

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARCH OF DIMES PREMATURITY CAMPAIGN

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the March of Dimes on the launch of a national campaign to address the rising rate of premature births.

Today in America, more than 1,300 babies will be born too soon. Premature birthrates have risen to the highest level ever reported in the United States. In fact, a staggering one in eight babies are born preterm. And in my home State of Illinois, some 20,000 babies were born premature last year alone.

On January 30th, the March of Dimes will launch a 5-year, national research, education and awareness campaign that seeks to prevent premature birth. This campaign holds the promise of considerably reducing the rate of prematurity throughout our nation. And the reasons for doing so are clear—babies born prematurely bear an elevated risk of serious long-term health problems. Moreover, premature birth represents the leading cause of infant death in the first month of life.

I commend the March of Dimes for their efforts on behalf of the health and wellbeing of our nation's unborn children and their families. I am hopeful that this campaign will successfully and dramatically reduce the rate of preterm births in America.

HONORING VARDA WENDROFF

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Varda Wendroff, who was recognized on Saturday, January 18, 2002, by the Richard A. Rutkowski Association at a gala dinner-dance at the Hi-Hat Caterers.

An innovative and passionate teacher for over twenty years, Varda Wendroff is currently the director of World Languages, ESL, and Bilingual Education for the Bayonne public school system.

Varda Wendroff has given her heart and soul to the community of Bayonne. The loss of her daughter, Lauren, and her family's firsthand experience in the Holocaust influenced and greatly impacted her life, making her an admired healer, educator, and role model for the community. She has truly given back to Bayonne, by investing in the families and the young people of our community.

A two-year president of the Jewish Community Center and member of the Bayonne United Jewish Federation, Varda Wendroff teaches Holocaust studies for the United Jewish Appeal, and assists with the Lauren

Wendroff Early Enrichment Program and the organization's camp. As a member, and current co-leader of the Compassionate Friends, a national and international organization helping parents to cope with the loss of a child, she has been helped and continues to help parents cope with their grief.

Some of Mrs. Wendroff's honors include finalist for Teacher of the Year; recipient of the Governor's Teachers of Excellence award; and, listed in the "Who's Who Among America's Teachers," awarded by her students for her selfless dedication to teaching and her lasting influence on their lives.

Varda Wendroff earned her B.A. degree from Montclair State University, and M.A. from New Jersey City University.

Varda Wendroff and her husband, Arnie, have a son, Jason, and daughter-in-law, Tracy.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Varda Wendroff for being a guiding light in the lives of our youth and an inspiration to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE DOUG BOVIN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, would like to pay tribute today to Doug Bovin, a former representative to the Michigan House of Representatives from the 108th District, which is comprised of three counties in my congressional district.

First elected to the House in 1998, Doug Bovin has just concluded his service in that body after seeking election to the Michigan State Senate. Doug has represented both the community where I grew up and the community where I and my family now live.

Born August 24, 1944, Doug earned bachelor and master degrees in business administration from Northern Michigan University. He and his wife, Bonnie, have two children. Doug has been a business owner and a high school instructor and coach in addition to his lengthy career in public service.

Prior to being elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, Doug served as chair of the Delta County Board of Commissioners for 16 years and 9 years on the Gladstone city council, including 4 years as mayor.

With Doug's longtime service in county government came leadership positions in various organizations, including terms as president of the Michigan Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. As president of the Michigan Association of Counties, Doug had the opportunity to introduce President Bill Clinton, when Mr. Clinton spoke to members of the association.

Doug represented the same district that I represented in the Michigan House of Rep-

resentatives. Having made the lengthy drive back and forth from Lansing to the central Upper Peninsula on a weekly basis while a State representative, I know the long solitary hours of driving Doug put in to represent the 108th District. To emphasize what a long drive it really is, you feel like you are close to home when you get across the Mackinac Bridge on your way back to the district, even though there are still over 100 miles to go.

Doug diligently represented the men and women of Delta, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties in Lansing.

In addition to working as an elected official, a business owner and an educator, Doug served as Executive Director of Operation Action U.P. Given his experience and dedication, I am certain that Doug will find a way to continue to serve the residents of the Upper Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, Doug's last day as a State representative was January 2, 2003. Doug is too young a man for retirement and I am certain that he will find a way to continue to serve the residents of northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting Doug Bovin, a public servant who has spent much of his life in service to others.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO REPEAL SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the United States Code. The Department of Defense, in response to recent calls to reinstate the draft, has confirmed that conscription serves no military need. This is only the most recent confirmation that the draft, and thus the Selective Service system, serves no military purpose. In 1999, then-Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, in a speech before the National Press Club, admitted that "Today, with our smaller, post-cold-war Armed Forces, our stronger volunteer tradition and our need for longer terms of service to get a good return on the high, up-front training costs, it would be even harder to fashion a fair draft."

Obviously, if there is no military need for the draft, then there is no need for Selective Service registration. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Selective Service registration is an outdated and outmoded system, which has been made obsolete by technological advances.

In fact, in 1993, the Department of Defense issued a report stating that registration could be stopped "with no effect on military mobilization and no measurable effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment." Yet the American taxpayer has been forced to spend over \$500 million dollars on an outdated system "with no measurable effect on military mobilization!"

• 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.

Shutting down Selective Service will give taxpayers a break without adversely affecting military efforts. Shutting down Selective Service will also end a program that violates the very principals of individual liberty our nation was founded upon. The moral case against the draft was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: "... it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

I hope all my colleagues join me in working to shut down this un-American relic of a bygone era and help realize the financial savings and the gains to individual liberties that can be achieved by ending Selective Service registration.

HONORING JESSICA HUGHES

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Jessica Hughes, an individual who has overcome her physical disabilities and has become an inspiration to all with whom she comes in contact.

Jessica Hughes, a determined 16-year-old from Idalou, Texas, was born with cerebral palsy, is visually impaired, and is confined to a wheelchair, but does not let her disabilities slow her down. She actively participates in State and local stock shows, in which she proudly shows lambs. She has been showing lambs since she was in the third grade and has won several ribbons at fairs in Lubbock.

At her home, she trains and exercises the lambs every day, sometimes with the assistance of her father. Although she lacks the physical strength to lift the lambs, as many of the children showing them do, she has overcome that barrier with a modification to her motorized wheelchair. All who witness her compete in these shows cannot help but be encouraged by her indomitable spirit.

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to the achievements of this remarkable young lady. Jessica Hughes is indeed an inspiration to all and a fine role model for young people.

HELP SENIORS LOSING HMO COVERAGE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, the House passed the landmark Israel-Johnson Medicare+Choice Improvement and Stabilization Act that I cowrote with Republican Representative NANCY JOHNSON. Unfortunately, despite a bipartisan consensus that something must be done and the best efforts

of Senator SCHUMER, the Senate did not pass the needed legislation.

Now, at the beginning of the 108th Congress, and working closely with the administration, leadership of both parties and the Senate, the first piece of legislation I have introduced in the 108th Congress is a bill that will help stabilize the Medicare+Choice program.

Since 1999 more than 2.4 million beneficiaries, including more than 85,000 Long Island seniors, have had their service interrupted by a severe funding crisis. Millions of other beneficiaries have experienced a reduction in benefits or an increase in out-of-pocket costs. These problems are a direct result of the fact that funding for the Medicare+Choice program has not kept up with rising health costs.

From the moment I came to Congress, seniors have been asking me when relief will arrive. They wonder what is taking so long and why Congress can't pass this and the President sign it. The fact is that while Congress blames HMOs for leaving Long Island, HMOs blame the administration, and Republicans and Democrats blame each other, seniors are suffering.

As we begin a new session of Congress, it is essential that we put partisan politics aside and give seniors the help they so desperately need. Playing the blame game won't help seniors pay their medicine bills. The time has come to act.

Over the past three years, there has been a growing consensus in Congress that the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 has had the unintended effect of constricting the Medicare market as a whole, and Medicare+Choice health plans in particular. According to a November 2002 report by the Commonwealth Fund, the BBA is limiting M+C payment rates, while health care costs are increasing. As a result, beneficiaries looking to Medicare HMOs as an affordable supplemental insurance option are being asked to pay more for fewer benefits.

And that is only part of the problem. The ultimate result of this flawed system created by the BBA is that HMOs in the program have been deserting seniors on Long Island. Just 4 years ago 12 HMOs offered seniors health plans in Suffolk County; now only two remain. More than 85,000 Long Island seniors have been dropped by their HMOs. This is unacceptable.

It is for this reason that the Medicare+Choice Equity and Access Act is so essential. It will stabilize the program and provide critical funding. The situation is unconscionable. Our seniors are depending on us. I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this bill and correct the funding inadequacies in Medicare+Choice.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION AND LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southeast District Bar Association (SEDBA), the most prominent and largest legal association in the Southeast District of the Greater Los Angeles Area.

SEDBA is an innovative nonprofit community organization established in 1934, by a visionary group of attorneys who recognized the community's need for affordable and credible legal assistance. Through a diverse membership of over 200 lawyers, judges, and business people, SEDBA has been continually providing legal assistance to over 7000 members of the community each year. SEDBA's extensive network of prescreened attorneys, who specialize in a myriad of fields, continues to be a source of expert service to all sectors of the community. In connection with local schools, SEDBA has organized "Law Day" to give students a better understanding of the judicial system. In addition, SEDBA works with local law enforcement agencies to collect holiday gifts for the less fortunate.

This year, I am also proud to recognize Ms. Rose Marie Gallegos, SEDBA's first Latina President and third woman to head the organization.

For SEDBA's dedication to service and commitment to the community, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable organization.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MITCH GEISLER, MAYOR OF MARSHALL, MO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a remarkable public servant, the Honorable Mitch Geisler, Mayor of Marshall, MO, will not seek reelection in 2003, after 12 years of valuable service to the citizens of Marshall.

After high school, Mayor Geisler served his country through his tenure with the United States Army during World War II. He returned to Marshall, MO, and attended classes at Missouri Valley College while working with the Marshall Police Department. At the age of 23, Mayor Geisler was selected to serve as the Marshall Chief of Police. He was then selected to serve Garden City, KS, in the same position. Mayor Geisler again returned to his home town of Marshall and dedicated 27 years of service to the Wood & Huston Bank of Marshall. He retired as the bank's Senior Vice President.

In addition to these accomplishments, Mayor Geisler has served his state and community in many different capacities. He was elected twice to serve as the President of the Western Missouri National Academy Associates. He also was a four year chairman of the State Land Reclamation Commission. Mayor Geisler also served as the President of the Marshall Chamber of Commerce and was the President of the Missouri Chief's of Police Association. He was the District Chairman of the Santa Fe Council, Boy Scouts of America, and served on the Lake Ozark Council's Board of Directors. He also is a 50 year member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. In this capacity, he flew with the Blue Angels Navy Acrobatic and demonstration team and also had the chance to fly off the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*. He was also invited by J. Edgar Hoover to attend the FBI Law Enforcement Institution.