

publication of the guide. The consumer guide will be provided to public libraries free of charge. The Secretary will also provide the guide to individuals and other organizations for a reasonable fee which is not to exceed the cost of printing and distributing the guide. Organizations representing consumers, seniors, and health professionals will be encouraged to make the consumers guide widely available.

This legislation offers consumers a new tool to help them manage their prescription drug costs. Armed with price information, they will be in a better position to save money without cutting corners on their health care.

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to help Americans fight the rising cost of health care.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JENNINGS  
RANDOLPH OF WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, retired U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia will be 94 years old on March 8, 1996.

On this occasion, on behalf of myself and all West Virginians, I wish a happy 94th birthday to Senator Randolph, and we wish him many happy returns of the day.

Senator Randolph served the great State of West Virginia for 40 years, beginning in 1933—during Franklin Roosevelt's first 100 days as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Senator Randolph served in the House of Representatives from 1933 to 1947, and then, served in the U.S. Senate from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

Known for his courtly manner and as the epitome of a southern gentleman, Senator Randolph could also be tenacious and unyielding as a proponent of the working men and women of West Virginia and the Nation. As a strong supporter of President Franklin Roosevelt's depression-era legislative remedies, he also followed another Roosevelt's maxim. It was Teddy Roosevelt who cautioned: Speaker softly, but carry a big stick. Even though Senator Randolph had a true orator's voice when he spoke on the floor, during meetings, or in public speeches to his constituents, it was during his one-on-one dealings with his colleagues that he used his softest voice, folded his massive hands into a supplicant's gesture, his words while gentle conveying that he said what he meant and meant what he said.

This philosophy that a soft voice turneth away wrath was especially evident when it came to legislation that addressed the needs of the coal miners in his State and throughout the country, and when he spoke for all blue collar workers everywhere whose rights he protected with every fiber of his being.

He never backed away from a fight over spending priorities either in the House, the Senate, or when confronted by one of the 10 Presidents under whom he served during his 40-year tenure of service to West Virginia.

Senator Randolph loved the House and the Senate, serving 14 and 26 years respectively in both bodies, and he did so with distinction.

He was a legislator of integrity and style. He deserves the respect and admiration of all of us for the outstanding job that he did and the many contributions he made to both institutions.

If he were here today, he would be out in front, leading all those who can be heard calling for an end to name calling and for complete civility between and among Members of both the House and the Senate as they conduct the people's business. Senator Randolph was a stickler for correct demeanor at all times, and for keeping the House and the Senate in proper order. On the Senate floor he was often heard to call for order in the Senate. He strongly believed that Members of the Senate should come to the floor and vote from their seats—calmly and quietly—rather than milling about on the floor and in the well. And, of course, they seldom did so.

I am as much in awe of Senator Randolph's life of public service as I was when, in 1976, I was about to be sworn in as the then-youngest Member of the House of Representatives, and my respect for his achievements has but grown over the years.

More than anything else, I am proud to be associated as a West Virginian and as a Member of this House, with his record of leadership. The record will show that he acted always with clarity of thought; that he believed deeply in the inherent abilities and talents that lie within every American.

Senator Randolph was able to lead others, never through outrageous or revolting words or deeds, or through bellicosity or belligerence, but simply with an honest expression of confidence made quietly, a silent gesture or salute, or a humorous anecdote. And, if absolutely necessary, a gentle rebuke.

Senator Randolph treated each of us with the characteristic wit and wisdom of a true gentleman, embodying the finest traditions of the House and the Senate, and of this great country, which he loved dearly.

Senator Randolph now lives in a personal care home in St. Louis, MO near his eldest son Jay Randolph, and his grandchildren.

Again, Senator Jennings Randolph, happy 94th birthday.

NEW JERSEY'S PUBLIC PENSION  
FUND SHORTFALL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Star-Ledger of New Jersey reported on the troubling situation of pension funds for New Jersey's public employees. Governor Christine Todd Whitman has used these workers' investments to pay for her campaign promises from 1993, which the State could not afford. When Governor Whitman ran short on money to pay for important programs like Medicaid and education, she either tried to cut them, or she simply stopped paying the government's full share of the State employees' pensions.

The result is a massive shortfall in State pensions, including a \$2.5 billion unfunded liability in the teachers' fund alone. What allowed this to happen is a legal system that lets the Governor use inaccurate economic estimates, and a State legislature that proved

willing to comply. Governor Whitman is balancing the New Jersey budget on the backs of the State's workers, who are seeing their retirement funds placed in the greatest of danger.

I have proposed a solution to this problem. In May of last year, I introduced legislation to grant State public employee pension beneficiaries the right to sue the State in a Federal court. My bill, H.R. 1683, does not stop a State from changing its contribution to retirement funds. Rather, it encourages the State to obtain the approval of a review board first. The board's primary responsibility will be the fund's economic health, not a political agenda. If a State uses such a panel, then any lawsuit filed by pension beneficiaries will be held to a much higher standard of proof.

My bill will put the fate of State employees not in the hands of political opportunists, but of people who know how to make a pension fund work for the benefit and security of its members.

LEONID KUCHMA, PRESIDENT OF  
UKRAINE, RECEIVES FREEDOM  
HOUSE 1996 FREEDOM AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Freedom House in paying tribute to His Excellency Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine. Recently he was the honored recipient of the Freedom Award for his contributions to regional stability and ethnic relations in the Ukraine. The award is given periodically by Freedom House, one of our country's oldest human rights groups. It was established in 1941 to encourage American public support for the struggle against Fascism, and through the years it has been a leading voice for tolerance, human dignity, human rights, and freedom.

Previous recipients of this distinguished award include Dwight Eisenhower in 1945, Edward R. Morrow in 1954, Winston Churchill in 1955, 15 Soviet dissidents in 1973, the Dalai Lama in 1991, and Czech President Vaclav Havel in 1991.

President Kuchma was honored at a gala dinner at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington attended by some 500 Government and congressional leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, corporate and business executives, leaders of the nongovernment organizations, and leaders of the Ukrainian-American community.

President Kuchma has served as President of Ukraine since July 9, 1994. His election marked the first democratic Presidential transition in the Republics of the former Soviet Union. His policy priorities have included initiating a program of market reforms, securing Western financial assistance to his country, normalizing relations with Russia, facilitating the passage by the Ukrainian Parliament of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, promoting interethnic harmony, and strengthening Ukrainian statehood and security.

President Kuchma is an engineer by profession. He served as technical director of rocket testing at the Soviet Baikonur Space Center and as general director of the Southern Machine-Building Plant in Dnipropetrovsk,

Ukraine. After serving 1½ years as a deputy in the Ukrainian Parliament, Mr. Kuchma became Prime Minister and served in that post from October 1992 until September 1993.

After leaving the post of Prime Minister, Mr. Kuchma became president of the Ukrainian Association of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, which brought together top business leaders and managers from over 14,000 enterprises and workplaces throughout Ukraine. He also led the Interregional Block for Reform, a centrist faction in Parliament, until his election as President of Ukraine.

In his opening remarks at the gala dinner honoring President Kuchma, Ambassador Mark Palmer, former United States envoy to Hungary, praised the Freedom House democracy-building programs in Ukraine—a strategically important country of 52 million people which covers an area the size of France which lies in the very heart of Europe. He praised President Kuchma for his determined commitment to democracy and economic reform.

United States Ambassador at Large for the Newly Independent States, James Collins, underlined Ukraine's strategic importance in Europe, and cited President Kuchma for his contribution to regional stability and peace. He reiterated American material and moral support for Ukraine's efforts to preserve its national identity and build a truly pluralistic and free society while maintaining good relations with the West, and abiding international agreements on nuclear weapons and troop strengths in Europe.

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor, the President and Freedom

House Trustee, praised President Kuchma for moving firmly in the right direction and making his country a constructive partner in the international community. He also praised the courage and determination of the Ukrainian people who tenaciously maintained their language, customs, and history through centuries of foreign and Communist domination.

Following Ukraine's achievement of freedom at long last, it has demonstrated remarkable political stability. Dr. Brzezinski called attention to the fact that the transition to President Kuchma from his predecessor was a peaceful change carried out through free and fair elections—the first such transition in among all of the former Republics of the Soviet Union. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union could earn much from Ukraine, Dr. Brzezinski noted. Ukraine has achieved relative ethnic stability, with Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Poles, and Crimean Tatars living in relative harmony.

In his address accepting the award, President Kuchma assured American leaders that Ukraine wants to remain a part of Europe, and he pledged continued cooperation with NATO, the European Community, and other economic and regional organizations. The President said, however, that if Ukraine is to be successful in becoming an integral part of Europe, then the countries of Europe and their leaders must be willing to move toward Ukraine through economic cooperation, trade, and closer political links.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in extending congratulations to President Kuchma personally—as well

as to the Government of Ukraine and to the Ukrainian people—for this well-deserved and most appropriate honor. I also invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Freedom House and to its leaders who played key roles in honoring President Kuchma—Vice Chairman of the Board Mark Palmer, Trustee Zbigniew Brzezinski, and President Adrian Karatnycky.

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HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM  
EXTENSION ACT

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House on its passage of S. 1494, the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act. This is an excellent bill which includes language from several bills passed by the House previously, including H.R. 117, the Senior Citizens Housing Safety Act of 1995.

The safety of America's seniors is important to each and everyone of us. S. 1494, like H.R. 117 ensures the safety of America's seniors living in public housing complexes. It toughens placement and eviction policies in order to protect residents of public and assisted housing programs from substance abusers. These provisions are the key reasons I cosponsored H.R. 117 and am in full support of S. 1494.