

developmentally disabled. It comes as no surprise that Dance Magazine, a national publication, has recognized her outstanding contribution to the art of dance.

Ms. Bowen has continually espoused that "Dancing is a language and it touches people in many ways." Her life is a testament to this belief and while she has been an exceptional educator in dance, she has been an educator who teaches young and old alike to pursue meaning in their lives as well as the value of giving back to the community.

Please join me in commending Ms. Gwen Bowen, a distinguished artist and educator. It is the strong leadership she exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORK OF  
JOSE GARCIA

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Jose Garcia, the founder and director of Project CARE in El Paso, TX. Mr. Garcia recently received national recognition from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Program. The prestigious award includes a \$120,000 grant to provide additional funding to further his work.

Mr. Garcia, a pharmacist, helped found Project CARE, a treatment and education program for asthma and diabetes patients, in 2001. Project CARE uses pharmacists as "promotores" to manage uncomplicated diabetes and asthma, reducing costs by targeting the uninsured and frequent users of the hospital's emergency department. It also helps fill the gap in the physician shortage along the Texas-Mexico border, where more than a third of El Paso residents are uninsured and nearly 40 percent of families live below the poverty line.

Mr. Garcia helped to launch Project CARE after he observed, through his work as a pharmacist at R.E. Thomas Hospital, that access to care, medication, and education was the solution to longterm preventable illness. He also realized that the patients who used the most hospital resources were those who could not afford their prescription co-payments under the county's indigent care program. Mr. Garcia then began covering patient's co-payments out of his own paycheck before founding Project CARE.

Mr. Garcia also established El Circulo de Hombres, a collaborative drug treatment model approved by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy that features "platicas," discussions in which Latino men talk openly about health issues and take control of their own care.

The gentleman who nominated Mr. Garcia for the Community Health Leadership award put it best when he said, "Jose has a vision to improve access to health care alternatives to the marginalized and disenfranchised of our community. He has successfully developed a cultural, linguistic, and social home for the poor and uninsured."

Mr. Speaker, Jose Garcia has demonstrated tremendous leadership in meeting the urgent health needs of many in the El Paso commu-

nity. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO ALICEMARIE SLAVEN-  
EMOND

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, who was recently honored as one of only ten people in the entire nation to be selected as a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. This prestigious award includes a grant of over \$100,000 to enhance AliceMarie's work.

AliceMarie is cofounder, primary health care provider and volunteer executive director of the Northeast San Juan County Health and Wellness Center in Aztec, NM. The center is a community owned, nonprofit clinic, where patients receive primary care services, preventive screenings, immunizations, pre- and post-natal care and free medications. Services are offered on a sliding-fee scale, depending on income.

Working as a school nurse in the Aztec school district, AliceMarie was uniquely aware of children who were suffering medically because their families were uninsured or could not afford a doctor. To address these demands, AliceMarie, along with other concerned citizens, launched the planning process for a clinic in 1992 and opened its doors in 2000. The early stages were very difficult, but because of the steadfast commitment, determination, enthusiasm, tenacity and hard work, AliceMarie and her cofounders achieved a "miracle." But AliceMarie is always quick to acknowledge the "incredible graciousness" of San Juan County. She reports that without the donations of cash, supplies, labor and many other services by local businesses, medical professionals and private benefactors, success could not have been possible.

The San Juan County Health and Wellness Center is an example of how one person can make a difference. Because of AliceMarie's unending determination, the quality of life for hundreds of people has been improved. The clinic began serving about 35 patients a month and now provides medical attention to 185 to 200 children and adults monthly, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or financial means. In addition, AliceMarie is proud of the fact that the center is also a resource facility that provides valuable health care education and information to the community.

AliceMarie Slaven-Emond is not only an extremely caring and dedicated nurse practitioner, but an extraordinary visionary and leader. Having visited the clinic myself, I have experienced first hand the incredible work that is being accomplished. I am proud to recognize AliceMarie today before my colleagues as a model of commitment to the betterment of the human condition. I also extend my deep appreciation to her cofounders, staff and San Juan County citizens for helping to make a dream a reality. As uninsured families continue to increase at the rate of 13 percent this year alone, AliceMarie and the San Juan County Health and Wellness Center are helping to fill the gap and are heroes in the truest

sense. A great need existed, and caring and giving citizens rose to the occasion, with AliceMarie as the catalyst. I salute this very great lady.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE WILKIE D.  
FERGUSON, JR.

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2003*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 9, 2003, our country lost a truly great man, U.S. District Court Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. He was an exemplary jurist—experienced, fair, compassionate, knowledgeable and firmly committed to justice. His death is a huge loss to the federal bench, to our community, and to our Nation.

Wilkie Demeritte Ferguson, Jr. was born May 11, 1938, to Bahamian immigrants and raised in the Liberty Square public housing project.

Judge Ferguson attended all-black public schools: Liberty City Elementary, Dorsey Middle and Northwestern Sr. High. He received his B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting from Florida A & M University. He was certified in Fundamentals of Computer Programming at Philco Technological Institute in Philadelphia and received his Masters in Financial Administration from Drexel University. He continued on to Howard University where he obtained his J.D. Degree.

He was the first black jurist appointed to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court and Third District Court of Appeals, and the second black federal judge in the Southern District of Florida.

Judge Ferguson knew every aspect of the law, and he knew people. In the Civil Rights Division of the old U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and as a staff attorney for Legal Services of Greater Miami, he learned firsthand about the problems that ordinary people face in their everyday lives and how the legal system and our courts are often their only recourse for justice.

His reputation for fairness and hard work preceded his elevation to the federal bench in 1993, for at that time he had already had three decades of experience on the bench.

Judge Ferguson has been an exceptional role model and inspiration for young African-Americans interested in the law. He was a trail blazer whose competence and wisdom set a high standard for a profession that already has high standards. His death leaves a huge gap in our federal judiciary, in our community, and in our hearts, for Judge Ferguson showed us all how good we can be.

Over the years he has received numerous honors and accolades such as: Williams H. Hastie Award, "Courage and Scholarship in Legal Writing", National Bar Association (2000) Distinguished Alumni Award, Howard University University Law Alumni Association.

He was a member of the Church of Incarnation of Miami, Florida. There will forever be a void in the pew where he stood every Sunday and sang inspirational hymns.

The entire Miami-Dade community mourns the loss of this humble and great man who overcame huge obstacles yet also did common things uncommonly well. My prayers goes out to his wife, Miami-Dade Commissioner Betty Ferguson and his children, Tawnicia Ferguson-Rowan and Wilkie III.