

to the survival of Michigan patients. Since their inception, Survival Flights have demonstrated outstanding courage and commitment to the State of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and the entire nation to the University of Michigan Survival Flights in recognition of 20 years of service. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them and wishing them continued success as they serve the citizens of the great State of Michigan.

A TRIBUTE FOR SALLIE
SLAUGHTER-GARDNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sallie Slaughter-Gardner. I believe that it is fitting for public officials to celebrate those individuals whose life story can serve as a model for us all.

Mr. Speaker, Sallie Slaughter-Gardner was born on February 26, 1916, in an era very different than the one to which we are accustomed. Because her family needed Sallie to work in the cotton fields, she was not afforded the opportunity to complete a formal education. She was, however, blessed with a pleasant disposition, a commitment to her family, and a devotion to her community.

On January 23, 1932, Sallie was united in Holy Matrimony to Dozier Gardner. After the birth of her first child, Willie Clifford, the Gardner family emigrated from her birthplace of Buena Vista, Georgia to Brooklyn, New York, an area I am now privileged to represent in the United States Congress. "Aunt Sallie," as she was affectionately known, quickly adapted to her new surroundings, and, during the historical African American migration to the North, Sallie opened her home to the needy, providing hot meals, shelter, and good will to all.

Sallie Slaughter-Gardner made her family and her church the focus of her life. Sallie began her Christian walk in the Baptist Church. Later, she joined the Evergreen Church of God in Christ, where she accepted Christ as her Personal Savior under the leadership of Elder Eugene Williams, the founder of the Church. Sallie was a member of the hospitality club, the mother's board, and was president of the usher board of the church. Her sumptuous apple and sweet potato pies became mainstays among the congregation, and indeed, she was known for her generosity and kind heart. Until her death at the age of eighty-six, Sallie guided parishioners to their seat and imbued them with her warmth.

Sallie was known as a spiritual lady with a heart of gold. Her sweet disposition was most clearly demonstrated when she cared for a neighbor stricken with a crippling illness. Her neighbor, bitter over her ailment, alienated all who attempted to care for her. But Sallie was not deterred and she cooked, cleaned, and cared for this woman.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the Evergreen Church of God in Christ's 58th Church Anniversary, the Church is in the process of memorializing this incredible individual. Sallie always said "Let my life speak for me."

Mr. Speaker, her life truly speaks volumes to us and shows us the kind of conduct befitting all of God's children.

HONORING DR. JOHN GUSHA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Gusha, a dentist who mobilized dental societies and nonprofit groups to launch the Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative for low-income residents of Massachusetts. Dr. Gusha is among the outstanding individuals from across the country selected this year to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award of \$120,000.

Dr. Gusha founded and served as project director of the Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative, a collaborative of 25 organizations focused on improving oral health in the region.

Growing up in a large, blue-collar family, Dr. Gusha was inspired by his faith and the work ethic of his immigrant heritage to give back to his community. After working his way through dental school and setting up a private practice, he began volunteering at a free medical clinic and was struck by the magnitude of oral health problems he saw among patients.

He recruited his colleagues in local and State dental societies and nonprofit groups to launch the Oral Health Initiative in 1999. The initiative opened a free dental clinic where dentists, hygienists, and assistants volunteer their services. It also educates physicians and nurses to perform oral health screenings, and trains outreach workers to teach young mothers about preventing tooth decay, the most common chronic condition of childhood.

In addition to volunteering his dental services, Dr. Gusha has pushed for policy changes aimed at improving Massachusetts' health. He helped win State legislation allowing a pilot program to expand access to dentists for Medicaid patients in central Massachusetts. In 1993, as chairman of the Holden Board of Health, he championed fluoridation of the water supply and prohibition of second-hand smoke in public places.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dr. John Gusha for his accomplishments as founder of the Central Massachusetts Oral Health Initiative and for his efforts put forth in achieving a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ADRIENNE E.
BYERS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Ms. Adrienne E. Byers on her retirement from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield after thirty-four years of dedicated service.

Joining Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield in January of 1969, Ms. Byers has worked in many different facets of the organization, beginning in the Cashiers Department and moving to her current position with Special Letters. Working with many areas of the corporation

has given Ms. Byers a great and unique understanding of Horizon and has allowed her to help enrich a company which is truly fortunate to have her as a dedicated employee.

Raised in the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey, Ms. Byers spent her early years growing with the programs at the YMCA where I was fortunate enough to meet this promising young woman. Since those early years she has proven herself time and time again and I am proud to see what a dedicated and motivated individual she has become.

In addition to her devotion to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ms. Byers has also invested time in the community as a whole. A strong advocate of community service, she serves on the Advisory Board for Community Agencies Corporation and on the board of directors for Friendly Fuld. She is also Chair for the Newark Fighting Back Partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today in congratulating Ms. Adrienne E. Byers on her long and successful career with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield. I wish her the very best in her retirement and a healthy and happy future.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GWEN BOWEN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding artist, educator and civic leader for her exceptional record of invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Ms. Gwen Bowen on the occasion of her 50th year teaching dance in Denver, Colorado.

"Miss B," as she is affectionately known by current and former students, was born in Denver, Colorado. She attended McKinley Elementary School, Grant Junior High School and graduated from Denver's South High School. Following her graduation from the University of Denver, she returned to McKinley Elementary School to teach first grade. But her love of dance inspired her to pursue a career in dance education.

Ms. Bowen has amassed a distinguished record of service to our community. She founded the Gwen Bowen School of Dance where she has taught hundreds of young people, middle-aged and senior citizens throughout her career—a career distinguished by caring, competence and a sense of commitment to the community. Among her many students who have pursued professional careers in dance is Lynne Taylor Corbett, Tony Award Nominee for her choreography of the Broadway Play, *Swing*. Last year, Ms. Corbett came to Denver to pay tribute to this great lady of dance at a fundraiser for Arts for All, an organization founded by Ms. Bowen to create a community non-profit facility for all the arts in Denver. Despite having taught so many that have made major contributions to dance, she believes that her greatest rewards have come from teaching dance to blind students and the