

the court and to the citizens of Los Angeles. Thank you, Sherman, for your many years of public service.

# HOME HEALTH CARE

## HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an advocate for the vital services home health care provides to many of our nation's citizens and their families—people whose voices are not always heard on Capitol Hill. We all recall the stories from the news last year of the bad actors who abused the Medicare system and provided inadequate care to their patients. Unfortunately, the reprehensible actions of a few home health care businesses lead to dramatic changes in the Balanced Budget Act that will impact the quality of care of all individuals whose doctors and families have decided that home care is the necessary course of action. Although it is critical to curb abuse, we must be careful that we do not inadvertently cause harm to the small businesses who have always provided and who will continue to provide quality care to many people in our communities.

I am very concerned that as of today, home care providers will no longer be reimbursed if they visit a patient solely to draw blood. Section 4615 of the Balanced Budget Act states that this is a non-vital service to provide to homebound patients. What about the blind diabetic who needs a blood sugar reading? What about the cancer patient or AIDS patient who is confined to a bed and whose continued treatment relies on blood tests? This provision of the Balanced Budget Act must be reversed or at least modified to allow the needs of the patient to determine the need for this health care service. As of today I am a co-sponsor of the Venipuncture Fairness Act, H.R. 2912, sponsored by my colleague, NICK RAHALL. H.R. 2912 will reinstate payment under Medicare for home health visits made to provide the important service of drawing blood. I urge my colleagues to immediately join the Venipuncture Fairness Act as co-sponsors and to work to ensure swift passage of the bill so that homebound patients do not suffer a life-threatening gap in care.

Other efforts are underway in Congress to reverse decisions made in the Balanced Budget Act that inadvertently cause harm to the home care providers. This Wednesday I will join Congressman JIM MCGOVERN as an original co-sponsor of a bill to protect effective home health care agencies from last year's cutbacks. The bill will delay the implementation of the interim payment system for home health services and provide for a later base year for the purpose of calculating new payment rates. It is our hope that the bill will allow continuation of quality home health services in communities throughout the country.

Another obstacle stands in the way of home health care companies staying in business. The Balanced Budget Act provisions regarding surety bonds is being misread by the Health Care Financing Administration. It is reasonable to ask home health care businesses to secure a surety bond at an affordable cost. The Balanced Budget Act set that cost at \$50,000 or

15% of an agency's previous year's Medicare revenues. It was assumed that a \$50,000 surety bond would be too expensive for some agencies, hence the provision for 15% of revenues was included to ease the burden on smaller operations. I have now discovered that the Health Care Financing Administration is requiring all home health care providers to get a surety bond for 15% of the previous year's revenues. For some companies, this could be as high as half a million dollars, a far cry from the original \$50,000 Congress intended. I will be circulating a letter to send to the Health Care Financing Administration urging them to implement this provision of the Balanced Budget Act according to the original intent of Congress. I urge my colleagues to sign the letter and send a strong message to the Health Care Financing Administration.

Home health care is a critical part of the health care system for thousands of Americans. Citizens, who would otherwise be required to be in nursing homes, are able to live independently or with family members because of the support services provided by home health care professionals. It is critical that our policies make sense for the thousands of qualified and dedicated home care agencies in America while we focus our energies on those who abuse the system and waste taxpayer dollars. I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking appropriate actions to meet both important goals. Thank you.

# ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS BASKETBALL TEAM

## HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the boy's varsity basketball team of Anderson High School. These distinguished and courageous young men traveled to Washington D.C. and won an exciting game against DeMatha High school in the Washington Classic right here in our nation's Capital.

The determination shown by the team is a tribute to the rich tradition of Hoosier basketball. The Indians demonstrated a level of achievement which can only be attained when individuals dedicate themselves to a team effort. Their awesome victory was indeed a remarkable performance.

The game also had special significance for the two coaches. Both men have undergone successful liver transplants and the tournament raised awareness for this important procedure. The evening was a true testimony to the fact that anything is possible with a positive mental attitude.

Let me join everyone involved with the team's trip and winning season—the fans, parents, teachers and students in saying that we are all very proud of you! Congratulations.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ED BLACKBURN

## HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who changed the face of law enforcement in my community of Hillsborough County and in the entire state of Florida—Ed Blackburn.

Mr. Blackburn was elected sheriff of Hillsborough County in 1953 at a time when organized crime tied to gambling was pervasive in the community. Sheriff Blackburn joined with nearby counties to stage gambling raids in an effort to break up the syndicate. Together, they were successful in turning back crime. He worked with other sheriffs to found the Florida Sheriffs Bureau—the precursor to what is the Florida Department of Law Enforcement today. The sheriffs bureau was the first effort to coordinate law enforcement across the state.

Sheriff Blackburn won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives in 1968 where he became a champion of law enforcement. He also served as a interim director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in 1979. During that time, he persuaded the Florida Legislature to fund a statewide crime laboratory. The crime lab is an essential tool for investigators as they work to establish concrete evidence against criminal suspects.

There is another important legacy of Ed Blackburn—the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch. As a former law enforcement officer, Mr. Blackburn knew well that early efforts to steer youth away from a life of crime was as important as locking up a wrongdoer. Mr. Blackburn helped found the ranch and also served as its executive director. He saw firsthand countless lives transformed at the youth ranch.

Mr. Blackburn recently passed away. I rise today in appreciation for Mr. Blackburn's years of selfless public service to his community and his state.

# RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

SPEECH OF

## HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2625) to redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport":

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I hope someday in the near future to vote for a bill designating an appropriate memorial to President Reagan. But the proposal before us this week, to rename Washington National Airport, is not that proposal. I oppose this renaming of the airport, and I want to explain my reasons.

This bill violates one of President Reagan's most cherished values: federalism. The federal government should not carry out responsibilities which can be handled by state or local governments. The renaming of Washington National Airport would be in direct opposition

to the wishes of the local authority which governs the airport, as well as the surrounding communities and local governments. The airport is not a federal facility, but is run locally and financed by the local taxpayers, who ought to have the say in this matter.

This airport is already named for a great President, George Washington. There are other, more appropriate landmarks and facilities that can be named for President Reagan. I support the naming of a new aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan. And I strongly approve of the recent christening of the new federal building in Washington after President Reagan. But we should not act, contrary to the principle of federalism, to name this airport after President Reagan, over the objection of local officials and the people they represent.

#### PENNSYLVANIA'S SCIENCE EDUCATION SUCCESS STORY

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania's West Chester University, a pioneer teacher training institution, has been blazing new trails to lead students toward greater enthusiasm for math and the sciences. The vehicle for this effort? An Educational Center for Earth Observation Systems. March 11–13 this year, West Chester University will host the eleventh annual "Satellites and Education" Conference for teachers as part of this program. West Chester's innovative program has attracted thousands of elementary, middle and high school educators by focusing on inexpensive "hands on" classroom exercises that enable students to participate in actual satellite communications and earth observations.

While serving in the Pennsylvania State Legislature I was pleased to be an early advocate of this innovative experiment in educational leadership. I have also been proud to serve as Chairman of the Satellite Educators Association, an outgrowth of West Chester University's novel approach to science instruction composed of teachers and school system supporters across the nation.

Each year the University hosts its "Satellites and Education" Conference for teachers during Pennsylvania's "Spaces Satellite and Technology Week," an observance established by a Special Resolution of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The tenth anniversary conference was attended by more than 300 students, educators, and federal and state scientists, from 25 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Finland, Indonesia and Japan. Enthusiastic sponsors and exhibitors were Lockheed-Martin, DuPont Aerospace, Hughes Aircraft Corp., National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Center for Rural PA, Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium, Accu-Weather Inc., Analytical Graphics Inc., Aquila Systems Inc., Center for Image Processing in Education, Civil Air Patrol, Maryland Space Grant Consortium, Orbital Sciences Corporation, PCI Enterprises Inc., Sargent Welch, Satellite Educators Association, Service Argos, and The Wether Under-

ground. Keynote speaker at the 1997 conference was Dr. Mary Cleav, NASA Aeronaut who is now managing NASA's Sea WiFS Program. Exciting Ocean-color images for the Sea viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor (Sea WiFS)—the first readily available ocean-color data in more than ten years—should play a major role in studying El Nino and other global warming research. Other speakers included Dr. Michael Hanes, former Dean of West Chester's School of Education and now president of Georgia Southwestern University; Helen Martin, President, Satellite Educators Association; Tom Pyke, Director of Project GLOBE, the international youth environmental study program; Dr. Ronald McPherson, President American Meteorological Society; Robert Winokur, NOAA Assistant Administrator in charge of the National Weather Service's 4.5 billion modernization program; Dr. Shelby Tilford, Chief Scientist, Orbital Sciences Corporation; Dr. Perry Samson, Director of the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Science Program at the University of Michigan. The 1998 program will be equally outstanding. The day conference offers many workshop sessions where educators and government and industry experts exchange ideas, with students as kibitzers, to evaluate instructional materials, equipment and techniques. A popular feature of the conference is the distribution of dozens of door prizes useful to teachers. These have been contributed by supporting industries and other vendors including a complete Aquila system for receiving earth images from satellites.

Primary objects of these conferences are: To introduce educators to satellite and related technologies; to demonstrate equipment affordable to educators and help teachers employ them in the classroom; to examine successful programs for integration into math/science curricula; to provide mentorship and follow-up activities for teachers; to network locally and globally with educators who have successfully incorporated satellite applications into their curricula; and to conduct concurrent workshop sessions dealing with the Internet applications for various computer systems, as well as to show students how to assemble and operate satellite receiving stations.

I know my colleagues will applaud and join me as I offer congratulations to Dr. Madeleine Alser, President of West Chester University; Dr. Michael Hanes, President of Georgia Southwestern University; Nancy McIntyre, Director of the West Chester University's Educational Center for Earth Observation Systems; Helen Martin, President of the Satellite Educators Association; and sponsoring government agencies and corporations for their efforts to help young people, and especially to the many far-sighted educators who have participated over the years in this educational success story.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROL BARNES PIERCY

### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Clovis Unified School District teacher Carol Barnes Piercy for being recognized with the Presidential Award for Ex-

cellence in Teaching Mathematics. Carol Piercy is committed to her teachings and is very deserving of this honor.

The Presidential Award program was initiated in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan to encourage excellence in teaching math and science. In January, Clovis Unified School District teacher Carol Piercy received this award for her accomplishments in teaching. Ms. Piercy has an extensive educational background with a Bachelor of Science degree from Stanford University, a Master of Science degree from Oregon State University, and a teaching credential from California State University, Fresno.

Carol Piercy has held multiple leadership roles in the community during her career. A few of her many achievements include acting as Chairperson of the Mathematics Curriculum Committee from 1993–1994, as a Family Math Leader at the University of Berkeley in 1995, and as consultant for the Department of Defense Schools from 1995–1997.

As a speaker and presenter, Ms. Piercy has dedicated herself towards making a difference. She has participated in numerous presentations that include contributions to the Fresno County Office of Education during 1994, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Western Regional Office, and the California League of Middle Schools Conference in San Diego.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Carol Barnes Piercy for being honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics. It is the guidance and commitment shown by Ms. Piercy that should serve as a model for all teachers. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Carol Piercy many more years of success.

#### WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE HONORED

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 5, 1998*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today eleven African-American women of distinction are being honored as part of the Essex County, New Jersey, Hospital Center's Third Annual Afrikan Heritage Month celebration. The vision of Carter G. Woodson to set aside some time to remember and pay tribute to our history and its people is one for which we will always be grateful. I am especially proud of this group of women for it is representative of our families and our society as a whole when it comes to being prepared and accomplished.

The women being honored today are: Gail Thompson, Vice President of Design and Construction of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, our new \$165 million, 255,000 square foot theater building and infrastructure on 12 acres; Carolyn Wade, President of Communications Workers of America Local, the largest local in New Jersey which represents 9,000 dues-paying members in both the public and private sectors; Senator Wynona M. Lipman, distinguished by her tenure as the only African-American female state senator for 21 years; Dorothy E. Grisby, a representative of the National Black Nurses Association, a national organization with 42 chapters that works to provide quality health care; Miriam E. Ferguson, a community advocate is also Superintendent of Recreation and Culture for the