantaged background. The current group is composed of 32% Hispanics, 32% African Americans, 21% Asians, 10% Caucasians, and 5% Native American, with a balance between the genders of 52% female and 48% male.

Mr. Speaker, being selected for this program indicates that Isaac has demonstrated that he has the ability and the desire to be an asset and a role model in our community. We are proud of his accomplishments and I know he is taking full advantage of the opportunity presented to him. He is a terrific example for future participants in this program and others like it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Isaac Darko for his outstanding accomplishments and also in commending the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds for offering opportunities to students like Isaac.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my vote on Roll Call vote 384, Mr. BASS' amendment to the Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations bill. Yesterday, I inadvertently voted "nay" when I intended to vote "aye".

Mr. BASS' amendment would have transferred funds from the Advanced Technology

Program (ATP) to the Edward Byrne grant program at the Department of Justice, an effort which I strongly support. The Byrne grant program is a valuable tool for local law enforcement in the fight against the crime and drug problems that threaten our neighborhoods. I believe that scarce taxpayer dollars are better spent in this anti-crime program than in the "corporate welfare" ATP, which I have consistently opposed.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE PROMPT CLAIM PAYMENT BY HEALTH PLANS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that addresses the issue of prompt payment, that is, ensuring health plans reimburse providers in a timely manner.

Although there have been numerous horror stories of health plans withholding reimbursement from providers the issue of prompt claim payment has not been addressed during the managed care reform debate.

My view is that the prolonged delay of claim payments by health plans interferes with the doctor-patient relationship.

By delaying reimbursements to doctors, health plans are turning care-givers into bill collectors—forcing them to hound both the insurance company and the patient for reimbursements which, in most cases, should already have been paid by the plan.

Unnecessary reimbursement delays by health plans create unnecessary rifts between the patient and the provider—causing confusion with patients about their health insurance plan at a time when they are most vulnerable and possibly even distrust by the patient in the quality of their provider.

The attached article from the August 2, 1998 Washington Post elaborates with specific, real life examples of the above mentioned issues.

Medicare, Medicare+Choice, & Medicaid already have statutory language requiring prompt payment by its contractors. Yet, when President Clinton extended managed care protections to federal employee health plans, he did not include the prompt payment language in his executive order.

Because of federal inaction, some states have taken the lead in this area. Texas, Florida, Tennessee, New York, and New Jersey have stat laws requiring prompt payment. Similar bills have been introduced in Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Most of the state laws appear stricter than the Medicare+Choice model I propose. For example, in addition to establishing clean claim payment guidelines, Texas requires strict time lines for plans when notifying a provider that a claim is being investigated. The plan must explain in writing why they reject a claim, and make payments in 5 business days after notifying claimants that their claim will be paid.

New York, home of the infamous Oxford Health Plan, has by far the strongest penalties for plans that fail to comply with their prompt payment laws. New York plans can be subject

to fines of up to \$500 per day for each claim not paid within 345 days.

Rather than draft comprehensive legislation this year that includes stronger guidelines than are currently in place at the federal level, I chose to introduce legislation that simply applies the existing Medicare+Choice prompt payment regulations to all health plans—regulations that Congress overwhelmingly supported last year.

If enacted, my legislation requires health plans to pay 95% of the clean claims within 30 days of receipt. If health plans do not comply with these guidelines, the bill requires plans to pay interest on clean claims that are not paid within 30 days. The legislation also requires that all other claims must be approved or denied within 60 calendar days from the date of the request.

Congress can begin to address this important issue and alleviate much of the stress health plans are causing both patients and providers by passing prompt payment legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking action on this issue this year.

[From the Washington Post, August 2, 1998]

HEALTH CARE'S PAINFUL CLAIMS—PROBLEMS WITH INSURERS PLAGUE MANY PATIENTS

(By David S. Hilzenrath)

Olney resident Tammy L. Rhoades's health insurer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of the National Capital Area, left her on the hook for \$384 of anesthesiology charges because the doctor who administered pain relief while she was in labor wasn't a "preferred provider."

Baltimore resident William F. Cooke's insurer refused to pay \$1,404 for respiratory therapy he received after being diagnosed with lung disease. Cooke said he checked with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland before he started treatment. But the company rejected the bills, saying his policy's stated coverage of "physical therapy" didn't mean "respiratory therapy."

David Trebach of Alexandria received notice in June that a doctor's office would obtain a court summons and "an immediate judgment against you and your property" if he didn't pay hundreds of dollars of bills dating back as far as June 1997. Despite Trebach's persistent pleas, Kaiser Permanente had failed to pay.

Eventually, each of the insurers gave in to protests and paid the bulk of the charges, which erased the customers' debts, but not their resentment.

For a growing number of consumers, it has become a familiar test: exasperating rounds of letters, phone calls and time spent on hold; empty corporate assurances, mysterious delays and bewildering rebuffs—all in the course of getting a health insurance company to pay what they contend it should have paid in the first place.

"There is general misery in all dealings," Maryland Insurance Commissioner Steven B. Larsen said.

Though some insurance companies, such as Kaiser Permanente, acknowledged lapses in service, others, such as CareFirst Inc., say they pay the vast majority of claims without a hitch.

Conflicts between health insurers and patients are hardly a new phenomenon, but the upheaval in the nation's health care system in recent years has raised the level of frustration. The managed care revolution, which promised to simplify billing for consumers, instead has spawned bureaucratic rules and procedures so complex that they have confounded even the latest computer systems—not to mention human beings.

Problems with "billing or payment of claims or premiums" tied as the top health insurance complaint of Californians surveyed last fall by a state health policy task force. Fourteen percent said those relatively pedestrian issues were their biggest health insurance problem, eclipsing such hotly debated issues as delays in obtaining needed care or difficulty getting referrals to specialists.

Some rapidly growing health plans have overreached, adding members much faster than they have added workers. Others have thrown their customer service into chaos, at least temporarily, by merging with companies that use different systems, consolidating far-flung offices, laying off experienced employees in one part of the country and hiring novices to replace them somewhere else—all in the name of efficiency.

"Most plans today are having serious servicing issues—issues of turnaround time, accuracy, being able to respond to consumers," said Richard Sinni of Watson Wyatt Worldwide, which audits health plan performance for employers. "I think they've gotten worse across the board."

Many doctors, hospitals and patients accuse insurers of dragging out payments as part of a deliberate strategy to wear them down or continue earning interest on their money as long as possible.

Insurers deny that the delays are intentional. They attribute them to a variety of factors, including their own administrative errors, patients' ignorance about their benefits and necessary enforcement of sometimes unpopular standards.

This much is clear: The industry's heightened focus on the bottom line means bills these days are subject to stricter scrutiny and challenge.

"We do not apologize aggressive approach to . . . utilization review on behalf of our members," William L. Jews, chief executive of CareFirst, said in a news release last week.

CareFirst, parent of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies serving Maryland and the District, has a duty to make sure customers' health care dollars are spent responsibly, executives said. The insurer is also caught between conflicting expectations—those of the people who receive the care and those of the employers who subsidize it, officials said.

"The employers . . . ask Blue Cross to be stricter or harder or harsher on payments," said John Moseman, a vice president of the Maryland company.

Often, doctors and patients create their own headaches by filling out forms incorrectly or ignoring the rules.

One woman had about \$9,000 of maternity charges rejected last year because she didn't get the required "precertification" for the birth of her child, said Dora Crouse, whose job is to troubleshoot claims problems for clients of JEMM Group Insurance Inc., a Silver Spring insurance broker. When JEMM intervened, the woman's preferred provider organization agreed to pay the bills.

In contrast, no one blames Bonnie Emmert of Grant Junction, Colo., for her woes, but it took several months and the involvement of state regulators to resolve them.

While undergoing chemotherapy and radiation this year for breast cancer, Emmert said she spent much of her time listening to the music on her insurer's customer service line, faxing and mailing multiple copies of the same paperwork, and fending off demands by her hospital and doctors for payment of charges dating back as far as December. A nurse by profession, Emmert said she has been living off savings while sidelined by her illness.

Provident American Life and Health Insurance Co., based in Norristown, Pa., was in-

vestigating Emmert's medical history to determine if her cancer was a preexisting condition and therefore excluded from coverage.

Emmert, 45, who bought her Provider policy last August and had surgery in December, said she found the company's doubts hard to understand. "I had cancer in August and I waited till December to do anything about it?" she asked, rhetorically. "Yeah, right."

The bills came due just in time to get caught in the confusion when Provident moved its claims processing operations from Minnesota and Pennsylvania to Florida in late January. "The data transfer did not go smoothly," said Jimmy Potts, Provident's vice president for market conduct and compliance. The move "created a delay that is frankly unacceptable to the company, but under the circumstances was unavoidable."

Following the move, Provident was so overwhelmed with inquiries about delayed payments that callers were left on hold for as much as an hour and a half at a time, Potts said.

The company agreed to pay thousands of dollars for Emmert's care on July 8 after the Colorado Division of Insurance showed that she had been insured before she bought coverage from Provident. That made any question of a preexisting condition moot, Potts said.

"We recognize it's a frustrating time for her," Potts said. "But it also has been an incredibly frustrating time for those of us within the insurance company."

William Cooke's sentiments in his dispute with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland went beyond frustration. In a complaint to the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), the Baltimore retail manager accused the company of "predatory" behavior.

Blue Cross defended its decision not to pay for Cooke's respiratory therapy in an August 1997 letter to the MIA, noting that Cooke's policy explicitly excluded "admissions or any period of stay in a facility" for various services.

The relevance of that was hard to fathom, because Cooke said he received the therapy on an outpatient basis.

Months later, Blue Cross continued to argue that, while Cooke's policy covered "physical therapy," the treatment he received didn't fit the definition.

The MIA disagreed. In March, it wrote that the company's posture "may violate general quality of care standards."

Even then Blue Cross held its ground, so in April the MIA issued an ultimatum: Failure to pay would result in a formal order against the company "and administrative penalties."

Finally, in late June—more than a year and half after the disputed treatment ended—Blue Cross paid \$1,303.25.

In the case of Rhoades and her out-of-network anesthesiologist, the insurer reversed itself without argument.

"We would agree with Mrs. Rhoades's position that she could not at the time of the delivery as the question . . . 'Are you [a preferred provider] or are you not?'" Moseman said.

Though the nation's angst over medical claims is hard to measure, signs of it abound:

Fast-growing Oxford Health Plans Inc. of Norwalk, Conn., developed what it envisioned as a state-of-the-art computer system—and then watched it malfunction on a grand scale. Doctors, hospitals and regulators complained about a mountain of unpaid medical bills. To make amends, the company had advanced \$203 million to health care providers as of Dec. 31 as it attempted to plow through the backlog.

After Aetna Inc. merged with U.S. Healthcare, the amount of time it took to

company to process medical claims doubled last year, according to one analyst. The company says performance has since rebounded.

What had been 44 claims-processing centers across the country were consolidated at about 25 locations, and the number of employees handling claims was reduced by more than one-fifth. Employees with 15 years of experience were replaced by people with less than a year's experience, said R. Max Gould, Aetna U.S. Healthcare's head of customer service.

In a series of audits of Colorado health insurers, the state Division of Insurance has cited widespread problems related to payment of claims, among other shortcomings. The regulatory agency this year assessed fines against PacifiCare of Colorado Inc., HMO Colorado Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield of Colorado and Gem Insurance Co.

Gem, which tripled enrollment in three years and accumulated a backlog of 106,000 unpaid claims, said in June that its low prices "led to . . . poor customer service."

When Prudential moved processing of many Washington area claims to Jacksonville, Fla., in the spring of 1997 "initially there was some conversion disruption," Prudential spokeswoman Peggy Frank Lyle said. The company was compressing 40 claims-processing sites and 28 member-services sites nationwide into four.

It's "very difficult when you have that many new people to train," Lyle said.

In April, Maryland's hospitals filed a coordinated complaint with the state insurance commissioner alleging health plans were systematically denying payment for medically necessary care after the care had been delivered.

United Healthcare, though not singled out for criticism, showed the highest level of denied claims, according to Maryland Hospital Association data. The percentage of hospital days for which it initially refused payment rose to 14.6 percent in 1997—more than one in seven—from 4.4 percent in 1996, the association reported.

"When we find the care is not appropriate, we deny [payment for] the hospital day," United Healthcare Vice President Sharon Pavlos said.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States Inc., also known as Kaiser Permanente, in June paid \$117,000 to settle an array of potential violations cited by the Virginia Bureau of Insurance.

For example, more than one-fifth of the time, a review found, Kaiser failed to add in-

terest to late claim payments as required by law.

Kaiser said its problems got much worse last year, after the period covered by the review. The February 1997 takeover of Humana Group Health Inc., "crashed our little system" said Bernard J. Tyson, president of Kaiser's Central East Division. "We don't have . . . the right infrastructure and information systems to manage now a big piece of our business."

The company plans to complete a major upgrade next spring. In the meantime, it fired the outside contractor that had been handling its claims and switched to a better internal system, officials said. "Clean" claims, which are claims that don't raise questions, were being processed in an average of 26.7 days during June, compared with about 50 days at one point last year.

Trebach's most severely delayed bills "fell in some black hole," spokeswoman Darlene Frank said.

For Trebach, a social worker in the Fairfax County public schools, a final indignity was the doctors' warning that a "warrant in debt" might be "delivered to your home by a Sheriff."

"This would be so frightening for my children," said Trebach's wife, Loretta DiGennaro.

Consumers ignore payment demands at their peril, as a clerk in a Washington electrical supply business recently discovered. Long after his insurer had rejected a series of 1995 and 1996 hospitals bills—so much later that the insurer can't document the reason—the hospital turned them over to a collection agency, according to Crouse at the JEMM insurance brokerage.

Now, under a court order, the clerk's wages are being garnished to pay the debt.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend from Maryland.

My friend and neighbor Mr. BARTLETT argues that it is actually the U.N. which owes us money. Nothing could be further from the truth. The figures which he cites from the GAO include costs of non-U.N. peacekeeping operations undertaken by the United States in our own national interest, such as the Gulf War and our operations in Bosnia and Haiti, as well as Somalia.

Every living former Secretary of State opposes the Bartlett amendment, including James Baker, Alexander Haig, George Schultz, and Henry Kissinger. This is hardly a bunch of free-spending, bleeding-heart liberals out to hand over U.S. sovereignty. They support U.N. funding not only because it is a legal obligation, but because it serves our national interest in contributing to global peace, prosperity and security, and because it serves our humanitarian interests in assisting refugees, improving human rights, and establishing the rule of law. Our continued failure to honor our obligations threatens our interests by threatening the U.N.'s financial and political viability.

Many of us recognize the need for U.N. reform. But these efforts are hampered, not helped, by the current U.N. financial problem. We have been trying to reduce our U.N. budget share, but negotiations ended last year when other members would not agree to pay more until the U.S. paid at least its current obligated share. As the former Secretaries have noted, "without a U.S. commitment to pay arrears . . . U.S. efforts to consolidate and advance U.N. reforms and reduce U.S. assessments are not going to succeed."

I urge a "no" vote on the Bartlett amendment.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 7

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic

To hold hearings on the employment-unemployment situation for July, 1998.

1334 Longworth Building

SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the impact of United States satellite technology transfer to China.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Communications Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 2365, to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications.

SR-253

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building