

working together to achieve a common goal—as evidenced by their win in Louisville. As only the second Connecticut locality ever to win the award, the delegation and residents of the Naugatuck Valley have demonstrated to the state of Connecticut and, indeed, the rest of the United States, that a dream of excellence can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

The residents and delegates from the seven towns of the lower Naugatuck Valley should rightly feel immense satisfaction at this most significant accomplishment. As one of only ten regions or cities in the country to win the All-American City award this year, they have become part of an elite group of citizens whose concern for—and pride in—their community has enabled great deeds to be accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the rest of my colleagues join me in offering our sincere congratulations to the residents of the “Mighty” Naugatuck Valley of Connecticut for a job well done, and for setting an example for communities around our nation to follow.

RECENT ACTION ON “GOLDEN RICE” OFFERS GREAT PROMISE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the August 18, 2000, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial expresses support for recent actions which will make the newly developed “golden rice” more widely available worldwide. This rice, which has been generally engineered to contain more beta carotene, holds the potential to dramatically improve lives by helping to combat malnutrition and blindness among Vitamin A-deficient children throughout the world.

A LAUDABLE GIFT OF LIFE AND SIGHT

A lot of people, especially outside the United States, aren't buying genetically modified crops. All right then: What if somebody gave them away?

Well, somebody has—“somebody” being Monsanto Co.

It was a development so stunning that probably no novelist would ever incorporate it in a plot—too far-fetched. But Monsanto announced that it would be granting royalty-free licenses worldwide via the Internet for its newly developed “golden rice.” It has been modified so that it's enriched in beta carotene, which the body converts to Vitamin A. (Licenses for other modified rices will similarly be cost-free, but golden rice is by far the star of the show.)

If this offer is widely taken up, the effect is likely to be dramatic. Worldwide, more than a million Vitamin-A deficient children die every year: 300,000 or so go blind.

We'd like to think Monsanto's generosity might inspire imitators among other holders of patents on such superfoods. First of all, there's the obvious prospect of making a better life for a lot of children in the Third World. Additionally, modified crops are getting a bum rap as being unsafe or unhealthy—“ Frankenfoods,” in the unfortunate popular jargon. Maybe moves like Monsanto's will help dispel such thinking.

That latter point is, in fact, Monsanto's stated purpose. The argument can therefore be made that the chemical and agricultural

giant is merely acting in its own long-term self-interest.

Nothing wrong with that. If this act and perhaps others like it can break that logjam of opinion, the company or companies that help bring it about deserve to benefit. But in the here and now, it was an impressive example of a giant company being a good corporate citizen of the world. The folks at Monsanto who made the decision have a right to be proud.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, education has always been a key to opportunity in America. Historically Black Colleges and Universities [HBCUs] were created as early as 1837 to provide African-Americans access to higher education. America's HBCUs have provided a crucial avenue to educational and economic advancement for African-American youth for more than 150 years.

The best opportunities for personal and professional success will go to those who are well educated. Our Nation's HBCUs have assisted African-American and other students in achieving their educational goals and reaching their full potential, while keeping tuition costs affordable. The vast majority of African-Americans with bachelor's degrees in engineering, computer science, life science, business, and mathematics have graduated from one of the 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. These graduates, numbering 300,000 African-Americans, make up the majority of our Nation's African-American military officers, physicians, Federal judges, elected officials, and business executives. The distinguished faculty members at HBCUs serve as role models and mentors, challenging students to reach their full potential.

I am proud to have one of these universities in the congressional district that I represent. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, founded on October 3, 1887, in Tallahassee, Florida, as the State Normal College for Colored Students, began classes with 15 students and 2 instructors. Since then, it has become an institution of higher learning, striving toward even greater heights of academic excellence. Today, Florida A&M University is one of nine 4-year, public, co-educational and fully accredited institution of higher learning in Florida's State University System, and excellence remains its goal.

For more than 100 years, Florida A&M University has served the citizens of the State of Florida and the Nation through its provision of preeminent educational programs. By serving the African-American community, HBCUs, like FAMU, serve all Americans. These institutions embody many of our most deeply cherished values—equality, diversity, opportunity, and hard work. FAMU is a source of great pride and a symbol of economic, social, and political growth in the community and the Nation. Preparing talented young men and women to succeed in every sector of our economy, FAMU, “Florida's Opportunity University,” is committed to meeting the challenges and needs of future generations.

As education and diversity become increasingly important in the 21st century, graduates of HBCUs will continue to be at the vanguard of America's progress. I would like to commend Florida A&M University for its commitment to educational opportunity, outstanding performance, and invaluable contributions to the people of Florida.

DIGNITY FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL ACT OF 2000

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Dignity for the Terminally Ill Act of 2000. The bill clarifies an ambiguity in Federal law which allows the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] to cut off Medicare funding to hospice patients after 6 months of treatment. The scope of this problem was detailed in a recent Wall Street Journal report which revealed that in early February 1997, several Hospice patients received letters from HCFA saying they were under investigation for Medicare fraud simply because they had lived longer than current Federal guidelines allow for reimbursement. In other words, HCFA officials were more concerned about being reimbursed than they were about caring for these dying patients.

It seems strange that HCFA would begin cracking down on its 6-month rule given the fact that, for years, Medicare officials have encouraged the hospice industry to grow, primarily because it is less costly to care for the terminally ill at home than it is to treat these patients in a nursing home or hospital.

Unfortunately, it seems the rise in hospice care during the 1990s brought about an increase in fraud and abuse of the Medicare system, which in turn sparked a misguided crackdown on terminally ill patients.

HCFA officials discovered roughly \$83 million in such abuse and began pushing their intermediaries to crack down on the problem. In 1997, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services warned HCFA officials to do a better job enforcing their 6-month reimbursement guideline. While HCFA's plans may have been well-intentioned, its intermediaries' attempt to enforce the rule was disastrous. For example, the Wall Street Journal reported that UGS, a subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield in Wisconsin and a Medicare intermediary, sent letters to five terminally ill patients which declared that they were not eligible for Medicare hospice and, adding insult to injury, requested these patients to pay \$450,000 for the care they received.

Outrage from several hospices and Federal legislators has led to a small change in HCFA's aggressive crackdown on its 6-month rule. Last week, HCFA's administrator, Nancy Ann Min DeParle, wrote to thousands of hospices to explain that there has been a “disturbing misperception” about HCFA's efforts to enforce its 6-month regulation. However, she never specifically declared that reimbursement for care of hospice patients will continue for as long as they receive treatment. She only offered to create a “voluntary” case-by-case review of patients who remain in hospice care longer than 6 months.

Regardless of Administrator DeParle's change in position, we must clarify the law so that there is no question about HCFA's responsibility to provide care for the terminally ill. It is the right and moral thing to do. More importantly, it will let hospice patients live out their final days in dignity. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill and I submit the Wall Street Journal article of June 5th to be printed in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO ADELE HALL

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community and our country. Adele Hall is being honored as the 2000 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange, an organization of which she is a founding member. Adele Hall has an extensive history of helping children and families in Kansas City and across our Nation. She has shown outstanding dedication as a philanthropist and representative of gender concerns for equality in the workplace and society.

Adele Hall is considered by many in Kansas City as a lifelong friend to our community. Her civic pursuits have led her to hold positions in an outstanding number of Kansas City and national philanthropic organizations. She has served as Chair of many boards including Children's Mercy Hospital, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Partnership for Children, and the former Crippled Children's Nursery School, now Children's Therapeutic Learning Center. Nationally, she has served as a board member for the Trust Fund of the Library of Congress, the George Bush Presidential Library Center, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Salvation Army. Currently, she is serving as Co-Chairman of a \$175 million capital campaign for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She is the Vice-Chairman of the United Negro College Fund and the Youth Corps of America.

As a founding member of one of Kansas City's most reputable women's organizations, the Central Exchange, she has worked tirelessly to promote the advancement of women in all sectors of society. For the past 20 years the Central Exchange has worked to bring people of diverse backgrounds together to encourage the personal and professional growth of women. Today the Central Exchange boasts nearly 900 members from all over the Kansas City metropolitan area. The astounding membership can be attributed to what members of the Central Exchange value the most, creating opportunities to meet and learn from other women. This is an extremely difficult goal when many women are busy with work and family responsibilities. Adele Hall's various roles and achievements throughout the history of the Central Exchange have demonstrated that she has succeeded in fulfilling her dream of increasing the visibility and effectiveness of Kansas City's women.

Adele Hall's personal and professional record exhibits her spirit of commitment to others. Her entire life has exemplified the core values that we all strive for: commitment to the community, to family and to the innate desire

to truly make a difference in the lives of others. Her devotion is an example to us all. I am honored to acknowledge Adele Hall for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and children. I know that she is joined in receiving this award by her husband, Don, and their entire family. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 2000 Woman of the Year, Adele Hall.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who has served as one of the most determined and effective advocates for America's hard working families in the United States Senate. Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN was first elected to the Senate in 1976, and has served the people of New York as well as the entire country with commitment, leadership and integrity. As the Ranking Member on the Senate Finance Committee, he has pioneered for new initiatives to feed our nation's poor, to provide critical welfare and job training services to families in need, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality health care. Senator MOYNIHAN has been particularly committed to an issue I know well: AIDS.

As many of my colleagues know, since the moment I first stepped foot in Washington, I have fought for increased funding for critical HIV and AIDS education, treatment and research programs. I have also worked to expand our current programs to areas that are still in need of our help. Africa, India, the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe in particular need our help and Senator MOYNIHAN has heard this call to action.

Senator MOYNIHAN introduced S. 2032 to amend the Foreign Assistance Act to address mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At the same time, I introduced H.R. 4665 to initiate a \$10 million pilot project in Africa and India to reduce and prevent mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission. I am extremely pleased that H.R. 3519, the Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000, was signed into law by the President on August 19 and included much of the language and intent of my International Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Prevention Bill. With this legislation, we can commit \$25 million to this cause.

Worldwide, 1,800 infants become infected with HIV each day. The total number of births to HIV-infected pregnant women each year in developing countries is 3.2 million. HIV/AIDS has doubled infant mortality in poor countries most heavily affected by the epidemic. We have hit a critical point where we must take action in the world's epicenter of HIV infection. We must act now if we ever hope to end this epidemic once and for all.

I thank Senator MOYNIHAN for his leadership on this serious public health issue and on so many issues affecting our women and children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JOHN C. MURPHY

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a man who has been dedicated to housing and community development issues for over 25 years. John Murphy is the Executive Director of the National Association of County Community and Economic Development. He has worked with my Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee on a number of programs.

The efforts of John Murphy have allowed counties around the country to build affordable housing, to provide seriously needed infrastructure, to alleviate homelessness, and to build senior support centers that allow our elderly citizens to remain in their own homes. He has worked endlessly to support vital public services that build stronger neighborhoods and help children grow up in safe communities.

The American dream is to own a home, an impossible dream for far too many people in our country. Mr. Murphy has helped make that dream a reality for tens of thousands of American families by helping numerous organizations maintain critically needed federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Low Income Tax Credit Program. In addition, he has created opportunities to share information and ideas about housing programs that make the dream of homeownership possible for working class families all across our country.

Mr. Murphy has worked tirelessly to help communities find unique solutions to their housing and community development needs. At the same time, his efforts with Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Association of Counties, and many other organizations are well recognized.

Again, I would like to commend John Murphy for a job well done and extend my best wishes for his continued success.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see the government do regarding these concerns.

I submit the following statements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

RAMI FAOUR AND PAT GRIFFIN REGARDING THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE

Rami Faour: Representative Sanders, and other distinguished guests, we are here to