

helping others would stay with her into adulthood. When her children began elementary school she quickly became involved in her local PTA. This involvement paved the way for her never-ending community interest and desire to serve. Many city events and organizations have greatly benefited from her presence.

Some of the organizations that Mary has worked with include: ARC Angels, El Protector, Relay for Life, Day of the Young Child, A Day for Nicole, Little League Baseball, and Corona High Football Boosters. Mary has also chaired or co-chaired the following city events: the Health and Safety Fair, the Community Red Ribbon Week Celebration, the Community Blood Drive, and the fundraiser for Corona Regional Medical Center, "An Evening to Remember". Mary has also served as a YMCA Board Member, a member of several school site councils and has been involved in various school district committees.

Throughout her years of involvement Mary has been instrumental in organizing numerous community events to help the needy and the underprivileged. Mary's crowing achievement was using her connections and undeniable powers of persuasion to organize two critical blood and marrow drives. Community participation in these events was overwhelming. Mary's experience, positive attitude, humor, wisdom, and determination led to the perfect bone marrow match for two wonderful and well deserving children of our community.

Mary's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives the "Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award".

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK SHUPE

HON. SCOTT McINNS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. McINNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Chuck Shupe of Riverside, Colorado for his dedication to the youth of his community. Chuck has selflessly given 28 years to the educational needs of children in the area, and as he celebrates 28 years of service, I would like to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Chuck began his career as a teacher and a coach in a small rural Illinois school. Like so many other successful individuals, he decided to further his education. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a Master's degree in Education and Administration, Chuck was offered a job as the principal of a large inner-city school. At the age of twenty-five, Chuck became the youngest principal in Illinois. Yet, despite his age, he met the challenges and responsibilities he faced.

Needing a change, Chuck moved to Colorado where he worked both in Leadville and Basalt. Eventually, he became the principal of Riverside School. Chuck takes a hands-on approach and finds interaction with the students

to be very important, and the highlight of his day. He pours his heart and soul into the lives of his students, even creating a student ambassador program called "Shupe's Troops," which allows students the opportunity to improve their school.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today before this body of Congress and this great nation to recognize the dedication of Chuck Shupe, a true public servant. His generous attitude and love of the job have inspired many and have truly made a difference in his community. We should all emulate the selfless example of Americans like Chuck.

HONORING MUJERES UNIDAS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a remarkable organization in the 15th district of Texas that helps victims of domestic violence. In recognition of "Stop Domestic Violence Week", I would like to highlight the accomplishments of the organization "Mujeres Unidas"—Women Together.

Mujeres Unidas is a non-profit agency that is tirelessly dedicated to helping women overcome domestic violence. Through community education, housing assistance, legal advocacy, and other outreach programs, Mujeres Unidas is offering hope and an improved quality of life to women in South Texas who have suffered violence and abuse in their own homes. For many women, a program like Mujeres Unidas is the difference between a dangerous living environment that can result in serious injury or death, and a future filled with personal growth and independence.

I would like to commend this extraordinary organization and thank them for their strong commitment to helping victims of domestic violence and for their Superior service to my district.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE BENSON GARRETT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. BACA. Speaker, it is with deep affection that I pay tribute to the life of Willie Benson Garrett, longtime San Bernardino community and political leader and dear friend. Willie passed away in the comfort of his own home at the age of 75 on February 28, 2003.

Willie was born in San Augustine, Texas. He graduated from San Augustine Colored High School and from H. M. Morgan Barber College. He later moved to San Francisco where he graduated from Marinella Beauty College. He then enlisted and served in the Merchant Marines for two years, after which he was honorably discharged.

In 1957, Willie moved to San Bernardino where he has resided for the past 46 years and where he began his lifelong commitment to public service. Garrett's Barbershop earned recognition as one of the most successful bar-

ber businesses in the area and was the catalyst for Willie's commitment to the betterment of his community. Garrett's Barbershop became the central point within the community where many local leaders discussed political, economic, social and other issues.

As a community and political activist, Willie was President of the NAACP, supported the League of Mothers, helped establish WAG, was a member of The Black Democratic Club, was the Best Yet Promotions Political Campaign Advisor, and managed the Westside Drop-In Center in the City of San Bernardino. For his many contributions, Willie received the "Man of the Year" award for San Bernardino, received the 2001 NAACP Community Activist Award and received the "Role Model of the Year" award by WAG.

Willie did not let his retirement stop him from making sure the well being of his community continued to be a priority. Willie was a member of the New Hope Baptist Church and more recently the impetus behind seminars and workshops on prostate cancer, diabetes, and other health issues relevant to women and men through support garnered from Kaiser, Community Hospital, The VA and Loma Linda Hospitals. He also provided leadership to the camping program of the local 4-H youth program for a number of years and helped pave the way for Native Americans to help teach to the 4Her's.

Willie credited his success to the grace of God and to the support of his loving wife, Constance Garrett, of over 20 years. His 2 daughters, Bertha Hilburn and Patricia Scott, 2 sons, Shelley Garrett and Craig Garrett Cramer, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 3 sisters, Erma Jean Stafford, Ruth Stewart and Freddie Bivins and 2 brothers, Earnest and Leonard Garrett, also survive him.

Willie Benson Garrett has left behind a wonderful legacy of community and political activism. The many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends who loved him dearly will miss him. Willie touched us all with his kind deeds and leadership in our community. Barbara and I extend our deepest condolences to Willie's family. May God bestow his comfort upon them at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Congressman BACHUS, the Health Care Improvement Act of 2003. This is the successor legislation to the Campbell/Conyers bill from 107th, which passed the House by an overwhelming 276-136 vote. The legislation responds to two alarming anti-consumer trends—the ever increasing level of concentration among health insurers and exclusionary contracting practices by health insurance companies. The last five years have seen a massive consolidation in the health insurance and managed care market as more than a dozen health insurance competitors have been eliminated through mergers and acquisitions.

The dangers posed by this ever increasing market concentration are exacerbated by the