

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIDNAPING OF JASWANT SINGH KHALRA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the 1-year anniversary of the kidnaping of Jaswant Singh Khalra. As we observe the anniversary of that event, which occurred at 9:15 a.m. on September 6, 1995, we must draw attention that Mr. Khalra remains in custody and his whereabouts unknown.

As Secretary of Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal), Mr. Khalra had published a report showing that the Punjab police have arrested more than 25,000 young Sikh men, tortured and murdered them, and declared their cremated bodies unidentified. After this report was made published, Mr. Khalra was told by the Armitisar district police chief, "We have made 25,000 disappear. It would be easy to make one more disappear."

More recently, an article in the August 14-20 issue of World Sikh News quotes Ajit Sandhu, the district police chief implicated in the kidnaping of Mr. Khalra, as saying that "I am proud of what I did. I did it for the nation. I did no wrong." Mr. Sandhu has labeled the charges of mass cremations a bundle of lies despite the Central Bureau of Investigations admission to the Indian Supreme Court that its preliminary investigation had turned up evidence that nearly 1,000 young Sikhs had been cremated as Mr. Khalra's report described. This preliminary investigation is ongoing, and human rights activists in Punjab, Khalistan, say that the number may be as high as 30,000 or more.

Mr. Khalra was exercising his fundamental right to speak out and expose atrocities committed by this government. As long as Mr. Khalra remains in detention, how can anyone in India feel secure exercising his or her democratic liberties? I ask my colleagues to recognize the continued human rights abuses by India and work to reduce aid to India until it protects the democratic rights of its people.

IT'S NOT OUR FAULT IF WE ASK DOCTORS TO KILL PEOPLE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Association of Managed Healthcare Organizations has sent Members of Congress a letter opposing the anti-gag rule legislation proposed by our colleagues GANSKE and MARKEY. They say, in short, "it's not managed care companies' fault

if they ask doctors to kill people." To be precise, the lobby group says:

AMHO suggests that, if a physician believes that the terms of a contract force him to practice medicine in a manner he finds less than responsible or ethical, he should not sign such a contract.

It is exactly such thoughts that are fueling the national anger and backlash against managed care. Their letter could be nominated for the Marie Antoinette "let them eat cake" memorial quote.

As managed care grows to become the dominant form of care in more and more communities, doctors cannot survive financially without signing up with a number of plans. Some doctors will have the courage and independence not to sign bad contracts, but doctors are human and to feed their families, most of them will sign. The Congress, as representatives of the public interest, has the duty to protect the public against Godfather plans presenting doctors with offers they can't refuse.

A TRIBUTE TO STICKNEY TOWNSHIP ON ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stickney Township, located in the Third Congressional District, on its 95th anniversary this year.

The township was formed in 1901 when railroad pioneer Alpheus Stickney and a group of residents met at what is now the southwest corner of Midway Airport in Chicago and decided to break away from Lyons Township. Mr. Stickney envisioned the area as great freight transfer and rail clearing yard. The new township drained swamps, built roads, bridges, sewers, and provided schools to attract new residents and business and industry.

During the 1930's, the township assumed care for the poor and homeless and inaugurated a health care program that has brought the township national recognition. Stickney Township was among the first municipalities to offer free cholesterol screening for residents and mammograms for women as well as mental health counseling, dental care for children and the elderly, immunizations, home care for the aged, and a host of other vital health care services.

These programs and others earned Stickney Township the Governor's Hometown Award for Senior Achievement in 1990 and Illinois township of the Year honors in 1992.

As Township Supervisor Louis Viverito said in observing the 95th anniversary, "Stickney Township has a proud heritage, and I think the record will show that we are doing out part to continue and embellish that tradition. At a time

when some people are questioning the worth of township government, we are proving that by changing with the times and meeting today's needs, we can provide grassroots services at a very low cost to the taxpayers."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Supervisor Viverito, his predecessors, and all those who have made Stickney Township a great place to live and work on its 95th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE O. BUSSE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the March of Dimes is an organization with a noble mission: to fight birth defects and childhood diseases. We all share the March of Dimes dream which is that every child should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

For the past 13 years, the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has honored several Macomb County residents who are outstanding members of our community and have helped in the campaign for healthier babies. On the evening of Wednesday, September 25, 1996, the chapter will be hosting the 13th annual Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year Award dinner. The award, instituted in 1984, is named after my home county's namesake, Gen. Alexander Macomb, a hero of the War of 1812.

This year, the March of Dimes has chosen Jeanne O. Busse as a recipient of the award. Jeanne is a model for volunteerism and has dedicated time and effort to people in her community in diverse ways. Over the years she has been involved with the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts serving as a den mother and on the board of directors. She has been active as a school board member and served as the president of the Macomb County School Board Association. She has never been afraid to take on more civic responsibility and, beyond that, Jeanne has always found time to participate in her church and religious functions. Throughout all of her work, she has kept in mind the value of children to society.

Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine is just one of the more famous breakthroughs that would not have been possible without March of Dimes research funding. Without people like Jeanne Busse the job of protecting babies would be that much more difficult.

I applaud the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes and Jeanne Busse for their leadership, advocacy, and community service. I know that Jeanne Busse is honored by the recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting her as a 1996 recipient of the Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year Award.

● 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.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the National Women's Political Caucus [NWPC] on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

The National Women's Political Caucus is a grassroots organization committed to increasing the number of women holding elected and appointed office in the U.S. Government. Since its founding in 1971, NWPC has supported the efforts of women seeking political office, regardless of party affiliation.

Thanks in part to NWPC's multifaceted agenda of support for women seeking political office, our Nation has benefited from a continued increase in women's political participation. Over the past 25 years, America has seen the number of women in State legislatures jump from 362 to 1,536 and the number of women in Congress grow from 15 to 58.

NWPC is instrumental to women seeking political office and to women facing the challenges of holding office once elected. Many women get their start in politics through their involvement in local chapters of the caucus across the country. NWPC's educational programs, campaign training, and grassroots opportunities are invaluable for women candidates as they rise up through the ranks of the political world.

The NWPC helps women gain elected and appointed office by holding campaign workshops, providing campaign support, and encouraging the appointment of women to policy-making posts. The caucus also conducts research on women as candidates, using the results of these studies to increase the number of winning women candidates. For women in office, the caucus provides networking opportunities and forums for discussion, including newsletters for and about women in politics.

As the cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I know how important it is to elect women to Congress. Although we come from many different backgrounds and have different areas of expertise, we share a common commitment and perspective that has already improved the political landscape for American women. From issues ranging from women's health to women's economic equity, Congresswomen are making a difference. The National Women's Political Caucus has been a driving force in opening up political office to women, and I sincerely thank NWPC for its outstanding work. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the National Women's Political Caucus for its commitment to the support and advancement of women in politics.

THANK YOU, MARLENE MOULDER,
FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last De-

ember 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff, Marlene Moulder, a staff assistant in my Humble office, for everything she's done for me and my constituents in the 11 years that she has worked in my office.

A native of Houston, Marlene has overseen my service academy nominations board, which recommends outstanding young men and women for appointments to the Nation's four service academies, since she joined my staff. The nominating process in my office is highly competitive, strictly merit based, and scrupulously fair. As a result, it is considered one of the most successful such programs in the Nation; 161 young men and women living in the Eighth Congressional District have received appointments to the service academies since Marlene began managing the program in early 1986. Much of the credit for the program's success can be directly attributed to the dedication and hard work that Marlene devotes to it.

Indeed, Marlene's work with the board and the Nation's service academies led to her receiving the Air Force Association's Civilian of the Year award in 1988, and the U.S. Air Force Academy recognition award from the San Jacinto Association of Air Force Academy graduates in 1992. Marlene has been asked to address educators, other congressional staffers, parents, students, and service academy liaison officials regarding how the academy nominating process works.

In addition to her service academy responsibilities, Marlene has handled tour and flag requests, as well as receptionist and secretarial duties during her years on my staff. Perhaps Marlene's greatest strength is her ability to work well with people, constituents and co-workers alike, to resolve problems or answer questions from constituents, and to help ensure that whatever needs to get done in my office actually gets done.

Marlene has been an active member of several civic groups during her tenure in my office, serving as treasurer and then president of the Channelview Channelette Booster Club. She also has volunteered her time and talents to the Sterling Forest Civic Association, the Sterling Shadows Neighborhood Watch program, and the Channelview ISD advisory board for fundraising guidelines.

Marlene is deeply devoted to her wonderful daughter, Carrie, who is currently a senior at Loyola University in New Orleans.

Marlene Moulder is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know she has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank her for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism she has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with her.

Marlene has yet to make a definite decision about what she wants to do in the years ahead. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities she has demonstrated in my office will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying thank you to Marlene Moulder for her years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing Marlene, and her daughter Carrie, and the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM
E. EICHER, U.S. ARMY, RET.

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the illustrious career of Maj. Gen. William E. Eicher, U.S. (Ret.), who officially retired as vice president of technical services of the American Defense Preparedness Association on August 31 of this year. General Eicher will be honored officially on September 16 with the William R. Moseley Award for excellence in munitions management. This award was established in 1982 and named after a long time executive and chairman of the board of Day and Zimmermann, Inc., a Pennsylvania based munitions producer. The William R. Moseley Award panel has selected General Eicher because he has made the greatest overall contribution to the munitions program this year.

I had the pleasure of meeting General Eicher and recognized in him an earnest commitment to the security of this great Nation. His career is one threaded with remarkable accomplishments, and so I wish to share with my colleagues some of the highlights of General Eicher's 44 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

General Eicher was a commander, logistician, staff officer, and systems manager during 32 years of active military service. He commanded logistical activities both at retail and wholesale levels. Similarly, he was also involved in the acquisition, production, and distribution of material. He was on the staff of the Army Material Command as director of maintenance. His responsibilities included directing that Command's worldwide maintenance management program. As Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics on the Army staff, he assisted in the worldwide management of all aspects of the Army's complex logistic structure.

For over 5 years he was commander of the Army's Armament Material Readiness Command and was responsible for dispensing operable/quality munitions and armament material worldwide to the Department of Defense and Allied Forces. He controlled multifaceted operations in such disciplines as procurement, industrial operations, material and maintenance management, personnel, management information systems, engineering quality assurance, and financial management. Inherent in General Eicher's role as commander were the responsibilities to plan, organize, review, and manage people and things.

He exercised extensive responsibilities in the management of weapon systems and conventional munitions, and he was deeply involved in the acquisition and production of both weapons/ammunition. His working knowledge of armaments supply and maintenance activities of fielded systems gave him unique

insight into the logistics requirements of systems support. He has a broad background in integrated logistics support management and the application of this process to both developmental and fielded material.

General Eicher joined the American Defense Preparedness Association in 1984 as vice president, technical services. He was responsible for the overall operations of the technical services, which consists of 26 technical divisions, and for the conduct of over 50 meetings a year. His additional responsibilities included conducting studies and roundtable type meetings, publication of white papers, and a wide range of support activities for the Department of Defense and other U.S. Government agencies.

As vice president, technical services, General Eicher was in the forefront of the efforts to define and maintain a viable industrial base consistent with national security interests. His skillful leadership was especially crucial during the ongoing adjustments in post-cold-war defense policies. His insights were regularly sought by the Department of Defense, thereby enhancing ADPA's contribution to the formulation of industrial base policies. ADPA's enviable reputation as a forum for ethical dialog between Government and industry is largely attributable to General Eicher's vision and his keen appreciation of industrial base issues. Working with industry and Government volunteers, he consistently designed and directed programs of exceptional technical conferences that are the hallmark of ADPA's service to the Nation and defense community.

Mr. Speaker, General Eicher's distinguished career is a model of hard work, loyalty, and patriotism. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contributions to our Nation. Furthermore, I want to extend my congratulations to General Eicher for being honored as this year's recipient of the William R. Moseley Award. I wish General Eicher and his family success and happiness in the coming years.

GUESS WHAT CLUNKY BUREAUCRATIC MACHINE COMES IN NO. 1

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, you, Mr. Speaker, like to talk about the withering away of Medicare. When questioned about your statement, you say you didn't really, really mean for Medicare to whither away, just the agency that administers it, the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA]. You like to make fun of HCFA as a clunky, bureaucratic machine.

I'm not sure what the difference is between destroying a program and destroying its administration, but I hope you will take the time to read the enclosed opening paragraphs from the American Medical Association's newspaper American Medical News of August 26, 1996.

MEDICARE SHAPES UP CLAIMS

Q: What well-known health insurer has the highest proportion of claims filed electronically, the lowest average cost per claim processed, and has cut the real cost per claim processed by 85% since 1975?

A: It's not some hotshot entrepreneur or Wall Street wonder company.

It's Medicare.

You know, that federal program run by the Health Care Financing Administration and the gang of 34 (carriers).

Medicare is the undisputed leader in electronic claims. The program now electronically processes 79% of all claims and nearly 71% of Part B claims. That compares with 66% of claims for the runner-up, the nation's Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans, and a paltry 20% for commercial carriers.

Increasing electronic claims processing has been the major factor in driving down Medicare's processing cost per Part B claim from \$8.03 (in today's dollars) in 1975 to 94 cents in 1995.

But HCFA isn't resting on its laurels. Over the next six to 12 months, the agency will begin implementing several measures designed to increase claims processing efficiency and lower costs even further.

A first step will be taken toward standardizing electronic claims formats. New universal provider identification numbers will be issued, and a uniform payer identification system will be developed. National uniform claims review standards will be expanded, and steps will be taken to shift routine claims processing from the local carriers to two giant processing centers.

All of these initiatives could help physicians by streamlining medical review, coordination of benefits with non-Medicare payers and speeding payments.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MIDAS INTERNATIONAL CORP.

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding group of workers in my district who were recently recognized for their commitment to quality and safety in the workplace—the 231 employees at the Midas International Corp. facility in Bedford Park, IL.

The facility was recently selected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] for participation in the Voluntary Protections Programs [VPP] as a Merit site. The VPP program recognizes worksites for achieving excellence in their safety and health programs through cooperation among labor, management, and the Government. The Merit is often a stepping stone to the Star Program, the highest level of participation in the VPP.

The Midas Bedford Park, which manufactures motor vehicle parts and accessories, is the second site in my district to achieve the honor of VPP approval. The OSHA review team commended Midas for its strong commitment to safety and health at the facility. The Midas workers are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 781.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the workers and management of the Midas Bedford Park facility on this great achievement and wish them continued success in maintaining health and safety at their workplace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RAYMOND CONTESTI

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the March of Dimes is an organization with a noble mission: to fight birth defects and childhood diseases. We all share the March of Dimes dream which is that every child should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

For the past 13 years, the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has honored several Macomb County residents who are outstanding members of our community and have helped in the campaign for healthier babies. On the evening of Wednesday, September 25, 1996, the chapter will be hosting the 13th annual "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year" award dinner. The award, instituted in 1984, is named after my home county's namesake, Gen. Alexander Macomb, a hero of the War of 1812.

This year, the March of Dimes has chosen Dr. Raymond Contesti as a recipient of the award. Dr. Contesti, the youngest of 10 children, learned at an early age that service to one's community is the way to a good life. Throughout his distinguished career as an educator and superintendent of schools, he has been recognized for outstanding commitment to his community. In 1995 he was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Mount Clemens General Hospital Foundation and "Distinguished Citizen of the Year" by the Boy Scouts organization in 1994 as a champion of youth involvement. They could not have chosen a more deserving human being.

Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine is just one of the more famous breakthroughs that would not have been possible without March of Dimes research funding. Without people like Dr. Raymond Contesti the job of protecting babies would be that much more difficult.

I applaud the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes and Dr. Raymond Contesti for their leadership, advocacy, and community service. I am sure that Dr. Contesti is honored by the recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him as a 1996 recipient of the "Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year Award."

TRIBUTE TO SOLID ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH OF PATERSON, NJ

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Solid Rock Baptist Church of Paterson in the Eight Congressional District in New Jersey.

Next year, Mr. Speaker, the Solid Rock Baptist Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a spiritual leader in the Northern New Jersey area. The church was founded in September 1947 when a group of four deeply religious souls, Deacon Miledge Primus, Minister James Shropshire, Sister Lucille Scott, and Sister Catherine Primus, sought to create a place of sanctuary.

The church struggles with the initial growing pains felt by many new establishments during their formative years. Finally, in August 1954, Rev. Timothy Fennel became pastor to the nearly 100 members and rapidly strengthened the organization's membership and infrastructure.

Under the leadership and guidance of Reverend Fennel, the Solid Rock Baptist Church ordained five deacons and initiated a number of auxiliary functions, including the creation of the missionary circle, deaconess board senior choir, gospel chorus, junior choir, usher board busy bees, and M club. The church also provided assistance to area hospitals and the surrounding community through its pastor's aides, nurses aides, youth guild, Sunday school Bible class, and prayer meetings.

After a life of dedication to the Solid Rock Baptist Church, Reverend Fennel passed away on September, 23, 1976. However, Mr. Speaker, he left the church with a meaningful legacy and vivacious future. In the 1980's, under the leadership of Reverend Shearin, the church initiated a number of remodeling projects. He also established the stewardship and Bible study programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Solid Rock Baptist Church built such a strong presence in the community that they no longer had to look outside the organization for guidance. The church elected a favorite son as pastor in 1996.

Rev. Jack Lotts has been a member of the Solid Rock Baptist Church since his return from military duty in 1961. He graduated in 1987 with a certificate in christian ministry from the New York Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained on October 29, 1989. Throughout his tenure with the church, Reverend Lotts has exhibited the commitment to the spiritual growth and development demonstrated by Reverend Fennel and the original founders of the church. He is certainly the right man to led the Solid Rock Baptist church into its next 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to help me salute the Solid Rock Baptist Church for its historic achievements, and pray for its continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
GREG LASHUTKA

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Greg Lashutka, the mayor of Columbus, OH, on the occasion of his earning the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award [DESA]. Through the course of my 18 years of public service, I have had the privilege of working closely with Mayor Lashutka and can thus attest firsthand to his unparalleled devotion to the betterment of the city of Columbus, his tireless involvement in civic activities, and his remarkable commitment to God and family. Mayor Lashutka truly embodies the spirit of this extraordinary award.

The highest award administered by the National Eagle Scout Association, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award honors an elite few who have achieved a state of eminence through their chosen careers and lifeworks. Recipients are determined by the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Committee, which is comprised entirely of previous DESA winners. The selection process is rigorous and deliberate, and a substantial percentage of nominations is declined. Among those honored by the DESA include former President Gerald R. Ford, several governors, CEO's of Fortune 500 companies, nationally known doctors, lawyers, and educators, and some of my colleagues in this body. Mayor Greg Lashutka will be only the second Distinguished Eagle Scout Award winner in central Ohio.

In 1958, a 14-year-old Greg Lashutka was awarded the Eagle Scout Award at the Bethany English Lutheran Church in Cleveland, OH. Thirty-seven years later, Mayor Lashutka has rightfully earned the admiration and respect of all those with whom he has come in contact. His resume reflects his all-American experience: Co-Captain of the 1965 Ohio State University football team; a decorated naval officer in Vietnam; city attorney for the city of Columbus; a successful private attorney with a prestigious Columbus firm; and finally mayor of the 16th largest city in the United States. Under his adept leadership, Columbus has grown profoundly, becoming nationally renowned for its crime prevention, cultural activities, international trade, and business-friendly environment. His innovative and thoughtful leadership has earned Columbus a designation as an All-American City in 1992, and himself the honors of 1996 president of the National League of Cities as well as 1993 Municipal Leader of the Year Award from American City and County Magazine.

Equally important, however, is Mayor Lashutka's social and civic involvement. His active participation in countless organizations and groups—often as a board member or as chairman—is truly remarkable. The mayor devotes much of his already scarce time to the Boy Scouts of America; the boys and girls clubs of Columbus; the Columbus Civic Center Committee; the Columbus Urban League; the Heart Fund; the Big Brother Association of Columbus; the German Village Society; the Central Ohio Chapter of the March of Dimes; and other outstanding, philanthropic organizations. Mayor Lashutka is happily married to Catherine Adams and is a loving father of four.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my good friend, Mayor Greg Lashutka, for being awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, and in recognition of his astonishing lifelong service to the city of Columbus.

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE NORMAN
W. BLACK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Honorable Norman W. Black, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, as he prepares to assume senior status later this year.

Judge Black's 16 years as a U.S. district judge cap a career of service to his country, to his community, to education, and to the practice of law. His career has been marked by a deep commitment to integrity, hard work, fairness, honesty, and justice.

Judge Black obtained both his undergraduate and legal education at the University of Texas. He served in the U.S. Army Military Police from 1955 to 1957 before beginning his legal career as an assistant U.S. attorney. Later, he participated in the formation of the law firm of Black, Hebinck, Hargorve & Clark. He engaged in private practice from 1959 to 1976.

In 1976, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate for the Southern District of Texas. In 1979, President Carter appointed him U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas at the recommendation of Senator Lloyd Bentsen, and he has served as chief judge since October 1992.

Each year, the Houston Bar Association evaluates all sitting judges in Harris County, including U.S. district court judges. Judge Black routinely rates as one of the top judges in every category evaluated by members of the trial bar who practice in the various courts.

The best testimonials to Judge Black's achievements come from his colleagues and those who have practiced before him. I want to quote from some of their statements nominating Judge Black in 1995 for the Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award.

Attorney David Beck, who has appeared before Judge Black, stated, "I have always found Judge Black to be objective and even-handed in his rulings and courteous to all litigants and their counsel. He rules decisively and timely, works extremely hard, and is knowledgeable of the law, which is no easy task given the numerous substantive areas to which our judges are consistently exposed."

Chief Judge Henry A. Politz of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Judicial Circuit, had this to say about Judge Black: "On the administrative level, he is nothing short of a marvel. * * * I wish all of our judges had his keen instinct for what is right in just about every situation."

Attorney James B. Sales stated, "A universal comment is that he possesses impeccable integrity, fairness, and honesty. Indeed, he is the epitome of the kind of judge that we all admire and hold as the standard by which to measure others who aspire to the Bench."

In addition to his commitment to law, Judge Black has contributed tremendously to education and to our community. He has taught at the University of Houston School of Law, the University of Cincinnati, and the South Texas College of Law, where he currently is adjunct professor. He is much-loved by his students, and his seminar is always the first one closed because of over-subscription.

Judge Black's contributions to his community include membership in the Houston Philosophical Society, as well as the Federal, Texas, Houston, and American Bar Associations. He has been instrumental in developing mentoring and fellowship programs to encourage interest in and knowledge of the law. Judge Black also has been active in many of our community's religious and cultural institutions. Despite these many commitments, Judge Black has always found time to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Judge Black will be sorely missed by all who have worked with him, all who value the law, and all who appreciate his fairness and integrity. We wish him well.

THE RAIDERS ARE COMING—AND I DON'T MEAN THE FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the raiders I am referring to do not wear football helmets and they do not throw a ball. They are profiteering health care entrepreneurs, and they are quickly moving into our community.

The move toward investor-owned health care, particularly where doctors are sharing in the financial risk and have incentives to deny care, means that patients could be denied access to critical medical resources. Significant health care dollars are being siphoned off to pay shareholders, soaring executives salaries and exorbitant marketing costs. Meanwhile, the number of Americans who are uninsured and underinsured is growing.

The explosion of profit-sharing health care companies is leading the current transformation of the U.S. health care market, and they have arrived in our district. Watch out. The move toward monopolistic, for-profit health care requires a legislative response to protect patients and consumers.

THE MOVE TO FOR-PROFIT HEALTH CARE: COLUMBIA-HCA

The largest, most aggressive for-profit health care company is Columbia-HCA Healthcare Corporation [Columbia]. Columbia has aggressively pursued the acquisition of nonprofit hospitals. As a result, Columbia now owns 355 hospitals making it the wealthiest for-profit chain with \$18 billion in annual revenue.

Columbia owns the San Leandro Hospital; the San Leandro Surgery and Outpatient Center; Estudillo Surgery Center; and the San Jose Hospital as well as Diablo Valley Surgery Center in Concord. Elsewhere in the bay area, Columbia owns Healdsburg General Hospital and Palm Drive Hospital in Sebastopol; Columbia Los Gatos Surgical Center; Mammography Plus Medical Group; and Sereno Surgicenter in Los Gatos in addition to the four facilities in the south bay that comprise the Good Samaritan chain. They have reportedly offered to negotiate deals with almost every hospital in the bay area including Sequoia, Eden, and St. Rose.

I have asked Medicare to investigate whether Columbia's merger mania is bad for the patients and for our community.

Will quality patient care be provided?

As a for-profit hospital, Columbia's primary obligation is to its out-of-town shareholders. Their focus is on the bottom line, not quality care.

We will see a reduction in care provided to the poor in our community!

Columbia offers physicians up to 20 percent ownership interest to encourage physicians to direct paying patients to their hospital, and charity cases away from the Columbia hospital. Study after study shows that for-profit hospitals provide a lower level of charity care than do nonprofit hospitals.

Will services be eliminated that are vital to our community?

It is likely that programs such as trauma centers and neonatal intensive care units will be eliminated.

Will Columbia close local hospitals?

It has a history of buying many local hospitals and closing them to increase bed occupancy and profits in other units.

Will existing labor contracts be ignored?

Columbia is reportedly renegeing on labor contracts at Good Samaritan Hospital and has an antilabor record.

Capitalism is great but should patients be put at risk?

I do not believe health care is a commodity. Joseph Cardinal Bernadin said it best:

Health care is fundamentally different from most other goods and services. It is about the most human and intimate needs of people, their families, and communities. It is because of this crucial difference that each of us should work to preserve the predominantly non-profit character of our health care delivery system.

The goal is not health care anymore—it is care of the stockholder interest. I am preparing legislation to make sure: First, for-profit do not skim off the healthiest patients and dump the sickest, money-losing patients in public hospitals; and second, the public's investment in nonprofit hospitals is not lost through phony sales prices. You can count on me to fight the takeover of our community's hospital system and keep the "care" in health care.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CENTER ON AGING ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in my district that for 25 years has addressed the needs of older residents—the Southwest Suburban Center on Aging in La Grange, IL.

The center is enjoying its silver anniversary of providing a variety of important services for senior citizens. The agency drew out a study commissioned by the La Grange Kiwanis Club in 1970 that determined that not only was the senior population growing in the area, but that the vast majority of this group did not know where to turn for assistance.

The senior center was initially established as an arm of a local mental health agency, but because of the great demand for its services, it soon became a separate entity. In 1974, it leased its first facility, a building in La Grange, which it still occupies 22 years later.

Beginning with a staff of three on 1971, the center grew to employ a staff of 26 and over 300 volunteers. Today, the center now serves more than 10,000 seniors in 22 communities. The services provided range from arts and crafts classes to delivering meals to the home-bound to investigating suspected cases of abuse of the elderly.

However, the varied offerings of the Southwest Suburban Center on Aging all contribute to one goal: to promote independent living for seniors and support their efforts to maintain healthy active lifestyles within their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Southwest Suburban Center on Aging for 25 years of service to the senior citizens of its community, and wish the organization many more years of service.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ELIAS, WILLIAM MORGAN, AND GABRIEL KASSAB

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the March of Dimes is an organization with a noble mission: to fight birth defects and childhood disease. We all share the March of Dimes dream which is that every child should have the opportunity to live a health life.

For the past 12 years, the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation has honored several Macomb County residents who are outstanding members of our community and have helped in the campaign for healthier babies. On the evening of Wednesday, September 25, 1996, the chapter will be hosting the 13th annual Alexander Macomb Citizen of the Year award dinner. The award, instituted in 1984, is named after my home country's namesake, Gen. Alexander Macomb, a hero of the War of 1812.

This year, the March of Dimes has chosen Louis Elias, William Morgan, and Gabriel Kassab as recipients of the Family of the Year Award. The Elias family executives can be counted on to devote time and money to numerous charitable and civic groups. Mr. Elias is known as a quiet philanthropist. His generous donations over the years have benefited many charitable organizations. Mr. Kassab has been active in several civic and social groups. He has also served on the executive board of the Boys Scouts of America. Mr. Morgan was instrumental in instituting the service club system of operations which annually returns over \$2 million to the community. The Elias family members have been ardent backers of the March of Dimes' dream of erasing birth defects.

I applaud the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes and the Elias Family for their leadership, advocacy, and community service. The Elias Brothers are living proof that the business community meets their civic responsibility. I am sure that the Elias families are honored by the recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them as the 1996 recipients of the Alexander Macomb Family of the Year Award.

TURKEY: NEW GOVERNMENT,
SAME OLD REPRESSION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks, the new Government of Turkey has demonstrated a familiar disregard for international human rights commitments and earlier promises made to secure entry into a European Union customs agreement. On August 26, 41 members of the Peoples Democracy Party [HADEP], including its leadership, were charged for alleged ties with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK]. The same day, two editors of the Turkish Daily News were charged with "damaging the prestige of the armed forces" by publishing an

opinion poll. And, on September 3, Akin Birdal, president of the Human Rights Association of Turkey, was detained for participating on a delegation negotiating the release of Turkish soldiers captured by the PKK.

Mr. Speaker, the HADEP case follows an all too familiar pattern. The Turkish Government is stepping up efforts to delegitimize and dismantle HADEP, Turkey's only Kurdish-based political party. Supported by more than 1.2 million votes in last December's elections, HADEP was increasingly viewed as a possible interlocutor in the bloody conflict between government forces and Kurdish militants. Yet, like its director predecessor, the Democracy Party [DEP], whose 13 parliamentarians were imprisoned or exiled for speech crimes, HADEP has now become the government's target. In June, following a party convention at which a Turkish flag was torn down, 28 HADEP leaders were detained and have been held ever since, without being charged—despite their disavowal of any connection to the flag incident. Following the convention three HADEP members were murdered and party offices in Izmir were bombed. Two men accused of tearing down the flag have been charged with treason and could face the death penalty.

Mr. Speaker, nationalist hysteria over the flag incident also had negative consequences for a former DEP Member of Parliament, Sirri Sakik, who has been charged for saying, "People who desire that a certain respect be paid to their own flags should also be respectful of others' flags". Prosecutors deemed this statement to be advocating separatism and charged Sakik under article 8 of the Anti-Terror law. Mr. Speaker, you may recall that article 8 was amended with great fanfare last fall to mollify European concerns about Turkey's human rights record in advance of the vote on Turkey's customs union entry. Dozens of people have since been jailed under the new and improved article 8, and hundreds of others under similarly restrictive statutes.

Mr. Speaker, the Turkish Daily News case demonstrates how mainstream journalists also face continued repression. Ilnur Cevik, who participated in a Helsinki Commission briefing on Turkish elections, and Hayri Birlir face up to 6 years in prison for publishing results of a poll on preferences for government alternatives following last year's elections. The polls were published in February and some speculate that the belated decision to prosecute was based on growing displeasure in military circles with Cevik's perceived support of Refah, the Muslim-based party.

Mr. Speaker, another troubling case involves Human Rights Association [HRA] President Akin Birdal, who participated in a 1995 Helsinki Commission briefing. A valuable source of information on human rights abuses in Turkey, the Association and its president, Akin Birdal, have received numerous awards in the United States and Europe. Since its inception, HRA activists have faced severe repression. Fifteen branches have been closed in southeast Turkey, activists and leaders have been murdered by government-supported death squads, and hundreds of HRA members have been arrested and imprisoned. The absurd justification for the latest detention, however, made the authorities look even more capricious than usual.

Akin Birdal participated in a delegation seeking the release of Turkish soldiers cap-

tured by the PKK. The delegation, led by a Member of Parliament from the ruling Refah Party and including other well-known human rights activists, was discussed in the press and government circles for weeks. Although unsuccessful, the delegation's mission fueled speculation that the government might be re-considering its purely military approach to the Kurdish insurgency. Such speculation caused sufficient consternation in ruling circles to order detention of delegation members. Although the government released the delegation members on September 6, it remains unclear whether they will be charged under Penal Code Article 169 for aiding an illegal organization, for which they could face up to 5 years in prison.

These recent incidents, Mr. Speaker, punctuate the routine repression occurring daily in Turkey. None accused in these incidents committed acts of violence, but are being silenced rather for speaking against government-sponsored violence and policies that have prolonged a bloody internal war. And, if the pattern of past convictions of former parliamentarians and others repeats itself, the only evidence that will emerge to suggest support for terrorism will be clumsy fabrications and testimony coerced under torture.

Our important ally Turkey, Mr. Speaker, is facing a serious multidimensional crisis. If we are to help Turkey address this crisis, we must be firm in our support for a political solution to the conflict which has claimed more than 21,000 lives and created more than three million internal refugees. Recent events in northern Iraq have underscored regional instability complicated in no small part by Kurdish unrest in Turkey. Clearly, Turkey's leaders will pay little more than lip service to human rights commitments when it becomes necessary to secure cooperation with Western governments. They will continue such policies as long as Western governments remain willing to overlook abuses in order to advance security or economic objectives. Turkey's allies should undertake every effort to support the victims of this peculiar form of democracy. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to speak out against recurring restrictions imposed on free speech in Turkey and call upon the Turkish Government, once again, to release all those imprisoned for nonviolent expression, including the HADEP members and former DEP parliamentarians.

ETHICS COMMITTEE HANDLING OF GINGRICH CASE A TRAVESTY

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker 7 years ago, we had an Ethics Committee investigation against Speaker Jim Wright. The committee had requested an outside counsel, Richard Phelan, to prepare a report on the Wright case.

Here is what Congressman NEWT GINGRICH said on "Meet the Press" about releasing Mr. Phelan's report to the public:

Now, that report is secret; I don't know of anybody other than the committee members and Mr. Phelan who know what's in it—ex-

cept Mr. Wright's lawyer. And I think that report and the back-up documents have to be published.

I cannot imagine going to the country * * * tell them we've got a \$1.6 million report—and, by the way, there's nothing in it, but you can't see it.

Clearly, that report is going to have to be published.

Well, I think the first key test is whether or not the Phelan report is published, and the background documents and the appropriate interviews of 65 witnesses under oath are published.

I think it's vital that we establish as a Congress our commitment to publish that report and to release those documents so the country can judge whether or not the man second in line to be president—the speaker of the House—should be in that position.

Congressman GINGRICH also demanded that Mr. Phelan be given the independence necessary to do a thorough and complete job. He wrote to the Ethics Committee chairman insisting that Mr. Phelan have full authority to investigate the Wright case; that he be allowed to make public statements and reports; and that a copy of his contract with the committee be made public.

Today, the tables are turned. Speaker GINGRICH is under investigation, but it is an investigation cloaked in secrecy. It is an investigation undermined by the committee's own members.

In this Monday's rollcall, several former special and committee counsels expressed grave reservations about how the current Ethics Committee is handling the Gingrich case.

Worse, in yesterday's Manchester, CT, Journal Inquirer, the chairman of the very Ethics Committee subcommittee charged with conducting the investigation trashes the very process he is heading up. Congressman PORTER GOSS is quoted as saying:

It's a foolish process that needs to be changed. I'm not going to defend the process.

Congressman GOSS goes on to trivialize the report prepared by special counsel James Cole and criticize the press for running stories about the report.

Congressman GOSS should resign from the Ethics Committee. He is sabotaging the very process he is supposed to be leading. If he wants to be Speaker GINGRICH's defense counsel fine—it's a free country—but get off the Ethics Committee.

Worse, he is discussing a report he claims can't be discussed. Members of Congress can't read the report. The taxpayers—who paid the half million dollars it cost to prepare it—can't read the report. We have no way of knowing what's in it.

Yet Congressman GOSS feels free to discuss, characterize, and minimize the report while at the same time saying that under committee rules it is secret and can't be talked about.

This reminds me of the old TV quiz show, "I've Got a Secret." The Ethics Committee has a secret—a half-million-dollar investigation of Speaker NEWT GINGRICH that it doesn't want the public to see.

My advice to the committee is to trust the good judgment of the American public. Release the report and let the chips fall where they may.

GINGRICH ON MEDICARE

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to your attention. It ran on July 25, 1996, on page A-18 of the Washington Times. I think that the American people will benefit from the truth about the Medicare debate which is printed in this respected newspaper.

[From the Washington Times, July 25, 1996]

GINGRICH ON MEDICARE

Besides the customary \$40 million in political action committee (PAC) contributions organized labor gives to Democratic candidates for Congress each election cycle, it pours millions of additional dollars of unregulated "soft money" into the Democratic Party and untold millions more in "in-kind" (telephone work, election-day duties, etc.) contributions.

For the 1995-96 election cycle, the AFL-CIO will supplement these normal contributions to the Democratic Party, all of which come directly from compulsory union dues, with a special assessment that will extract another \$35 million from the paychecks of union workers irrespective of their political allegiance.

The bulk of these new funds has been used to finance "issue advocacy" ads for radio and television, so far mostly about Medicare. In the latest version, which splashes the label "Newt Gingrich on Medicare" across the television screen, the ad selectively and completely out of context quotes from an October speech by the Republican Speaker: "Now, we don't get rid of it in round one because we don't think that that's politically smart and we don't think that's the right way to go through a transition. But we believe it's going to wither on the vine." Clearly, any viewer would infer—erroneously, as is easily demonstrated—that the antecedent of "it" is Medicare. In fact, the antecedent is the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the bureaucratic behemoth administering Medicare, which presidential candidate Bill Clinton promised to "scrap" in his 1992 campaign manifesto, "Putting People First."

The ad further asserts that Republicans sought to "cut Medicare and give new tax breaks to the wealthy." So inaccurate is the ad—the CNN ad-watch team has called it "dishonest"—that the viewer would never know that, under the GOP seven-year balanced-budget plan vetoed by President Clinton, Medicare expenditures per beneficiary would have increased by 50 percent, rising from less than \$4,800 in 1995 to nearly \$7,100 in 2002. Aware of this indisputable fact, the typical viewer might have a difficult time understanding how Republicans sought to have Medicare "wither on the vine." Concerning the "tax breaks to the wealthy," in fact, more than 60 percent of the 7-year \$245 billion tax cut would have financed a \$500 per child (under 18) tax credit for families with adjusted gross incomes no higher than \$110,000. Considering that production and non-supervisory employees were working on average more hours per week and earning a higher inflation-adjusted wage in January 1993, when Mr. Clinton was inaugurated, than they worked and earned in May 1996, union members might view the \$500 per child tax credit vetoed by President Clinton differently than their labor bosses, who clearly have their own agenda in mind.

To conclusively demonstrate the AFL-CIO's campaign of intentional distortion and

lies, it is worth repeating exactly what Mr. Gingrich said about the HCFA last October. "We tell Boris Yeltsin, 'Get rid of centralized command bureaucracies. Go to the marketplace.' OK, what do you think the Health Care Financing Administration is? It's a centralized command bureaucracy. It's everything we're telling Boris Yeltsin to get rid of. Now, we don't get rid of it in round one, because we don't think that that's politically smart and we don't think that's the right way to go through a transition. But we believe it's going to wither on the vine."

In the context of the entire quote and considering Medicare spending per beneficiary was scheduled to increase under the GOP budget plan by \$2,300 per year by 2002, who could possibly believe that Mr. Gingrich was referring to Medicare when speaking of "wither[ing] on the vine"? Only liars. The sooner union workers learn the truth about Medicare and tax cuts their bosses seem so afraid to share with them, the sooner they can choose leaders who pursue an agenda more compatible with their needs.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the National Mental Health Improvement Act of 1996. This bill will provide parity in insurance coverage of mental illness and improve mental health services available to Medicare beneficiaries. It represents an urgently needed change in coverage to end discrimination against those with mental illness and to reflect the contemporary methods of providing mental health care and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.

The bill prohibits health plans from imposing treatment limitations or financial requirements on coverage of mental illness if similar limitations or requirements are not imposed on coverage of services for other conditions. The bill also expands Medicare part A and part B mental health and substance abuse benefits to include a wider array of settings in which services may be delivered. It eliminates the current bias in the law toward delivering services in general hospitals. It permits services to be delivered in a variety of residential and community-based settings. Through use of residential and community-based services, costly inpatient hospitalization can be avoided. Services can be delivered in the setting most appropriate to the individual's needs.

In 1991, as a nation we spent approximately \$58 billion for the treatment of mental illness and another \$17 billion for substance abuse disorders. Medicare expenditures in these areas for 1993 were estimated at \$3.6 billion of 2.7 percent of Medicare's total spending. Over 80 percent of that cost was for inpatient hospitalization.

In addition to these direct medical costs there are also enormous social costs resulting from these disorders. It has been estimated that severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders cost \$78 billion per year in lost productivity, lost earnings due to illness or premature death, and costs for criminal justice, welfare, and family care giving.

Two to three percent of the population experience severe mental illness or substance

abuse disorders. This population is very diverse. When given the appropriate treatment, some people's mental health problems never recur. Others have chronic problems that can persist for decades. And mental illness and substance abuse disorders include many different diagnoses, levels of disability, and duration of disability.

This bill addresses two fundamental problems in both public, as well as private, health care coverage of mental illness today. First, despite the prevalence and cost of untreated mental illness, many health insurance plans do not cover the expense of mental illness treatment as they do other illnesses. Insurance companies set different, lower limits on the scope and duration of care for mental illness as compared to other illnesses. This means that people suffering from depression get less care and less coverage than those suffering a heart attack. Yet, both illnesses are real.

Access problems to mental health benefits are mainly the result of these restrictions. About half of all health care plans limit coverage for hospitalization cost from 30 to 60 days. Outpatient benefits are restricted by the number of visits or dollar limits in 70 percent of the plans. Plan participants with mental health disorders are subject to arbitrary limits that are unrelated to treatment needs. Patients rarely have the choice of alternative plans with greater coverage since more than 80 percent of all plans limit inpatient care and more than 98 percent of plans limit outpatient care.

Access to equitable mental health treatment is essential. And it can be done at a reasonable price. By enacting this bill, we can reduce public sector spending by \$16.6 billion, while only slightly increasing insurance premiums—just 4 percent or around \$2.50 per person a month. The out-of-pocket expenses for individuals receiving care would be lowered by about \$3.2 billion. Two dollars and fifty cents is a small price to pay for ending health care discrimination.

Second, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and substance abuse have changed dramatically since the Medicare benefit was designed. No longer are treatment options limited to large public psychiatric hospitals. The great majority of people can be treated on an outpatient basis, recover quickly and return to productive lives. Even those who once would have been banished to the back wards of large institutions can now live successfully in the community. But today's Medicare benefits do not reflect this change in mental health care.

This bill would permit Medicare to pay for a number of intensive community-based services. In addition to outpatient psychotherapy and partial hospitalization that are already covered, beneficiaries would also have access to psychiatric rehabilitation, ambulatory detoxification, in-home services, day treatment for substance abuse and day treatment for children under age 19. In these programs, people can remain in their own homes while receiving services. These programs provide the structure and assistance that people need to function on a daily basis and return to productive lives.

They do so at a cost that is much less than inpatient hospitalization. For example, the National Institute of Mental Health in 1993 estimated that the cost of inpatient treatment for schizophrenia can run as high as \$700 per

day, including medication. The average daily cost of partial hospitalization in a community mental health center is only about \$90 per day. When community-based services are provided, inpatient hospitalizations will be less frequent and stays will be shorter. In many cases hospitalizations will be prevented altogether.

This bill will also make case management available for those with severe mental illness or substance abuse disorders. People with severe disorders often need help managing many aspects of their lives. Case management assists people with severe disorders by making referrals to appropriate providers and monitoring the services received to make sure they are coordinated and meeting the beneficiaries' needs. Case managers can also help beneficiaries in areas such as obtaining a job, housing, or legal assistance. When services are coordinated through a case manager, the chances of successful treatment are improved.

For those who cannot be treated while living in their own homes, this bill will make several residential treatment alternatives available. These alternatives include residential detoxification centers, crisis residential programs, therapeutic family or group treatment homes and residential centers for substance abuse. Clinicians will no longer be limited to sending their patients to inpatient hospitals. Treatment can be provided in the specialized setting best suited to addressing the person's specific problem.

Right now in psychiatric hospitals, benefits may be paid for 190 days in a person's lifetime. This limit was originally established primarily in order to contain Federal costs. In fact, CBO estimates that under modern treatment methods only about 1.6 percent of Medicare enrollees hospitalized for mental disorders or substance abuse used more than 190 days of service over a 5-year period.

Under the provisions of this bill, beneficiaries who need inpatient hospitalization can be admitted to the type of hospital that can best provide treatment for his or her needs. Inpatient hospitalization would be covered for up to 60 days per year. The average length of hospital stay for mental illness in 1992 for an adult was 16 days and for an adolescent was 24 days. The 60-day limit, therefore, would adequately cover inpatient hospitalization for the vast majority of Medicare beneficiaries, while still providing some modest cost containment. Restructuring the benefit in this manner will level the playing field for psychiatric and general hospitals.

The bill I am introducing today is an important step toward providing comprehensive coverage for mental health. Leveling the health care coverage playing field to include mental illness and timely treatment in appropriate settings will lessen health care costs in the long run. These provisions will also lessen the social costs of crime, welfare, and lost productivity to society. This bill will assure that the mental health needs of all Americans are no longer ignored. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

A summary of the bill follows:

IN GENERAL

The bill revises the current tax code to deter health plans from imposing treatment limitations or financial requirements on coverage of mental illness if similar limitations or requirements are not imposed on coverage of services for other conditions. The bill also revises

the current mental health benefits available under Medicare to deemphasize inpatient hospitalization and to include an array of intensive residential and intensive community-based services.

TITLE I PROVISIONS

The bill prohibits health plans for imposing treatment limitations or financial requirements on coverage of mental illness if similar limitations or requirements are not imposed on coverage of services for other conditions.

The bill amends the Tax Code to impose a tax equal to 25 percent of the health plan's premiums if health plans do not comply. The tax applies only to those plans who are willfully negligent.

TITLE II PROVISIONS

The bill permits benefits to be paid for 60 days per year for inpatient hospital services furnished primarily for the diagnosis or treatment of mental illness or substance abuse. The benefit is the same in both psychiatric and general hospitals.

The following intensive residential services are covered for up to 120 days per year: Residential detoxification centers; crisis residential or mental illness treatment programs; therapeutic family or group treatment home; and residential centers for substance abuse.

Additional days to complete treatment in an intensive residential setting may be used from inpatient hospital days, as long as 15 days are retained for inpatient hospitalization. The cost of providing the additional days of service, however, could not exceed the actuarial value of days of inpatient services.

A facility must be legally authorized under State law to provide intensive residential services or be accredited by an accreditation organization approved by the Secretary in consultation with the State.

A facility must meet other requirements the Secretary may impose to assure quality of services.

Services must be furnished in accordance with standards established by the Secretary for management of the services.

Inpatient hospitalization and intensive residential services would be subject to the same deductibles and copayment as inpatient hospital services for physical disorders.

PART B PROVISIONS

Outpatient psychotherapy for children and the initial 5 outpatient visits for treatment of mental illness or substance abuse of an individual over age 18 have a 20-percent copayment. Subsequent therapy for adults would remain subject to the 50-percent copayment.

The following intensive community-based services are available for 90 days per year with a 20-percent copayment—except as noted below: Partial hospitalization; psychiatric rehabilitation; day treatment for substance abuse; day treatment under age 19; in-home services; case management; and ambulatory detoxification.

Case management would be available with no copayment and for unlimited duration for "an adult with serious mental illness, a child with a serious emotional disturbance, or an adult or child with a serious substance abuse disorder—as determined in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary."

Day treatment for children under age 19 would be available for up to 180 days per year.

Additional days of service to complete treatment can be used from intensive residential

days. The cost of providing the additional days of service, however, could not exceed the actuarial value of days of intensive residential services.

A nonphysician mental health or substance abuse professional is permitted to supervise the individualized plan of treatment to the extent permitted under State law. A physician remains responsible for the establishment and periodic review of the plan of treatment.

Any program furnishing these services—whether facility-based or freestanding—must be legally authorized under State law or accredited by an accreditation organization approved by the Secretary in consultation with the State. They must meet standards established by the Secretary for the management of such services.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ABDUCTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. Speaker, September 6 marks the 1-year anniversary of the Indian Government's abduction of human rights advocate Jaswant Singh Khalra. As I have said in previous statements on the floor about this tragic case, Mr. Khalra was kidnapped after he exposed the widespread use of cremations by Indian authorities in Punjab to dispose of victims of extrajudicial killings.

Recently, India's Central Bureau of Investigation was forced to admit in court that at least 1,000 such cremations had occurred in Punjab. The actual number is certainly many times higher than that. The United States State Department reported that between 1991–93, the Indian Government paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police in Punjab for the killings of Sikhs.

Before Mr. Khalra was abducted, he stated publicly, and with a great deal of courage, that the number of cremations of innocent Sikhs was probably as high as 25,000. He was picked up by authorities a short time after that statement and has not been seen since. That was 1 year ago.

In the video, "Disappearances in Punjab," a policewoman testifies that she saw prisoners in custody whose legs had been broken. These prisoners were reported to have been killed later in staged "encounters."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Indian Government to release Jaswant Singh Khalra and own up to the crimes committed in Punjab. With the Indian Government's atrocious human rights record, it is no wonder that there is such a strong movement among the Sikh people for an independent nation of Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the pro-India lobby, and my friends in Congress who have opposed legislation to punish India for its brutal treatment of the Sikhs, the Kashmiris, and other minorities, will pay attention to what is happening over there, and will also call for the immediate release of Mr. Khalra.

THANK YOU, CHUCK MILHEM

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the most important and valuable resource we have in this country is our children. Providing a safe environment for them to grow and mature has always been this country's No. 1 priority. People who dedicate their time and energy to making this possible are most deserving of our praise and thanks. Mr. Chuck Milhem is one of those people. He is being honored on September 11, 1996, by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County Inc., with its Eighth Annual Helping Hand Award for his more than 10 years of support and dedication to this outstanding organization.

Chuck Milhem was born in 1929, the year the stock market crashed. He grew up in a tough, lower east side neighborhood in Detroit, and learned early the importance of community centers for children. His time there not only provided an alternative to gang activities but convinced him that higher education was the road to a better future. Chuck attended Wayne State University in Detroit and after leaving to join the Navy during the Korean war, returned to complete his degree. While working at a bank to help defer college costs, Chuck was introduced to the world of coin-operated vending machines. This interest eventually led him to accept a job with Brunswick.

At Brunswick, Chuck was instrumental in the introduction and widespread popularity of the coin-operated air hockey table. Chuck's talent and success did not go unnoticed and eventually led him to the presidency of Valley Recreation Products from 1979 to 1994. Always a leader, Chuck helped found the VNEA, Valley National Eight Ball Association. Today the VNEA has 200 operators and almost 50,000 sanctioned players. The VNEA's concentration on youth leagues reflects Chuck's concern and commitment to American children. As Mr. Milhem knows so well, "Giving youngsters a place to excel at something, no matter what the circumstances at home, is not to be taken lightly."

The caring and concern Chuck Milhem has shown to both his career and his community serve as an example to all of us. Many of us talk about making the world a safer place for our children but few do anything about it. Chuck Milhem has not only made it happen but has made a lasting commitment of over 10 years to make it happen. How many of us can say that?

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Chuck Milhem, his wife Florence, and his children Laurel and Janice, for his well-deserved honor from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County.

HONORING NORRIS JAMES QUINN
IN THE DEDICATION OF THE
FIRE TRAINING CENTER IN HIS
NAME

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today it brings me great pleasure to recognize

fire drillmaster Norris James Quinn who devoted 40 years of public service to the people of Springfield, MA. In his first 20 years of commitment to the city, Quinn was promoted through the ranks first to lieutenant, and then to captain, culminating with his appointment as permanent drillmaster (chief of training). In this capacity, Chief Quinn greatly contributed to the establishment of a new fire training center.

In 1968, Chief Quinn began the search throughout the city for a site for land to construct the new facility. After weeks of planning and preparation by Quinn, his dream of a state-of-the-art fire training center was realized. Since its completion, the training center has instructed countless firefighters. His commitment to the safety of his fellow firefighters has in turn greatly aided the community as a whole.

I served as the mayor of Springfield when Chief Quinn retired in 1987 and was proud to have such an outstanding citizen serving the city. His legacy shall carry on as future generations of firefighters benefit from Quinn's achievement. On Tuesday, September 17, 1996 this facility will be renamed the "Norris J. Quinn Fire Training Center". It is fitting that this institution be named after a man that devoted much of his profession in the training of Springfield's firefighters. I salute Chief Quinn for his distinguished career and offer my heartfelt congratulations for this great honor of which he is so deserving.

REMARKS ON THE 80TH BIRTHDAY
OF STANLEY A. DASHEW

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, few at 80 can sail a large boat, take professional-caliber photographs, work out at the gym for 2-hour stints several times a week, help to build new entrepreneurial ventures, and new buildings for UCLA's International Student Center.

Stan Dashew can.

In the close to 40 years I've known him—half his life and most of mine—he has never disappointed. Always creative. Always caring. Always ready to make the most of his day.

He brought enormous happiness to his late wife, Rita, an extraordinary woman whom I called my godmother. When Rita died suddenly, Stan's obituary in the Los Angeles Times describing their last evening together was as moving a testament about a marriage as could ever be written.

Since Rita's death, Stan has moved on with life—as creative and caring as ever. He remains a devoted father, stepfather, and grandfather, and now a happy partner to Elizabeth.

No past-tense is necessary. Stan is living the American dream. The son of immigrants who grew up during the Depression, he built Dashew Business Machines into a major producer of magnetic entry cards, bank credit cards, transmit systems, offshore mooring buoys, and more recently, unique bow thrusters for ships.

Many years ago he sailed to California from Michigan with his young family. No doubt he will set out on new voyages in the future.

Happy Birthday Stan.

SALUTE TO LT. GEN. EDWARD J.
BRONARS

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Times, my good friend Lt. Col. Ollie North provides a fitting tribute to Lt. Gen. Edward J. Bronars, a true American war hero. [From the Washington Times, Sept. 10, 1996]

FAREWELL SALUTE TO A HERO FOR ALL
SEASONS

(By Ollie North)

America has lost one of its true heroes and I have lost a great friend. Last Friday, Lt. Gen. Edward J. Bronars, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), war hero, husband, father, mentor and steadfast ally in the face of adversity, died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

First and last, Ed Bronars was a patriot. He spent his entire adult life in selfless service to our country. Born on April 12, 1927, in Chicago, he was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1950 and was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps. During his 32-year career with the Corps, Gen. Bronars served in two wars—Korean and Vietnam—and the chest of his forest green uniform carried the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for valor.

And while he was respected and admired by fellow Marines for his intelligence, courage and professionalism, few outside of his family and close friends knew of the risks he had taken for our country "behind the lines" in Eastern Europe during the now long-forgotten Cold War. But the selection boards knew—and so in 1979 Ed Bronars was promoted to lieutenant general—the second highest designation in the USMC. When he retired from the Marines in 1982 he was the deputy chief of staff for manpower at Headquarters Marine Corps.

But retirement for Ed Bronars didn't really mean "retirement." From 1982 to 1985, he served as the president of the Navy Relief Society, a private, non-profit, volunteer supported organization dedicated to helping young military personnel and their families. From 1986 to 1987, Gen. Bronars served as executive director of the Association of Military Schools and Colleges and, then in 1987 he volunteered to become the administrator of the Legal Defense Fund established by my Naval Academy Classmates.

Why did a retired general jump from a nice, soft job as the executive director of one of Washington's many Associations—to heading up the legal defense fund of a fellow who was having the book thrown at him by the entire Washington establishment—and the mainstream media to-boot? For Ed Bronars it was easy—one of his own was in trouble—a whole lot of trouble! And Ed Bronars knew what the words of the Marine Corps motto—Semper Fidelis—meant.

When we were both on active duty, Gen. Bronars had been my division commander, and in 1981, he had selected me to serve on Ronald Reagan's National Security Council Staff. He knew of my reservations about the assignment—and he knew how hard I had tried to get out of it to go back to the Marines. Now—the guy he'd ordered to the White House needed help—and Ed Bronars was there.

It was Ed Bronars' careful steady hand, his unquestioned integrity and his perseverance that made it possible for us to pay the millions in legal bills we accrued in the great

Iran-Contra controversy. Without his steadfast help, unwavering encouragement and good counsel, the long ordeal of 1986-1989 could well have been an unbearable burden for my family and me.

And later it was Gen. Bronars who encouraged me to start Freedom Alliance; the 5091(c)(3) non-profit, charitable and educational organization I founded in 1990. In March 1991, Gen. Bronars became the chairman of the board of Freedom Alliance and served in that capacity until his death.

At Freedom Alliance, Gen. Bronars led Operation Homefront, a campaign which supplied over 125,000 care packages to the men and women serving in the Persian Gulf War. He also originated the HEROes Scholarship Program (Honoring, Educating, and Remembering Our Survivors) which provided up to \$10,000 in educational grants to the surviving family members of Gulf war casualties, and the CAST Program (Casualty Assistance Support Team), a \$50,000 grant from Freedom Alliance, administered by military chaplains to assist family members in visiting their loved ones in military hospitals as a result of wounds in the Persian Gulf War.

Gen. Bronars also became a public advocate for the readiness and integrity of the U.S. Armed Forces. He testified before the Bush administration's Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces, and with the voice of experience, warned of the dangers in placing women directly into the horror of combat. He did the same in opposing the Clinton administration's proposals regarding homosexuals in our armed forces.

And with all of this, he still devoted time to the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund and the Young Marines program for at-risk youth. In all he did, Ed Bronars sought no recognition, no honor, no praise for countless hours of toil and trouble. In every event his good humor would prevail over the naysayers, his perseverance inspired the weary and his friendship offset the adversaries.

Many knew Ed Bronars as a great leader. A good number knew he was a steadfast patriot. A handful knew him as a war hero. The beautiful Dot Bronars knew him as her husband. Bruce and Bobbi knew him as their Dad. I was blessed to have him as a faithful friend. Semper Fidelis, we'll miss you, Ed!

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE-PASSED MENTAL HEALTH PARITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the identical bill the Senate passed on September 5 by 82-15, offered by Senator DOMENICI, WELLSTONE, and many others, to provide mental health lifetime and annual cap parity.

I would like to see much more extensive mental health legislation passed. I would like to see an elimination of all caps, in both physical and mental health, but this bill is a step forward, has widespread support, and is the least we can and should do in this Congress.

If the House can pass identical legislation this month, this incremental health reform could become law this year and begin to help innumerable families who face the crisis of paying for mental health needs.

H.R. —

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Mental Health Parity Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. PLAN PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS.

(a) PERMISSIBLE COVERAGE LIMITS UNDER A GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—

(1) AGGREGATE LIFETIME LIMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that applies an aggregate lifetime limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, if such plan also provides a mental health benefit such plan shall—

(i) include plan payments made for mental health services under the plan in such aggregate lifetime limit; or

(ii) establish a separate aggregate lifetime limit applicable to plan payments for mental health services under which the dollar amount of such limit (with respect to mental health services) is equal to or greater than the dollar amount of the aggregate lifetime limit on plan payments for medical or surgical services.

(B) NO LIFETIME LIMIT.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that does not apply an aggregate lifetime limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, such plan may not apply an aggregate lifetime limit to plan payments for mental health services covered under the plan.

(2) ANNUAL LIMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that applies an annual limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, if such plan also provides a mental health benefit such plan shall—

(i) include plan payments made for mental health services under the plan in such annual limit; or

(ii) establish a separate annual limit applicable to plan payments for mental health services under which the dollar amount of such limit (with respect to mental health services) is equal to or greater than the dollar amount of the annual limit on plan payments for medical or surgical services.

(B) NO ANNUAL LIMIT.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that does not apply an annual limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, such plan may not apply an annual limit to plan payments for mental health services covered under the plan.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, from—

(A) utilizing other forms of cost containment not prohibited under subsection (a); or

(B) applying requirements that make distinctions between acute care and chronic care.

(2) NONAPPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to—

(A) substance abuse or chemical dependency benefits; or

(B) health benefits or health plans paid for under title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act.

(3) STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt any State law that provides for greater parity with respect to mental health benefits than that required under this section.

(c) SMALL EMPLOYER EXEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall not apply to plans maintained by employers that employ less than 26 employees.

(2) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES IN DETERMINATION OF EMPLOYER SIZE.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) APPLICATION OF AGGREGATION RULE FOR EMPLOYERS.—All persons treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as 1 employer.

(B) EMPLOYERS NOT IN EXISTENCE IN PRECEDING YEAR.—In the case of an employer which was not in existence throughout the preceding calendar year, the determination of whether such employer is a small employer shall be based on the average number of employees that it is reasonably expected such employer will employ on business days in the current calendar year.

(C) PREDECESSORS.—Any reference in this subsection to an employer shall include a reference to any predecessor of such employer.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title:

(1) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "group health plan" means an employee welfare benefit plan (as defined in section 3(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) to the extent that the plan provides medical care (as defined in paragraph (2)) and including items and services paid for as medical care) to employees or their dependents (as defined under the terms of the plan) directly or through insurance, reimbursement, or otherwise.

(B) MEDICAL CARE.—The term "medical care" means amounts paid for—

(i) the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or amounts paid for the purpose of affecting any structure or function of the body.

(ii) amounts paid for transportation primarily for and essential to medical care referred to in clause (i), and

(iii) amounts paid for insurance covering medical care referred to in clauses (i) and (ii).

(2) HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—The term "health insurance coverage" means benefits consisting of medical care (provided directly, through insurance or reimbursement, or otherwise and including items and services paid for as medical care) under any hospital or medical service policy or certificate, hospital or medical service plan contract, or health maintenance organization contract offered by a health insurance issuer.

(3) HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—The term "health insurance issuer" means an insurance company, insurance service, or insurance organization (including a health maintenance organization, as defined in paragraph (4)) which is licensed to engage in the business of insurance in a State and which is subject to State law which regulates insurance (within the meaning of section 514(b)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974), and includes a plan sponsor described in section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 in the case of a group health plan which is an employee welfare benefit plan (as defined in section 3(1) of such Act). Such term does not include a group health plan.

(4) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION.—The term "health maintenance organization" means—

(A) a federally qualified health maintenance organization (as defined in section 1301(a) of the Public Health Service Act).

(B) an organization recognized under State law as a health maintenance organization, or

(C) a similar organization regulated under State law for solvency in the same manner

and to the same extent as such a health maintenance organization.

(5) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

Sections 1 through 3 shall cease to be effective on September 30, 2001.

SEC. 5. FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM.

For the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, sections 1 through 3 will take effect on October 1, 1997.

LORET RUPPE: AN UNSELFISH CIVIL SERVANT WITH A VISION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as the attached excerpts from an Economist obituary indicate, Loret Ruppe was an extraordinarily effective, dedicated, and public-service oriented leader for one of America's most optimistic programs, the Peace Corps. Her leadership of that Agency helped instill in it her own dedication and desire to help those most in need of America's can-do spirit.

As Director of the Peace Corps, Loret Ruppe worked with this Member to facilitate cooperation between that important program and the highly successful, Farmer-to-Farmer Program. The marriage of these two American technical assistance programs insures that Loret Ruppe's outstanding legacy continues in all those villages and out-of-the-way places where her Peace Corps and Farmer-to-Farmer soldiers spread the positive results of her optimism and determination.

[From the Economist, Aug. 24, 1996]

LORET RUPPE

When Loret Ruppe was made director of America's Peace Corps in 1981, it was probably the least attractive of political appointments in the gift of the president. "We called it the peace corpse," recalls a diplomat embarrassed by young Americans dumped in, say, an African village and expected to promote western ideas. Ronald Reagan, the new broom who in 1980 had swept away the Democrats, was prepared formally to bury the corpse. But Mrs. Ruppe, a prominent Republican who had been leader of the Reagan-Bush campaign in Michigan, wanted the job, and Mr. Reagan was happy, though surprised, to repay a political debt cheaply. If she finished it off, no one would be too bothered.

To some, Mrs. Ruppe seemed as naive as her new charges. She was approaching middle age, a mother hen with five daughters, adept at Republican money-raising, but with no foreign experience. But delve deeper. Mrs. Ruppe's mother was an anti-nuclear campaigner who alarmed her family by camping out on the bomb-testing grounds in Nevada. And she had been an admirer of President Kennedy, like her (and Mrs. Ruppe) a Roman Catholic, who had created the Peace Corps in 1961.

So there was a seed, and it germinated. Mrs. Ruppe decided that the Peace Corps was a good idea that had been discredited by its Kennedy-minded sloppiness. The Peace Corps had been the one fresh project that Kennedy had brought to the presidency. He called it his "winning number". He visualized the many thousands of students who had sup-

ported him during his election campaign as "soldiers of peace". He contrasted them with "ugly American" ambassadors who "lacked compassion." In his inaugural address in 1961 Kennedy said that the Peace Corps would help those "in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery." For poor countries this was a hurtfully condescending message from a fat cat. They wanted money and investment, not what a critic of Kennedy called "some Harvard boy or Vassar girl" who "lives in a mud hut and speaks Swahili".

KENNEDY'S CHILDREN

In fact, few in the early days of the Peace Corps had equipped themselves even with fluency in a second language before setting forth. Many were innocents abroad. Wise minds in the Kennedy circle did advise caution in the selection of recruits. Notwithstanding, they said, the admirable enthusiasm of the thousands of Americans who applied by every post to be allowed to help the miserable Africans and Asians, they should have appropriate skills and a degree of maturity. But the average age of Kennedy's Peace Corps "children", as they came to be called, was an unmaturing 21.

The corps that Mrs. Ruppe took over in 1981 had shrunk from 15,000 in the 1960s to about 5,000. In the previous decade seven directors had come and gone. The corps budget had been cut, and cut again. The Soviet Union said, perhaps correctly, that the corps was a weapon in the cold war; in those days nearly everything was. The corps, Mrs. Ruppe recalled later, was in "the least liked, least supported, least respected" part of the United States budget.

At first Mrs. Ruppe took no salary. This was no hardship for her—she came from a wealthy family of brewers—but the gesture was well received. The many liberals in the corps, initially hostile to a Reagan appointee, were won over by her clear belief in the movement and her sensible management. She ensured that anyone sent to the 90 or so countries served by the corps had a skill to offer, most commonly in agriculture as the majority of the world's poor are peasants, but there was, too, a wide range of expertise available, from nursing to computers. These days the average age of members is 29. Some are over 50, bringing to their tasks years of experience. Under Mrs. Ruppe the corps gained flexibility: sometimes a farmer, or a doctor or an engineer, will take a sabbatical from his regular job to spend some useful time overseas. The present director, Mark Gearan, said that Mrs. Ruppe was "the driving force" in its revitalization.

Kennedy's "winning number" has spread far beyond the bounds of his New Frontier. These days all the rich countries have dozens of organisations that send volunteers abroad to poor and not-so-poor countries. Some of them are government-supported, although many are private, relying on charity. In France, voluntary work abroad has been acceptable as an alternative to military service. Such schemes are generally regarded as a Good Thing, perhaps suspiciously so. This year, keeping 6,529 Peace Corps people in the field will cost America \$219m, about \$33,500 a person, a good deal less than the expense of running the most junior diplomat. Neither is Peace Corps work solely altruistic. For a Peace Corps scientist specialising in, say, pest control, Africa is a laboratory not available at home. As a result, the rich world becomes subtly richer. In 1989, after eight years as director of the corps, Mrs. Ruppe became ambassador to Norway, Washington's reward to one of its least-ugly Americans.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR M.SGT.
FREDRICK D. HAM

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior M. Sgt. Fredrick D. Ham who is retiring from the U.S. Air Force at McClellan AFB, CA.

Senior Master Sergeant Ham has completed 26 years of dedicated service to our country. As a senior master sergeant, leader, and finally as a respected first sergeant assigned to the 77th Communications Squadron at McClellan Air Force Base, CA, he has provided dedicated and distinguished service.

Today as we honor his retirement, we reflect on the outstanding career which Fred started in October 1970 when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Upon completion of basic training at Lackland AFB, TX, Lackland became his first permanent duty assignment. While there, he performed duties as an interior electrician until cross-training into the work control career field in 1972.

In December 1972, he was assigned to Torrejon AFB, Spain, where he worked as an in-service work programmer, controller, scheduler, quality control technician, service call NCOIC, and NCOIC of customer service. In 1982, he traveled stateside to Kirtland AFB, NM. Selected for promotion to master sergeant in 1983, he attended the First Sergeant Academy. He was selected honor graduate of his class.

In 1986, Fred again went overseas to Bitburgh AB, Germany, where he was first sergeant of the 36th Aircraft Generation Squadron and 36th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. While there, in February 1988, he attended the NCO Academy at Kapau AS, Germany (class honor graduate) and was the winner of the John L. Levitow award. That same year, he was selected as Bitburgh's First Sergeant of the Year.

In 1990, he was assigned to McClellan AFB, where he served as the first sergeant of the 77th Communications Squadron until his retirement. In April 1992, he graduated from the Senior NCO Academy as a distinguished graduate while earning honors as the Military Studies Award Winner.

In 1994, Fred was selected as the McClellan AFB First Sergeant of the Year.

Senior Master Sergeant Ham is married to the former Diane Huse of Chicago, IL. They have a daughter Rebecca, who resides in Othello, WA, and two grandsons, Matthew, 6 and Dustin, 2.

Fred D. Ham's career reflects a commitment to our Nation, characterized by dedicated selfless service, love for the Air Force and commitment to excellence. Senior Master Sergeant Ham's performance, over a quarter of a century of service, personifies the traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its first sergeants. On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of this great Nation, I offer our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a first sergeant who served his country so admirably.