

the Daily Challenge in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Philip and other organizers had the vision to develop an annual arts performance week that would bring a sharper focus on the depth and scope of this burgeoning theatre movement. They hope to bring the natural beauty of the Caribbean islands and the rich variety of cultures in the Caribbean islands to the theatre audience.

The event was developed more than two months ago with just one event. Caribbean Theatre Week developed a momentum of its own, resulting in a week of culture-driven events and activities. WLIB Radio and the Daily Challenge have convened an impressive gathering of Caribbean playwrights, actors, producers, writers, and performance artists—representing the English, French and Spanish Caribbean—to help celebrate the week-long series of events. Such a fascinating spectrum of the arts and theater during Caribbean Theatre Week will help the residents of New York deepen their appreciation for the vitality of the Caribbean island traditions.

The organizers of the event have created a multi-dimensional showcase of Caribbean culture. Caribbean Theatre Week will showcase a Children's Storytelling Festival, Oral Folk Tradition, a Poetry Festival and poetry reading, a celebration of Caribbean dance, a symposium examining the state of Caribbean theater in New York, and Caribbean Street Theatre. The event will conclude with the grand finale, the New York Premiere of "Jean and Dinah," performed by the Lord Street Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

As we approach the new millennium, the ties that bind nations globally are becoming more apparent. Events such as Caribbean Theatre Week serve as the perfect vehicle to understand and embrace the various cultures of the world. I applaud Mr. Dawad Philip, WLIB Radio and other organizers of Caribbean Theatre Week for celebrating the beauty, culture, warmth, and diversity of the Islands and its people. I also salute the artists and performers; their work exemplifies the wide range of talent in the Caribbean community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CDR.  
GEORGE W. HOOVER

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Commander George W. Hoover, who passed away last month and now lays at rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Commander Hoover was a friend to me, a friend of America, and one of the greatest intellects the country will ever produce.

It is one thing to briefly summarize his life: born April 24, 1915, in New Kensington, Pennsylvania; joined the Navy in 1934 and served a distinguished career as an aviator and an engineer; married, father of two children; consultant to numerous government agencies and leading engineering and aviation firms; and responsible for several innovations critical to the progress of aviation engineering and instrumentation. I want to focus on a couple of things that were particularly meaningful to me.

First, in 1945, Commander Hoover was designated Navy Helicopter Pilot Number 10.

Today as we take for granted the availability of helicopters for military and civilian use, Commander Hoover ranks among the pioneers of aviation as one of America's very first helicopter pilots.

Second, Commander Hoover was responsible for bringing the Martin Baker Ejection Seat from Great Britain into the United States. On my 300th air mission in Vietnam, May 10, 1972, my RIO Bill Driscoll and I rode the descendants of the Martin Baker seat to safety upon the explosion of my F-4 Phantom. Thanks to Commander Hoover, the availability of this seat, and the improvements he and others made to it, ensured that a pilot could eject safely from a disabled airplane, even from an altitude of zero, on the carrier deck.

No remarks I make can possibly pay appropriate tribute to Commander Hoover's remarkable career. It should be noted that in 1999, Commander Hoover will be nominated for induction into the National Museum of Naval Aviation "Hall of Honor" at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida—the cradle of all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviators, and the place where a worthy memory of his many accomplishments can be kept.

His memory will also be kept by his widow, Lona, and his two children. The life of a Navy wife is hard. Her husband is sent on deployments for months at a time. For the decades that Commander Hoover served his country in the Navy, I want it to be recognized that his wife Lona served America and the cause of freedom with vigor and distinction just the same.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States now pay tribute to Commander George W. Hoover, and to his widow Lona and his family. God bless them for their service to America and to one another.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK RIGGS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 30th, Tuesday, March 31st, and early Wednesday, April 1st, I was unable to be present in Washington, D.C. due to other business of a personal and family nature and therefore missed several recorded votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted:

"No" on rollcall number 81: passage of H.R. 3581, the Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 82: passage of H.R. 34, the Illegal Foreign Contributions Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 83: passage of H.R. 2608, the Paycheck Protection Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 84: passage of H.R. 3582, the Campaign Reporting and Disclosure Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 85: providing for consideration of H.R. 3579, the FY 98 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"No" on rollcall number 86: motion on ordering the House to proceed in secret session.

"No" on rollcall number 87: a motion to recommit H.R. 3579 with instructions.

"Aye" on rollcall number 88: final passage of H.R. 3579, the FY 98 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 90: Providing for consideration of H.R. 2400, BESTEA.

"Aye" on rollcall number 91: Providing for an adjournment of the two Houses.

I ask that this be recorded in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

COMPREHENSIVE COAL ACT  
REFORM ACT (H.R. 2231)

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my name as a cosponsor of the Comprehensive Coal Reform Act Reform Act (H.R. 2231), a bipartisan bill introduced by Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH) on July 27, 1997.

This bill seeks to address certain inequities created by the reachback tax provisions of the Coal Industry Health Benefit Act of 1992 (the Coal Act) while protecting the health benefits of retired mine workers. Under the Coal Act, former employers of retired coal miners are required to pay assessments to a Combined Fund to finance retiree benefits. I believe it is appropriate for former employers to bear this financial responsibility. However, in some cases, the reachback tax is applied unfairly, requiring employers with limited liability to pay large assessments while employers with significant liability pay a lower assessment.

H.R. 2231 attempts to correct these inequities while ensuring that the Combined Fund has adequate resources to pay retiree benefits. The language of H.R. 2231 may or may not be the perfect means to achieve these goals. However, I believe that the bill represents an honest attempt to reach a compromise on this important issue.

THE MEDICAID CHILD ELIGIBILITY  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Medicaid Child Eligibility Improvement Act of 1998, to help more children obtain the health care they need through Medicaid. There are currently three million children in our nation who are eligible for Medicaid but are not receiving the care they need because they are not enrolled in the program.

This legislation would allow public schools, child care resource and referral centers, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) workers, and child support agencies to make the preliminary decision that a child is eligible to enroll in Medicaid so that they can receive coverage while waiting for a full Medicaid eligibility determination. Schools and these other agencies are on the front lines of caring for children and can help to educate their families and enroll them in Medicaid.

Under the Balanced Budget Act enacted last year, States received a new option under Medicaid to grant "presumptive eligibility" to certain children on a temporary basis as their

Medicaid eligibility is determined. My legislation would expand this presumptive eligibility option to make it more flexible and attractive to the States. The presumptive eligibility period is normally sixty days and gives States sufficient time to complete the Medicaid eligibility determination process. If a state ultimately determines that the child is not eligible for Medicaid, none of these entities would be penalized or lose funding due to a negative determination. Under this legislation, we would be enrolling children on an expedited basis and could reach some of those three million children who are eligible but not enrolled.

While some would argue that there will be a cost associated with increasing participation in the Medicaid program, it is important to remember that when Congress enacted Medicaid, it assumed that these children would be covered. I would argue that adding these children is not only morally right, but also cost-effective in comparison to letting these children receive health care on an ad hoc basis. Many of these children will simply go to hospital emergency rooms for treatment and will not be able to pay for these services. In the end, we will pay the cost. With Medicaid coverage, our public institutions will be reimbursed and these children will receive better care through primary care providers instead of high-cost, emergency-care based services.

This legislation is also fiscally responsible in that it would require a state to deduct from their state allotment any funding used for this program. I believe that the small cost associated with this outreach effort will not adversely impact States' ability to provide health care for low-income children and in fact could reduce the States' disproportionate share expenditures.

We know that these children are not being properly served now and we must find innovative way to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid. My legislation would simply accelerate the application process while maintaining sufficient safeguards to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would give States greater flexibility to determine which entities can make these determinations, and States are authorized to apply certain limitations in order to prevent fraud and abuse. My legislation would also permit the Secretary of the Health and Human Services to review States' decisions and ensure that the appropriate entities are allowed to enroll these children. None of these entities could immediately offer these services until their state and the federal government has deemed them to be eligible to undertake preliminary determinations.

I believe this is an important public policy matter which we need to address. My legislation would enroll more children in Medicaid while ensuring that appropriate entities are reviewing the applications. I believe it is more cost-effective to enroll these children and ensure that they are receiving the primary care services they need, rather than sending these children to emergency rooms where they will be sicker and taxpayers will end up paying more. I also believe that we need to improve our current Medicaid presumptive eligibility law by including these new entities which were not included in the Balanced Budget Act. I strongly urge my colleague to support his critical legislation.

#### AMERICORPS PROGRAM

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is truly tragic that some Members of this body do not fully recognize the outstanding record of contribution of the AmeriCorps program.

In community after community, across the entire nation, AmeriCorps volunteers are providing a wide range of essential services that are truly making a difference in people's lives. And, at the same time, these young people are making a difference in their own lives. They are becoming leaders who understand the importance of giving back to the community around them. They are earning a valuable educational benefit that will help them achieve their goals for the future.

Yesterday, we saw another unconscionable attack on AmeriCorps' funding by Members who have yet to acknowledge AmeriCorps' record of success. I am confident that these Members would not launch these politically motivated attacks if they would simply look at the successes around them—and admit to the important contributions that AmeriCorps is making in almost every community in the nation.

These members should talk to their local nonprofits. They should talk with their community leaders. And they should read their local newspapers. Because all around them is the evidence that AmeriCorps is making this nation a better place to live in and is cultivating an ethic of civic responsibility and community.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record one piece of this evidence—a news article from one of my local newspapers, the San Rafael/Terra Lina News Pointer, from February 4, 1998. This article demonstrates, once again, how AmeriCorps has become an important community resource in Marin County, California, which I am privileged to represent.

Recently, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress joined First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in endorsing new legislation to reauthorize our nation's national service programs, including AmeriCorps. I urge all members of Congress to join together, in a bipartisan fashion, to reject politically motivated attacks on AmeriCorps' funding, and to pass essential reauthorization legislation that will preserve AmeriCorps and other essential national service programs well into the future.

#### PARTNERSHIPS THAT PAY OFF

MARIN.—AmeriCorp, praised by President Bill Clinton in his 1998 State of the Union address, is an important community resource in Marin. The Marin Conservation Corps (MCC) is one of 1,500 designated AmeriCorps sites nationwide. To date MCC has trained and graduated three classes of AmeriCorps volunteers who have in turn provided valuable volunteer service to Marin's non-profit agencies.

Full-time corpsmembers commit to one-year of service to their community in exchange for job training and employment opportunities. Ten individuals, who worked at least 1,700 hours, participated in the Marin Recycling-Education and summer camps programs. These AmeriCorps volunteers taught environmental education, mentored kids

after school and served as role models for at-risk youth. Hand-on activities included bottle biology, reusable art projects, a peek at packaging, and making your own paper.

Ardis Ashton, Ricardo Diaz, Juanita Edwards, Ryan Holland Russel Lamerson, Erick Linares, Beau Siebler, Buna Soma, Gina Watkins and Walter Williams gained valuable job skills and work experience. In addition, they received \$4,725 education scholarship, which they can use to pursue educational goals or vocational training.

And thousands of Marin school children learned the "three r's"—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BUTTON

### HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles (Charlie) Button who is leaving the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the state agency that is overseeing the clean up of the Boston Harbor. The \$3.7 billion project is near completion and has been extremely successful in cleaning-up the harbor.

Over a decade ago, the harbor was so dirty it smelled like rotten eggs. But today, people have returned to the beaches to fish, swim and sail. The harbor has been successfully transformed from one of the dirtiest harbors in our nation to a sparkling body of water. Much of the success of the clean up of the harbor can be attributed to tireless efforts of Charlie Button.

In 1988, Charlie Button joined the MWRA's Program Management Division as the Director of Construction for the harbor project. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tufts University and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut. Prior to joining the MWRA, he served as Chief Engineer for the Boston Water and Sewer Commission and helped to develop wastewater treatment projects in Hartford, Connecticut.

Charlie has done an incredible job managing the project. He oversaw the construction of a state-of-the-art sewage treatment facility for 2.5 million residents of 43 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The court-ordered project was completed on-time and under budget. That is what I call success!

Doug McDonald, MWRA Executive Director, said,

Charlie Button is extraordinary at moving complex projects forward in a logical, cost-effective, and smooth fashion. In addition to possessing the engineering skills and knowledge of the finest tradition he also showed poise and grace under pressure. Everyone here admires and respects Charlie Button.

Charlie Button has been in the public sector for the entire engineering career. He has given some of the best years of his life to the harbor project, and as a public spirited kind of guy, more than a few others to coaching Little League and youth hockey. I know that I speak for all of Charlie's colleagues, at the MWRA, and throughout the project, when I say thanks for everything, Charlie, the best of everything to you and Godspeed.