

The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act would help ensure that pharmaceutical companies' behavior matched their rhetoric. This bill eliminates the tax-deduction that pharmaceutical companies currently receive for the gifts they give to physicians. Clever marketing ploys that influence physician prescribing habits do little to actually save lives, but do much to increase drug prices and corporate profits. By removing incentives for pharmaceutical companies to lavish gifts of dubious public value on physicians, I hope that pharmaceutical companies will either redirect those funds toward research and development of lifesaving drugs or reduce the prices of prescription drugs for seniors and all Americans. These price reductions will provide much needed relief to America's seniors, who face an ever-increasing burden when paying for their prescriptions, and will stretch scarce Medicare drug benefit dollars further.

I hope that my colleagues will join with me in support of the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. Prohibiting industry gifts to physicians is a nonpartisan issue that should receive bipartisan support. In fact, the Republican appointed Health and Human Services Inspector General issued guidance restricting the practice, and, next door in Maryland, a Republican state representative has introduced a bill to prohibit these gifts. It is time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund the industry's marketing campaign to doctors, which puts profits above patients.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
HELEN HORRAL

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect and deepest sympathy that I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Horral who died January 3, 2004, at the age of 87. Helen Horral was a loyal Democrat and a vocal activist who will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. For the last seventeen years, Mrs. Horral dedicated her life to helping working people, the elderly and the struggling underclass through her tireless advocacy for affordable housing, and senior citizen rights.

From 1985 to 1995, Helen helped set low income housing policies by serving on the Duluth Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA). She also served as president of the Authority for one year and helped create solutions for Duluth's low-income housing needs. In addition, Helen was a member of the Single Room Occupancy Commission (SRO) examining issues of homelessness and the use of shelters and food banks. As part of the SRO Commission, she worked to improve living standards and make housing more affordable. While serving on the SRO commission, Helen was a staunch advocate for residents, ensuring that tenants were treated with respect. She came to be known as the "resident caretaker" of the SRO Commission.

Her deep compassion and bold sincerity made her one of the most respected women in the Democratic Farmer Labor party history. Accordingly, Mrs. Horral was one of the first inductees to the DFL party's Women's Hall of Fame, in 2000. Yet she did not set out to be

noticed; for most of her life, her tireless work was done without acknowledgement. Helen was the driving force behind Duluth's political scene, spending countless hours in campaign offices, hosting political dinners, and recruiting other volunteers to engage in the political process. In the end, Helen did all of this not because she was asked, but because she felt a passion to provide service to those less fortunate in our society.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to openly recognize Mrs. Helen Horral's dedication and exceptional service to Minnesota politics and the DFL Party. She has had a tremendous impact on my community and on many communities throughout

Minnesota. As a result of Helen's dedicated work, there has been real improvement in Duluth's low-income housing; there are now more low-income, high quality units in Duluth, and low-income senior citizens are living in the dignity they deserve.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Helen's family; her son Duane Horral; sisters Betty Guinn and Maxine Hoppus; and her five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences and sympathy to those whose lives

Helen touched, which have undoubtedly grown dimmer since her passing. Her contributions will be forever remembered, her presence forever missed, and her memory forever in our hearts.

TRIBUTE TO THE ST. FRANCIS
HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL
TEAM 2003-04 MICHIGAN
DIVISION 7 STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Francis High School Varsity Football Team, who recently won the 2003-04 Michigan Division 7 state title. In their heart-stopping championship game played at the Pontiac Silverdome, located in Detroit, Michigan, the St. Francis Gladiators defeated Hudson 28-14.

Led by Head Coach Josh Sellers and assistant coaches Jim Carroll, Pat Cleland, Joe Forlenza, Steve Curtis, Greg Sherwin, Craig Bauer, Scott Doriot, and Mark DeSantis, the 2003-04 Gladiators include seniors Garrett Petterson (Captain, 2), Travis Sivek (Captain, 3), Tyler Schell (5), Sean Currie (6), Kevin Curtis (Captain, 10), Nathan Dunham (20), Brett Milliman (30), Ryan Asam (32), Jacob Preston (Captain, 51), Ken Underwood (61), John Bailey (62), Devin Tremp (65), Caleb Richardson (71), and Mike Freundl (86).

The dedication that these players put forth throughout the entire season is one of which the entire district can be proud. Their victory not only brought the team together in great spirit, but their family, friends and community as well.

Once again, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to congratulate the coaches and members of the St. Francis High School Varsity Football Team on their achievement. I wish them the best in their future season.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. BEULAH
"BEAH" RICHARDS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, actress Ms. Beulah "Beah" Richards.

For the daughter of a Mississippi-born Baptist minister, a good education might have led to a secure job and a middle-class existence. For Beah Richards of Vicksburg, Mississippi, it meant freedom and rejection of life in a town in which she claimed to have suffered racism "every day of my life".

In 1948, Richards graduated from Dillard University, New Orleans, and decided to pursue an acting career. Although she had her first paid acting job at age 36, Richards won three Emmy awards and was nominated for a Tony award and an Academy Award for her 1967 role in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

Her career began at a time when roles for black actors were becoming marginally less stereotypical compared with the pre-war years, when comic characters or minor parts as spear carriers or domestic servants were the norm. Since she was solely an actress, not an entertainer, Richards never achieved star status, and specialized in feisty character roles, usually older than her years, notably indomitable matriarchs.

A move to New York in the early 1950s, to play the role of the grandmother in *Take a Giant Step*, boosted her career. *Take a Giant Step* was a thoughtful drama about race that proliferated in the 1950's. Richards shined in the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, where she understudied the lead on Broadway and played in later productions.

In the social thriller *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), she shared the screen with Sidney Poitier, Hollywood's leading black actor; later that year she did so again in Stanley Kramer's *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, this time playing Poitier's mother, despite being two years his junior. Poitier was to be the first of many screen sons. She later mothered James Earl Jones in *The Great White Hope* (1970), Danny Glover in *And the Children Shall Weep* (1984) and Eriq La Salle as the irascible Dr. Benton in *ER*.

Aside from her acting career, Richards' life was an apex of activism and artistry. Her little known friendships with historical giants Paul Robeson, W.E.B DuBois and African-American communist leaders William and Louise Patterson helped cultivate her passion for using words to create wisdom.

Reading her fiery poem *A Black Woman Speaks of White Womanhood, White Supremacy and Peace* garnered the attention of the FBI under the J. Edgar Hoover administration. The agency's surveillance of her from 1951 to 1972 yielded a 100-page file.

She also had a brief stint as a journalist for New-York based *Freedom Ways* magazine covering the civil rights movement in Alabama in the 1960s.

Richards, who started smoking at age 17, had emphysema and returned to Vicksburg in 2000 to live with family. Richards died Sept. 14, 2000, 10 days after receiving an Emmy award for a guest role on *The Practice*. It was her last role.