

with his family, the people of Guayama, and all Puerto Ricans. Mr. Speaker, he has set a high standard for all of us to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOAST-
MASTERS EN ESPAÑOL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the founding of Toastmasters en Español, the first and only Spanish-language Toastmasters club in the State of Nevada.

Toastmasters International is a global organization devoted to teaching communication and leadership skills. It has more than 211,000 members, with 10,500 clubs in 90 countries. Las Vegas is home to 50 of these clubs. With the mission statement, "to make effective communication a worldwide reality," Toastmasters en Español was founded by Maite Salazar to improve the public-speaking and leadership skills of the more than half-million Spanish-speaking residents of the Las Vegas Valley, and to help Spanish-language learners improve their skills in a constructive, affirming environment.

Toastmasters en Español held its first meeting on October 3, 2005, at the Cambridge Community Center in central Las Vegas. The initial meeting attracted dozens of participants. Within 3 weeks, the club had enough active members to be officially chartered by Toastmasters International.

Today, Toastmasters en Español has 31 active members who hail from nearly every country in the Spanish-speaking world, and from every walk of life. The club also includes many native-born Americans who understand the importance of being bilingual in an increasingly interdependent world.

Mr. Speaker, as the world becomes more globalized, communication becomes increasingly more important for peaceful cooperation. I applaud the efforts of Toastmasters en Español in this regard and look forward to their continued involvement and dedication to the improvement of their community and the entire State of Nevada.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
CAROL SUNAKO CONNELLY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Carol Sunako Connelly. Carol was born on August 22, 1936 in Salinas, CA. She graduated from Stanford University School of Nursing in 1959 and worked briefly for the county of Alameda as a public health nurse.

Carol served 33 years in the Franklin McKinley School District in San Jose, CA as "school nurse extraordinaire", working at numerous schools in the district, including Fair, Kennedy, Los Arboles and Meadows.

Carol was dedicated to her professions of nursing and teaching. She inspired many lives,

both young and old throughout her years of service. Teachers depended on her extensive knowledge to help with everything from human anatomy to head lice.

She led many fascinating and unforgettable lessons in "grossology": countless hours cutting up eyeballs with third graders, lungs with fifth graders, and hearts with sixth graders. In addition to these grade level standards, she also conducted numerous dissections and the cooking of squid in the primary grades. There are not many school nurses who have either the time or the passion to work with children in the classrooms.

Carol retired in 2003 at the age of 67. Though very busy in retirement, she continued to volunteer her time to Franklin McKinley School District.

Carol lived in Santa Cruz for the past 15 years and was an active member of TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Mah Jongg Players of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Senior Center, and the Pleasure Point Community Church.

Carol died on August 28, 2005. She is survived by her three daughters, Adrienne Keane of Santa Cruz, Heather Haan of San Jose, and Jennifer Haan of Los Angeles, and four grandchildren, Quinn and Malia Keane and Roland and Ava Kemmerer. She is also survived by her sister, Joyce Kawahara, and her brothers, Lloyd and Milton Yoshioka, all from Petaluma. Carol Connelly will be sorely missed. To the thousands of students and teachers who crossed paths with Carol, she will never be forgotten.

STARK OPPOSES UNJUST
REPUBLICAN BUDGET

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this unjust Republican budget that cuts funding for working class programs and does nothing to improve the U.S. deficit.

"Remember Pearl Harbor" was a rallying cry to unite Americans in shared sacrifice to respond to a military attack on our Nation. In contrast, 9/11 will be remembered as a tragedy exploited by President Bush to divide Americans and place the financial burden of his ill-advised policies on working class Americans.

President Bush and his Republican cronies have used this tragedy to justify an unnecessary war in Iraq and ensure that the wealthiest Americans contribute nothing to pay for it by giving them billions of dollars in tax cuts. As the wealthiest Republican party donors—like Halliburton—make billions from this failed war, the Republican budget sticks America's working families with the tab.

This Republican budget cuts health care, child care, student loans, foster care payments, job training and aid to the elderly and people with disabilities in exchange for the Iraq war and tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Not even the extreme poverty displayed on televisions across this country of Hurricane Katrina's victims has been able to stir compassion into the cold hearts of the President and his Republican cronies in Congress. This bill forces states to stop providing job training and

vocational education programs for the poor and force millions of them into low-waged, dead end jobs with no health insurance or child care. In addition, many poor families will have to pay copays and deductibles for their health insurance on their incomes of less than \$19,000 a year for a family of four. Instead of giving the poor a hand up, this bill puts a boot in their face to push them down.

In true fashion, the Republican budget does take care of their rich lobbyist friends. For instance the Republicans decided to remove a provision that would have stopped taxpayers from overpaying HMOs participating in Medicare by \$22 billion. Had that provision remained in, cuts to programs that help people—not corporations—could have been reduced by that level.

Similar protections were given to the private lenders that provide student loans. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee, Representative JOHN BOEHNER, met with these private lenders in December, who contribute handsomely to his campaigns, and said: "Relax. Stay calm. At the end of the day, I believe you'll be at least satisfied, or even perhaps happy. Know that I have all of you in my two trusted hands."

This budget clearly demonstrates that the Republican Party's corruption and cronyism causes real harm to average Americans. The next time a parent or former student has to pay extra for their student loan, or a senior citizen is forced to pay more for their health care, they should thank the Republican Party. You can be sure that the health insurance industry and private student lenders will be donating millions more to Republican campaigns to show their thanks.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this corrupt and unjust bill.

THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION
DRUG EMERGENCY GUARANTEE
ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, after the first month of implementation of the Medicare private drug plan, it is clear that a number of measures are needed to ensure that seniors and Americans with disabilities who need prescription drugs do not leave the pharmacy empty-handed or overcharged.

Representatives BROWN of Ohio, RANGEL, STARK, WAXMAN, SPRATT, and I are introducing legislation today to make sure seniors are guaranteed the prescription drug relief they were promised in 2003 and deserve today.

This bill would do the following:

Ensure beneficiaries get at least 60 days of needed medicines, whether or not the pharmacist can verify the plan they are in or whether or not the drug they need is covered by their plan.

Eliminate red tape for pharmacists by allowing the pharmacy to bill Medicare directly. Medicare would then collect the payments from the drug plans.

Ensure beneficiaries can navigate the complex system, by providing a standard notice and appeals process and information on how