

of mental illness. During any one year period, up to 50 million Americans, more than 22 percent, will suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder. These numbers demonstrate the need for mental health care and coverage. Yet, instead, services are disappearing and many, specifically minorities, are backing away from the services that still remain.

Minorities in America face severe economic, cultural, linguistic and physical barriers for treatment of mental illness. According to a report from the U.S. Public Health Service, these difficulties prevent thousands from being properly treated. The study explains that minorities are no more likely than whites to suffer from mental illnesses. However factors often keep African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Asian Americans from getting the help they need and when they do, the treatment may be substandard or too late.

For Asian Americans, studies have shown that they underutilize mental health services much more than other populations. The National Research Center found that Asians were underrepresented in the outpatient system, and they were more likely than African Americans, Whites, and Hispanics to have psychotic disorders. Although overall rates of mental illness among Hispanics roughly equal that of whites, young Hispanics have higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, and suicide. The study also found that Hispanics born in the United States are more likely to suffer from mental illness than those born in Mexico or living in Puerto Rico. With African Americans being overrepresented in populations at high risk for developing mental illness—namely, the homeless, prisoners and children in foster care—the need for mental health treatment is generally higher. All three of these particular cultures have stigmas attached to mental illness along with social battles preventing treatment from being obtained. Even research on the mental health of minorities is sparse considering it was only in 1994 when the National Institute of Health started to require that its funded studies include minorities and that studies indicate a subject's race.

The research that does exist is startling. About 25% of African Americans do not have health insurance and many who do are more likely to receive care from a primary health provider rather than a mental health specialist or end up in the emergency room looking for help. As I mentioned, African Americans are over-represented in high-need populations that are particularly at risk for mental illnesses. One population group is the homeless, of which African Americans make up about 40% of the homeless population. Another is the prison population that is comprised of nearly half of all prisoners in State and Federal jurisdictions and almost 40% of juveniles in legal custody are African American. African American children and youth constitute about 45% of children in public foster care and more than half are waiting to be adopted. African Americans are also more likely to be victims of serious violent crime. One study reported that over 25% of African American youth exposed to violence met diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. When compared to whites who exhibit the same symptoms, African Americans tend to be diagnosed more frequently with schizophrenia and less frequently with affective disorders. In addition, one study found that 27% of blacks compared to 44% of

whites receive antidepressant medication. Moreover, the newer SSRI medications that have fewer side effects are prescribed less often to African Americans than to whites. And while the rate of bipolar disorder is the same among African Americans as it is among other Americans, African Americans are less likely to receive a diagnosis and, therefore, treatment for this illness.

One of the high-risk populations that overly effect the African American population, the prison population, is of an extreme concern of mine. This year an estimated 600,000 exoffenders will be reentering communities across the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 283,000 people who are incarcerated on any given day in the United States are known to have a mental illness, with almost 550,000 others on probation. The rate of mental illness in the jailed population is four times greater than that in the general population. The Cook County Jail in Chicago has become, by default, the largest psychiatric facility in the state of Illinois. At least 10% of the Facility's 10,000 detainees are on psychiatric medications. Because the jail is overcrowded, prisoners must be released every day, whether they are ready or not, to make room for new arrivals. Unfortunately, our prison system's purpose is social control, not treatment. This means most of the detainees who have a mental illness are released with just a prescription and the address of a mental health facility and receive very little follow-up.

Mr. Speaker, we have made much progress in mental health awareness—we are talking about it today, which would have been unheard of 15 years ago. But we have so much to do. In our recent budget crisis, states are cutting mental health funding first and not realizing the cost it will be on our society later. Education and breaking down misconceptions that many cultures face need to be improved. We need to ensure that our citizens are receiving the help they need by providing equal mental health services to all.

HONORING HUGH LEE "H.L."  
CULBREATH, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hugh Lee "H.L." Culbreath Jr., one of Tampa Bay's most influential and charitable business leaders. H.L.'s passing last weekend is a tremendous loss for our entire community.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, H.L. served our country in the Navy for 10 years. His final assignment was as a staff member to President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House and as officer in charge of Camp David.

In 1957, H.L. returned to his native Tampa to begin working for TECO Energy. Over the course of his 40 years of dedicated service to TECO, H.L. worked his way up the ladder to become chief executive officer and chairman of the board. Along the way, H.L. instilled in TECO the idea that giving back to the community is good for business.

H.L.'s contributions, civic activities and honors are countless, but his life long endeavor to

improve the quality of life for Tampa Bay residents and bolster our city's reputation is clear. In an effort to enrich downtown Tampa, he fought to establish the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and served as its inaugural chairman and trustee. H.L. fought to bring a National Football League franchise to Tampa, and our Buccaneers justifiably rewarded him for his efforts by winning the Super Bowl this year.

H.L. served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Committee of One Hundred, a member of the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Committee, a board member and chairman of the Hillsborough County Hospital Authority, a member of the Florida Council of 100, which gave him the Hall of Fame award. He was active in the United Way and honored for his contributions to Boy Scouting by the Explorers of the Boy Scouts of America, Gulf Ridge Council. The Tampa Civitan Club named H.L. Citizen of the Year in 1979 and the Hillsborough County Bar Association gave him a Liberty Bell award, in recognition of his community service.

H.L. personified the attributes of leadership and service to an exemplary level, rarely seen in our community. For members of the Tampa Bay community, H.L.'s impact is as far as the eye can see and will endure for countless generations. On behalf of our community, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLE  
WOOD—A 6TH GRADER WHO UN-  
DERSTANDS FREEDOM

HON. MARIAN BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cole Wood, a young man whose definition of freedom won him the "Spring 2003 Essay Contest" at the Sixth Grade Academic Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, when Cole Wood was asked to define the word freedom for the essay contest he chose to focus on the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and, "the great presidents that have brought this nation through times of thick and thin."

Freedom, for so many Americans, is still taken for granted. While Mr. Cole's essay rightfully draws our attention to the founding father's legacy, it should also call to mind those men and women who have fought so bravely to ensure that our freedom endures. More importantly, it should evoke our sense of duty to those veterans and remind us that they deserve our support as well as our respect.

Mr. Wood also recalled the tragedy of September 11th as he described the meaning of freedom: "At first I was scared, but when I saw all the people donating and sticking together, I didn't feel sad anymore, I felt proud and strong. I was proud to be an American, proud to know I was free."

That pride is what makes this country great. It is the pride that inspires young people like Mr. Wood to be responsible leaders of our nation. It is the pride that should infect every decision we make as elected representatives.

October 2, 2003

On behalf of Congress, I extend congratulations to Cole Wood for winning this essay contest and for reminding all public servants why we are here today.

MOBILE MACHINERY TAX  
FAIRNESS ACT

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressman POMEROY and 79 original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, to introduce the Mobile Machinery Tax Fairness Act. This legislation is designed to preserve the longstanding exemption of special mobile equipment, or "mobile machinery," from federal highway excise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, since the highway trust fund was originally created almost 50 years ago, it has been the policy of the federal government to exclude from taxation certain vehicles whose primary purpose is to perform an off-road function. Mobile machines, such as mobile cranes, concrete pumbers, and mobile drill rigs, bucket trucks, and digger derricks, only use the public highways to travel back and forth from the job site, and sometimes stay there for weeks or months at a time.

However, in June of 2002, with little debate and no input from Congress, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) proposed a complete elimination of the mobile machinery exemption.

If adopted, the IRS proposal would force businesses that use mobile machinery to pay the vehicle excise tax (12 percent of the chassis price) and, the motor fuel tax (18.4 cents per gallon on gas and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel), as well as the tire excise tax and heavy vehicle use tax.

This change would cost the affected businesses tens of millions of dollars each year in increased taxes. Furthermore, a significant majority of the firms that would be paying this tax are smaller businesses in economically sensitive industries such as commercial and residential construction, oil and gas production, and timber harvesting.

Finally, the IRS proposal would undermine current economic policy by counteracting, and in some cases eliminating, the depreciation bonus for new equipment enacted by Congress as part of the "Post-9/11" economic stimulus package.

IRS has since delayed its regulatory proposal. However, it is now using two recent Federal court decisions to effectively deny nearly all claims for mobile machinery-related tax refunds.

Only Congress can head off IRS's actions and restore the exemption which has served industry for 26 years. My legislation simply preserves the current regulatory exemption in statutory form and I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARTRACE, TENNESSEE

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of one of the friendliest towns you will ever find—Wartrace, Tennessee. Established as a railroad depot, the town was chartered by Bedford County on October 3, 1853.

Early frontier settlers endured fighting between British and French soldiers and attacks by hostile Indians. Legend even has it that the town was named after an old Cherokee Indian war trail. But as the frontier moved westward and the area became more civilized, industry and tourism flourished with the railroad.

Today the town has settled into a less hectic pace of life. Wartrace is now a small Middle Tennessee community with a strong sense of unity and a desirable quality of life. I congratulate its leaders and Mayor Donald Gallagher for developing Wartrace into a safe, neighborly community. May the town's next 150 years be as prosperous and successful as its first 150 years.

HONORING KERRY G. NEIS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CIVILIAN FIREFIGHTER

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district in Alabama who gave his life in the line of duty. Kerry G. Neis of Enterprise died last December as a result of an accident during a training mission at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Neis, a Department of the Army Civilian firefighter stationed at Fort Rucker, leaves behind a wife, Katherine, and their daughter, Sarah.

Neis' dedication to duty has earned him the respect of not only his comrades at Fort Rucker and across the Wiregrass, but among his peers around the nation. He will be honored along with America's other fallen firefighter heroes during the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Memorial Weekend conducted this October 4 and 5 in Washington, DC.

The following in an excerpt from a tribute to her late husband submitted by Katherine Neis for the Memorial Weekend ceremony.

At 31 years old, Kerry was shockingly taken from us on December 4, 2002 in a tragic accident, when his firetruck jumped out of gear and ran away. No one, not his crew, his captain, or fellow firefighters could have expected it, and it was over before any of them even knew what had happened. But even in death, Kerry's life of service and dreams of helping others in need continue. New training procedures have been implemented and new safety mechanisms have been installed on the trucks. Kerry is still working hard to ensure the happiness and security of us all.

On behalf of this House, I offer my condolences to Kerry Neis' family as we remember the life and sacrifice of one of America's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO IRA AND KATHY GRIBIN

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my good friends, Ira and Kathy Gribin, who are being honored by the Hope Through Housing Foundation with the prestigious Founder's Award. Their commitment to providing affordable housing for low-income families in Southern California has earned them this recognition.

I have had the privilege of working with Ira for many years and know first-hand of his strong work ethic and legendary accomplishments. Ira has been a leader in the real estate business since 1946 and has been an active member of numerous national and local realtor associations for many years. He served as President of the National Association of Realtors, the Realtors National Marketing Institute, the California Association of Realtors and the San Fernando Valley Board of Realtors. Additionally, he has served as a board member of many real estate and non-profit organizations and is co-founder of Gribin von Dyl, Realtors.

Ira's vast knowledge on issues related to real estate, financing and management has helped him become a renowned and sought after authority in these fields. He has taught at the University of Southern California and California State University Northridge, and has also served on the University of California President's Advisory Committee. The demand for Ira's talents has transcended the private sector into the public service arena as well. He served as Commissioner of Transportation and Commissioner of the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles.

I have known Kathy for many years, and can attest to her invaluable service and outstanding contributions to the Hope Through Housing Foundation. Prior to her arrival in California, she enjoyed a fruitful career as a school teacher. Once in California, she became a successful real estate broker. In 1992, she expanded her career, earning an M.A. in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling. Her education and experience made her keenly aware of the acute need for affordable housing in Southern California and prompted her to dedicate time, energy and resources to creating affordable housing for low-income children, seniors and families. She used her business acumen and extensive knowledge of the industry to positively impact numerous low-income families. Kathy is currently President of Desert Horizons Women's Club, a member of the Board of Directors of Desert Horizons Owners Association and an avid golfer.

On a personal note, both Ira and Kathy are wonderful human beings, delightful to be with and deeply committed to humanitarian ideals. I think it's particularly noteworthy that Ira—as a leader in the California Association of Realtors 39 years ago—played a decisive and public role in fighting an initiative designed to repeal California's Fair Housing law. It took great courage to take a view not widely held by his professional colleagues at that time, and he put himself into considerable potential risk to his business endeavors, but Ira nonetheless steadfastly affirmed his opposition to racism and his commitment to the American dream of affordable housing for all people.