

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING
DOROTHY SCOTT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2003, I came to the House floor to honor and recognize servicewomen who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during the Second World War.

It is not an exaggeration that we owe a big part of the freedom we enjoy today to these women pilots. Their love of country and love of flying is something for which we will always be grateful.

Unfortunately, when I gave thanks to the thirty-eight WASPs who gave their lives in service to their country, I unintentionally failed to include the name of Dorothy Scott. Like the others, her courage is an inspiration for all Americans.

The complete list should read as follows: Jane Champlin, Susan Clark, Margie L. Davis, Katherine Dussaqa, Marjorie D. Edwards, Elizabeth Erickson, Cornelia Fort, Frances Grimes, Mary Hartson, Mary H. Howson, Edith Keene, Kathryn B. Lawrence, Hazel Ying Lee, Paula Loop, Alice Lovejoy, Lea Ola McDonald, Peggy Martin, Marie N. Michell, Virginia Moffatt, Beverly Moses, Dorothy Nichols, Jeanne L. Norbeck, Margaret Oldenburg, Mabel Rawlinson, Gleanna Roberts, Betty Scott, Dorothy Scott, Margaret J. Seip, Helen J. Severson, Marie Sharon, Evelyn Sharp, Betty P. Stine, Marion Toevs, Gertrude Tompkins, Mary Trebing, Bonnie Jean Welz, Betty T. Wood, and Mary L. Webster.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Bordallo-Faleomavaega-Christiansen amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act and I commend my colleagues, including Chairman DAN BURTON of the Government Reform Committee, for their support.

While I am sure my colleagues will address specific issues related to their constituencies, I would like to share with you my concerns about American Samoa's treatment under the Medicaid program. During the 108th Congress, I introduced H.R. 1188, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for American Samoa treatment under the Medicaid Program similar to that provided to States.

I introduced this legislation for two reasons. One, each year American Samoa's expendi-

tures exceed its federal fiscal ceiling. Two, American Samoa, like every other insular area, pays a higher federal match than 40 other states.

Each of these points deserves discussion and I would like to begin by addressing the issue of federal fiscal ceilings. In fiscal year 2003, more than 36,200 individuals in American Samoa were Medicaid eligible and American Samoa received \$3.7 million in Medicaid reimbursement.

However, in FY2003, American Samoa's Medicaid program cost \$12.2 million and if American Samoa were treated like a State, the federal government would have been responsible for \$6.1 million (or half of the costs) and the American Samoa Government (ASG) would have been responsible for the other half, also \$6.1 million.

As it is, a federal ceiling is in place. For FY 2003, the federal ceiling for American Samoa was \$3.7 million, meaning that the federal government only paid out \$3.7 million of the \$6.1 million to which we would have been entitled if we were treated like a State, leaving a difference of \$2.4 million for American Samoa to pay for in addition to its own share of \$6.1 million. In other words, American Samoa paid the \$2.4 million which was over the federal ceiling plus its local share of \$6.1 million for a total of \$8.5 million in FY2003 Medicaid costs. The federal government paid \$3.7 million.

For FY2004, and as a result of our efforts to include provisions for the insular areas in the Tax Act of 2003, American Samoa will receive about a 5.9% increase or about \$460,000 in Medicaid payments. But an increase of a half a million dollars is not enough. It is not enough for American Samoa and it is not enough for the other insular areas. Like American Samoa, all other insular areas including Guam, CNMI, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico have federal ceilings in place that cap the amount of federal assistance they can receive under the Medicaid program. Although I have introduced legislation to specifically address American Samoa's needs, and although the other Territories have also asked Congress to intervene in their behalf, Congress has hesitated to assist us because of Puerto Rico's population.

Puerto Rico has a population of almost 4 million. American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Virgin Islands have populations which range from 60,000 to 150,000. Federal costs to reduce the match and increase the Medicaid ceiling for Pacific Island Territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands would be minimal. However, to assist Puerto Rico, Congress would have to shell out millions of dollars per year in Medicaid reimbursements and this has been the problem.

Time and time again, Congress has hesitated to assist the Pacific Island Territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands for fear this might open the door for increased Medicaid benefits to Puerto Rico. Quite frankly, I think we should all be treated fairly, including Puerto Rico, and I will continue to bring this matter to the attention of Congress until the matter is fairly resolved.

With a per capita income of about \$4,500 per year, more than 56 percent of American Samoa's population lives below the poverty level and all on-island health care is provided by the LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The LBJ Tropical Medical Center is a semi-autonomous agency of the American Samoa Government.

Construction of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center was completed in 1967. The in-patient wards have not been renovated since this time. The patient wards have no air conditioning and many do not meet fire safety codes and ADA standards and requirements.

While I am not asking for millions of dollars to address the inequity that currently exists in the way we provide for the healthcare needs of American Samoa, I am asking that the federal Medicaid ceiling be raised and the calculations used to determine the federal match for the States be applied to American Samoa.

Until this matter can be fully resolved by Congress, I am hopeful that my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, will support this amendment which minimally increases the Medicaid cap for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this amendment and I look forward to working with each of you to find a fair and reasonable approach to resolving health care disparities in the United States Pacific Island Territories.

THE HONORABLE CHARLES L.
LEWIS III

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life of Charles L. Lewis III.

Charles Lewis was a leader in the San Diego community, the city that I am so proud to represent in the Congress. During his 37 years of life, Charles contributed so much to the citizens of San Diego. With his passing on August 8, 2004, our city has lost one of its great heroes.

Charles's life is that classic story of one of the kids that made good. He grew up in the neighborhoods of Skyline and Paradise Hills in San Diego, where he was known by his friends as Chucky. At the time, these were tough, working class neighborhoods that were often forgotten by the officials elected to represent them.

Through hard work, talent, and grace, Chucky grew into a strong young man. He graduated from Morse High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University.

It was at this time, Mr. Speaker, that Chucky came to be known as Charles, and he came to serve this body. He spent his senior year of college interning for then Congressman Jim Bates and began what would be a lifetime of service to San Diego.

Recognizing his intelligence and dedication, Charles was hired by Councilman George Stevens to serve his constituents in the City's Fourth Council District, the very neighborhoods Charles grew up in. Over the next 12 years, Charles spent every day of his life serving the Fourth District. Remembering where he came from, he resolved to never let his neighborhoods be forgotten by City Hall again.

While working for Councilman Stevens, Charles developed many innovative programs that empowered and inspired the people of the Fourth District. He helped create 23 Neighborhood Councils that gave residents a voice to

take back their neighborhoods from crime and blight. He implemented graffiti control and tree replacement programs that helped beautify his communities. As a result of his accomplishments, he was promoted up the chain until he became the Councilman's Chief of Staff.

In 2002, after 10 years of effective leadership as a civil servant, Charles was chosen by his community to represent them on the San Diego City Council. His campaign platform was called the Three Rs: Reputation, Relationships, and Results.

On the Council, Charles made a name for himself as a strong advocate for neighborhoods and he built a reputation of being tough on crime. His efforts helped San Diego achieve the lowest crime rate among the 10 largest cities in America in 2003. This was a statistic that I know made Charles very proud.

While on the Council, Charles was known for his quiet strength. He was often reserved in public meetings, only to become vocal and outspoken when issues related to his neighborhoods were brought forward. He was a fighter.

He also wasn't afraid to take unpopular positions. Although an elected representative of the City of San Diego, Charles remained an avid Oakland Raiders fan—to the dismay of many San Diego Charger supporters.

Mr. Speaker, because of his deep roots in the community; because of his strength of character; because he never forgot where he came from or who elected him to serve; and because of his strong faith in God, Charles was beloved in the Fourth District and throughout San Diego.

Sadly, Charles Lewis died suddenly last month at the age of 37. He is survived by his wife Carlette, his mother Rosemary Pope, his father Charles Lewis II, and his sister Charis. And he is also survived by the over 160,000 San Diegoans that called Charles their Councilman.

I am sad that I will no longer see Charles when I return to my district. That we won't run into one another at annual Juneteenth celebrations, community fish-frys and traditional groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. And I regret that San Diego will not have his leadership to guide us in the years ahead.

But, I am certain that Charles' memory will live on through his contributions to the community. Today, the Neighborhood Councils he helped create still meet. The trees he helped plant continue to grow. The lives he touched go on. And the neighborhoods he helped revitalize flourish.

We will all miss Charles L. Lewis III.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE
WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY
ACT AMENDMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, Title IX established the principle of equal opportunity for all students and athletes, breaking down the institutional barriers to education that had beset women for decades. Its affirmed goal was to eliminate "discrimination based on sex." It quickly became clear that this milestone could

not be achieved by decree alone, and 2 years after the passage of the Title IX, late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii introduced the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as one of the means to implement and establish those principles embodied in the language of Title IX.

The Women's Educational Equity Act addresses the social and cultural structures surrounding gender inequality. For 20 years, WEEA has provided Federal dollars for projects that promote educational equity for young women through competitive grants to public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and individuals. Most of the funds are directed to local implementation of gender equity policies in the academic curriculum and research and development projects.

In its 20 year history, WEEA has funded a variety of projects from the Women in Science and Environment (WISE) program in Boston which provides hands-on experiences in science and environmental industries for more than 300 students each year to the Stepping Stones Across the Digital Divide, a project in my state of California, which targets Hispanic females in grades 3 to 6. The goal of this project is to increase academic performance through developing computer and emerging information technologies. Collectively, these programs have made great strides in providing equity in education opportunity for women.

Republicans in Congress have steadily eroded the money appropriated to this program from its peak of \$10 million in 1980 to less than \$3 million last year. This year, for inexplicable reasons, Republicans have stripped this successful program of all of its funding, effectively eliminating it.

It is clear that WEEA has succeeded in creating unprecedented educational opportunities for women in all areas of academia. Since WEEA was enacted, 63 percent of female high school graduates enroll in college, up from 43 percent in 1973. Furthermore, the number of women earning a bachelor's degree from college jumped from 18 percent to over 30 percent. These dramatic academic accomplishments, pale in comparison to the strides made at the graduate level. In the ten years since WEEA was adopted, the number of women receiving medical, law, and doctoral degrees has spiked from 9 percent to 38 percent, 7 percent to 43 percent, and 25 percent to 44 percent respectively.

The Women's Educational Equity Act embodies the ideals of equal opportunity embraced by all Americans. It provides an environment where women are given the opportunity to overcome the institutional barriers to education that have existed for many years. WEEA's principles and programs talented young women's skills and interests in whatever discipline they choose. Most importantly, it is a program whose proof lies in the achievements of the women who have thrived in the years since its inception. Patsy Mink had the foresight to introduce this program and positively affect the lives of thousands of young women. In honor of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink, let us carry out her vision of the implementation of Title IX and support this amendment and the thousands of women who can benefit from such programs in the future.

HURRICANES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow and incredible admiration for the people of the State of Florida, who have had to endure the damage and destruction of Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricanes Charley and Frances and who are preparing for the landfall of Hurricane Ivan. Not many natural disasters target an entire state, and I am comforted to know that even in the toughest of times, Floridians can work together and persevere.

These past few weeks have been very hard for the people of Florida. As our families were returning from late summer vacations and our children were settling into the new school year, the official hurricane season snuck up on us. While Florida's unique location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico makes it the most hurricane prone state in the Nation, no one would have imagined the loud roar that greeted us in the middle of August. We have been challenged by this abrupt and alarming hurricane season and one thing is for sure: the people of Florida are strong-willed and resilient.

We have had to board up our homes and businesses, pack our belongings, and pray. We have had to return to our homes and watch our neighbors pick up what belongings remain. We have had to wait in long lines to receive food, water, and gas. And we have had to do this while trying to maintain a normal life.

Florida's tourism industry suffered greatly because of the fear of these storms and the ensuing closure of many of Florida's greatest attractions, and the agriculture industry also has suffered deeply. The State of Florida has a wide range of crops and livestock grown and raised in her backyard. Our farmers and ranchers will be affected for years after the devastating effects these high winds have had on their crops. The total loss in Florida's agricultural production from Hurricanes Charley and Frances alone could cost more than \$2 billion.

Before this year, the State of Florida had fallen victim to seven major hurricanes and one devastating tropical storm in the past century, which makes this year's active hurricane season so unique. While much research has been conducted to help the National Weather Service detect hurricanes before landfall, the need still remains for an exact method to predict the paths of hurricanes and tropical storms.

The U.S. Congress recognizes the need to further research the impact hurricanes and other windstorms have on communities. As we have experienced these past few weeks, hurricanes can hit land with wind speeds in excess of 155 mph and destroy all that is in their path. The Nation's most expensive hurricane, Hurricane Andrew, made landfall near Miami in 1992 with wind speeds exceeding 175 mph and caused more than \$25 billion in damage. It is still too early to measure the monetary impact of Hurricanes Charley, Frances and possibly Ivan, and there are still six weeks remaining in the official hurricane season.

The House of Representatives approved the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act on