

too are obliged to adapt their economic, training and social welfare programs." The conference final report noted that in the U.S., ACHIEVE has been one of the organizations at the forefront of defining key issues in this regard and developing strategies to address them. ACHIEVE has been measuring and reporting each state's annual progress in establishing internationally competitive standards, and business leaders involved have indicated their commitment to consider the quality of each state's standards when making business location or expansion decisions.

The "Partners in a Global Economy Working Group" of the conference discussed "what redesigning of curricula is required . . . (i.e. what career skills are needed), . . . portability of skill certificates, . . . and institutionalizing cross-national learning/training activities."

Most people debating STW in the U.S. are familiar with the role of Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy. He's also on the National Skill Standards Board (NSSB), and on its website under international links, one finds "Smartcards Project Forum," under which one reads: "The Tavistock Institute and the European Commission are working on a feasibility study to research the affect of using Smart Cards in competence accreditation. The study will be carried out in the USA and parts of Europe." The project involves assessing and validating students' skills, with information placed on personal skills Smartcards, which "become real passports to employment."

If without a passport one cannot enter a country, does this mean that without a skills passport one may not be able to get a job in the future?

In October 1997, the Tavistock Institute (and Manchester University) completed the final report for the European Commission, and described in a report summary were the relevancy of Goals 2000, SCANS (U.S. Department of Labor "Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills") typology with its "profound implications for the curriculum and training changes that this will require," valid skills standards and portable credentials "benchmarked to international standards such as those promulgated by the International Standards Organization (ISO)."

The report summary went on to say that "there is increasing attention being focused on developing global skill standards and accreditation agreements," and there will be "partnerships between government, industry, and representatives of worker organizations . . . (and) a high degree of integration . . . embedding skills within the broader context of economic and social activity, and specifically within the areas of secondary education, work-based learning and local and regional economic development. . . . The NSSB, Goals 2000, STW Program are all combining to act as a catalyst to promote the formation of partnerships to develop skills standards. In this regard, a system like O\*Net can be seen as the 'glue' that holds everything together."

O\*Net is a new occupational database system sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, and is being piloted in Texas, South Carolina, California, New York and Minnesota. It includes information such as "Worker Characteristics" (abilities, interests and work styles) and "Worker Requirements" (e.g., basic skills, knowledge and education).

## HEROES OF EAST CHICAGO, IN

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to commend the following residents of Indiana's First Congressional District for their display of bravery, community service, and altruistic heroism in rescuing over one hundred senior citizens from a fire in the Lake County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in East Chicago, Indiana, on June 20, 1998: Foster Battle, Leroy Butts, Dion Cook, Dwayne Cook, Priscilla Cook, Jermaine Cousinard, Betty Gibbs, Johnny Gillis, Darcey Glenn, Mitch Glover, Andrew Gregory, Dwayne Jackson, Anna Rose Jefferson, Jackie Jones, Joey Jones, Johnny Jones, Tyrus Julkes, Bennie Sapp, Louis Sapp, Willie Scott, Alan Simmons, Tim Taylor, Waylance Upshaw, Louis Ward, and Arthur Washington. In recognition of their unselfish efforts, these valiant heroes were honored by the City of East Chicago in a ceremony on July 1st, in Riley Park.

Though five residents of the nursing home were hospitalized, there would have been many more injuries, and even death, if not for the dozens of neighbors, friends, and passers-by who rushed to the scene of the fire. Minutes before the fire trucks and firefighters arrived from the East Chicago Fire Department, the intrepid rescuers were breaking windows with their hands and feet to evacuate the 112 residents from the blazing nursing home. Placing their own lives in danger, these brave humanitarians repeatedly entered the building, evacuated residents, and aided firefighters in caring for the injured until medical help could arrive. If not for their heroic efforts, many more could have been injured, or might have perished, in the fire.

This neighborhood effort shows the importance of community and friendship to the people of Northwest Indiana. Without the teamwork, leadership, and effort shown by these heroes, an unthinkable tragedy might have occurred. Moreover, these dauntless efforts represent the real value, respect, and honor the region shows its senior citizens. This noble rescue shows what a neighborhood can accomplish when working in concert, as well as representing an ideal of every true American community in a crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the brave efforts of these upstanding citizens, as well as the East Chicago Fire Department, for their extraordinarily heroic efforts, last month, which saved the lives of the 112 residents of the Lake County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

## COMMENDING KIM BEAL

### HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, during the July District Work Period, I had the opportunity to meet an extraordinary young girl from Addison, Maine. Kim Beal, who is now 11

years old, is a true American hero. I am pleased to be able to bring her to the attention of the House.

Kim has faced many challenges in her life. Diagnosed at the age of 4, Kim has battled a rare form of cancer. She has received chemotherapy treatments, has faced surgeries, and has developed a weakened heart, a common side effect of some forms of chemotherapy.

But her positive attitude and will to survive have kept her going, and kept her one step ahead of the cancer. Today, there is no sign of the cancer in Kim.

That is battle enough to qualify Kim for the designation of "hero." But that is not all of Kim's story.

During her recovery from cancer, Kim learned to swim. Doctors recommended swimming as a good sport to help Kim regain strength in her chest where her tumor was removed. Over time, she has become a very strong and confident swimmer.

The past April, her swimming skills were put to the test. As she played by the pool at a hotel in Ellsworth, Maine, 4 year old Morgan Beal (who is the daughter of Kim's 4-H leader and is not related to Kim) jumped into the pool while an adult was distracted. Kim heard the splash, and looked over to see that the girl could not swim. Kim swam to the girl, grabbed hold of her, and swam toward the side of the pool. Although the girl was grasping at Kim and making it difficult for her to swim, Kim managed to get her to the side of the pool where others helped to pull her out.

It is no understatement to say that Kim's actions that day were heroic. She put her own safety at risk to help a small child who was drowning. Were it not for Kim's actions, the day could have been tragic.

While in my District, I was pleased to have the opportunity to present Kim Beal with the Role Model of the Year Award at the Maine 4-H Teen Conference. Kim truly is a role model for all her peers, and I'm glad she is getting the recognition she so clearly deserves.

## TRIBUTE TO BILL OBAN

### HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, North Dakotans said goodbye to a great friend and one of the most compassionate leaders the State has ever seen. State Representative Bill Oban passed away last week and I would like to take this opportunity to pay him tribute.

As a leader in the State legislature over the past 14 years, Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of those who needed the most help. His energy seemed endless during tough battles over compensation for injured workers and education for students with special needs. Bill represented the best part of the Democratic Party—he was, as one good friend described him, the party's conscience—giving a voice to so many people without one. During a time when our country is long on political rhetoric and in short supply of people with vision working on behalf of others, Bill stood tall as a true champion.

You see, Bill was less interested in taking credit than he was in making a difference. And with that attitude, what a difference he did

make! Sadly, he leaves behind a wonderful family that is just beginning to deal with their great loss. His wife Alice and his children Heather, Shawn and Chad are in my thoughts and prayers during this terribly difficult time.

North Dakotans not only lost a smart, caring legislator—they lost a good friend in Bill Oban. The newspaper from the State's largest city, The Forum, joined with the rest of the State in mourning the huge loss, calling Bill a family man first, an educator second, a lawmaker third. Knowing Bill, I am sure that is exactly how he would have liked people to remember him.

#### BILL OBAN WILL BE MISSED

North Dakotans didn't have to agree with state Rep. Bill Oban in order to respect his commitment to the people of his state. When the Bismarck Democrat died Friday from injuries suffered in an automobile crash a few days before, the state lost a compassionate and intelligent legislator.

Oban, 51, earned the respect of his colleagues because of his dedication to his ideals. His passion, which sometimes rose to indignant anger, made for lively committee meetings and floor debates in the state House of Representatives.

Even his political foes enjoyed Oban's style because they understood his determination to make North Dakota a better place for all. As a member of the minority, he often lost the issue, but never lost his sense of humor.

Oban grew up in New Rockford, lived in Grafton, and eventually settled his family in Bismarck. He had a good grasp of the different needs of rural and urban counties.

He was a family man first, an educator second, a lawmaker third. That combination served him well as an advocate for youth, families and people in need.

One of Oban's colleagues described him as "the conscience" of his political party. We would extend that characterization. His record suggests he was the conscience of the Legislature, often reminding the House of its responsibility to all North Dakotans, no matter their social or economic status.

North Dakotans say goodbye to Oban today. We join with his family, friends, and colleagues in mourning his death. He will be missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my Congressional District, I was not present for roll call votes 267 through 274. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on roll call 267, no on roll call 268, yea on roll call 269, aye on roll call 270, nay on roll call 271, nay on roll call 272, nay on roll call 273 and aye on roll call 274.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB HOULDING SR.

##### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Houlding Sr., for

being recognized as the recipient of the 1998 Senior Farmer of the year award. Mr. Houlding has been providing dedicated services to the agricultural community for Madera County since the 1920's and is very deserving of this honor.

Mr. Houlding family's connection to Madera goes back to the 1800's. Bob Houlding Sr. is the son of William and Ludema Houlding. William Houlding came with his family from Nebraska to Madera in 1891. Bob Houlding Sr.'s brothers are Frank, Bill and Vigil, and his sister Ludema (Houlding) Weis.

Mr. Houlding started school in 1922 at Howard School, the year it was built, and graduated from Madera High School in 1934. In 1939, Bob Sr. joined the Air Force to serve his country, staying in until 1946. He initially signed up for a 3-year hitch, but just as his first tour was nearing its end, World War II broke out and he continued to serve. In the Air Force he worked as an engineer, repairing B-24s and B-29s in the 21st Bomb Squadron and serving in places such as New Orleans, La.; Riverside Ca.; Kansas; and the Aleutian Islands.

In 1942 he married Mildred Sonier. After marrying, the couple raised three sons, Bob Jr., Jerry and Mike. Mr. Houlding continued to farm once he returned to Madera, growing cotton, alfalfa, wheat and potatoes. As the years passed, Bob Houlding Sr. got his sons involved, and now together they own 3,500 acres in Madera and on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. His grandchildren and their spouses are also involved in the farming. All of the grandchildren are graduates, current students, or have aspirations of attending Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Mr. Houlding began by farming row crops, but since 1976, has moved into growing tomatoes, cotton, wheat and almonds on the west side of Madera and Fresno County. Mr. Houlding's action plan for farming has always been to diversify the kinds of crops he grows and to use modern farming techniques as micro-sprinklers. Mr. Houlding has been a great proponent of reduced pesticide usage through the introduction of predator insects and water conservation through the installation of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems.

Mr. Houlding has always been supportive to his community and youth in agriculture. He was a member of the board of directors of the Golden State Gin, a member of the Trade Club, and a charter member of the Reel and Gun Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Bob Houlding Sr. for receiving the Senior Farmer 1998 Award for Madera County. I applaud Mr. Houlding's dedicated services and leadership to the agricultural community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Houlding many more years of success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, during roll call vote number 267 on June 25, 1998, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### LABOR/HHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

##### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of the FY99 Labor/HHS Appropriations bill, which is being marked up by the full Appropriations Committee this afternoon.

While this year's legislation saves taxpayers nearly \$2.6 billion, Chairman PORTER and his subcommittee have ensured that this Congress remains committed to the health of every American family. I am very pleased to note that this year's legislation contains almost \$100 million more than President Clinton requested for the National Institutes of Health. We simply can't retreat in the fight against disease and sickness and this bill continues our commitment to vital research.

I am also pleased with the subcommittee's continued commitment to education in America. The subcommittee took a major step toward loosening the government restrictions that hamper local efforts at improving our children's education. I strongly support the subcommittee's recommendation to reduce GOALS 2000 funding by one-half. The GOALS 2000 program required states to develop complex student performance standards while subverting the ability of local school boards and families to decide what's best for their children. These "standards" measure only the cash, number of employees, and programs in the schools, while ignoring the results in terms of what our children learn. The federal bureaucracy's role in education has expanded over the years, but little has been done to foster the real reform that our children need.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. PORTER for his continued hard work and dedication as Chairman of this important subcommittee. I support his legislation and I look forward to its full consideration in the House.

#### COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN VANDER LANS, CITY PROSECUTOR OF LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

##### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 14, 1998*

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of the Honorable John Vander Lans, the City Prosecutor of Long Beach, California. I have been privileged to know John Vander Lans for over 20 years.

John Vander Lans was raised in Long Beach where he attended St. Anthony High School and Long Beach City College. He served 2 years in the United States Marine Corps where he attained the rank of Captain. After completing studies for his law degree at the Loyola School of Law, John went to work for the California Attorney General. He then worked for 18 months as a deputy Long Beach city prosecutor, before going into private practice in Long Beach.

John Vander Lans, was first elected to the City Prosecutor's office in 1978. Long Beach