

and Advisory Council Member, New York Organ Donor Network—Saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Dr. Whitney for her contribution to the betterment of communities throughout Brooklyn, New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the very distinguished Dr. W. Ruth Whitney.

TRIBUTE TO CUB SCOUT PACK 203

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura in North Central Iowa on their 50th Anniversary.

Chartered in December of 1955, Cub Scout Pack 203 provides teaching, service and leadership opportunities to approximately 50 boys in first through fifth grades. Aided by the participation of their families and adult leaders, each member practices Cub Scouting's Twelve Core Values that include citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. Pack 203 participates in many service activities such as Earth Day events, collecting uniforms and supplies for stricken Gulf Coast scout units, and sending care packages to our military overseas.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." For 50 years Pack 203 has instilled these respected values in young men, preparing them to be productive and honorable citizens in their communities.

I congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura, Iowa, on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable Pack in Congress, and I wish them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. SAMMIE DAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable gentleman, Reverend Dr. Sammie Davis in the celebration of his 80th birthday on November 27, 2007.

A pastor for over 52 years and the only preacher at Fellowship Baptist Church for 44 years, Reverend Davis is a true pillar of the Dallas community.

A graduate of Dallas Independent School District, Reverend Davis continued to pursue his educational goals, attending Bishop College, Southern Methodist University, UCLA and earning a doctorate from the University of Aswan in Egypt.

Extending his love of family beyond his own fifteen children, Reverend Davis has worked

tirelessly to improve the lives of children and youth in his community. Whether shelter, food or simple guidance was needed, Reverend Davis could always be counted on to extend a helping hand. As Founder and Executive Director of Fellowship War on Drugs Program in Dallas, he also fought to redirect the lives of those affected by drug abuse in southern Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Sammie Davis on reaching the milestone year of 80, and I wish him many future years of happiness and enjoyment in his personal and professional endeavors.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention H.R. 4254, the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act, a bill I have just introduced that would provide financial relief to our Nation's senior citizens.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act would provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 or older. While home prices have decreased from their all-time high, the tax burden is still there for senior citizens who have lived in their home for many years. Passing this bill would give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices who end up paying thousands in capital gains taxes.

My bill would provide a one-time increase to \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple in the amount that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Let us help our citizens over age 50 who have lived in one home for many years and who need the proceeds from the sale of their home for retirement and health care costs. An added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 19th Anniversary of World AIDS Day.

This past Friday, December 1, was World AIDS Day, a day where we pause to once

again focus our attention on this deadly disease that has proved to be so devastating to so many throughout the world. Since the first diagnosis in 1981, approximately 65 million people have been infected with the HIV virus, while more than 25 million people have died of AIDS worldwide. In 2007 alone, The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated that AIDS had killed 2.1 million people while 33.2 million people were living with HIV worldwide and of whom 2.5 million people were newly infected.

An estimated one million people are currently living with HIV in the United States, with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring each year—70 percent of these new infections occur in men and 30 percent occur in women. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the population, yet now account for 54 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States. Additionally, 64 percent of the new infections in women occur in African American women.

In order to combat this problem we must begin to educate people across this country about avoiding risky behavior and the importance of protecting yourself when engaging in sexual intercourse, but first you must know your status.

We must pay particular attention to the education of our young people with regard to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Since the introduction of abstinence-only education 10 years ago, sexually transmitted disease rates are up. I would like to applaud the Governor of my home State of Ohio, Ted Strickland's efforts to implement a comprehensive sex education program in our schools that focuses on both abstinence and contraception. It is my hope that this is something that is implemented on a national level.

Last year I issued a challenge to all Americans, and specifically African American women who are the fastest growing segment of the population to be infected by HIV/AIDS, to get tested and know their status. Today I reissue that challenge, and I will keep pressing this issue until we are able to find a cure and bring an end to this disease.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two centuries of service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for NOAA's continued efforts to improve our understanding of the environment and for its dedicated stewardship of the Nation's coast, waterways and wildlife.

Originally founded in 1807 to survey the early American coast, the predecessor of today's NOAA marked the creation of the Nation's first science agency. From its humble beginnings, NOAA's contribution to American history evolved to reflect the needs and expectations of a growing Nation. Even a brief selection from the catalogue of NOAA's contribution to the American experience offers an illustration of the impressive contribution NOAA and its predecessor agencies have made to American history over the years.

In 1911, after decades of offshore, open water sealing by other nations decimated the herd, the North Pacific Fur Seal Treaty was signed—the first international treaty for wildlife conservation. The agreement gave NOAA's predecessor responsibility for protecting wildlife along the American coast and was the forerunner and inspiration for laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

After World War II, what would become NOAA joined the U.S. in another great leap forward when the technological, geographic, and social landscape of NOAA's two legacy agencies—the Survey of the Coast and the Weather Bureau—were merged and their resources combined to usher in a new era of weather observations from space with the launch of the first meteorological satellite.

And, NOAA grew yet again in response to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in 1989. The spill led to the passage of the Oil Pollution Control Act of 1990 which strengthened and enhanced NOAA's capacity to respond to and help reduce impacts from hazardous material spills.

For 200 years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies have served this great Nation by providing research to improve our understanding of the oceans and the atmosphere and has faithfully fulfilled its mandate as a steward of the environment. I am happy to add my voice to those of my colleagues as we honor today this important American institution.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE HAHN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Duane Hahn of Eldora, Iowa, on being named a runner-up in the 2007 Excellence in Education Award, given by the Iowa State Education Association.

The Excellence in Education Award is a special recognition that was created as a way to honor many of the excellent teachers across Iowa that go the extra mile to make a difference in students' lives. Duane was nominated for this honor by several of his students and colleagues.

For the past 40 years Duane has given his time and talents to the Eldora school district, reaching out to touch the lives of many students. During his time at South Hardin High School he has instructed students in chemistry, physics, and physical science, serving as a personal motivator that inspires students to excel in the classroom and beyond. He has helped many a student through a difficult time by saying, "I promise I won't give up on you, if you don't give up on me." Often mentoring fellow teachers as well, Duane is truly an outstanding role model that has earned great respect and admiration from all who know him.

I am honored to represent Duane in Congress, and I wish him the very best as he continues to serve as a mentor and role model to the students and teachers of South Hardin High School.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR R.C. HICKMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of R.C. Hickman of Oak Cliff, Texas. Mr. Hickman was a very prominent and well-respected photographer not only in the State of Texas, but also throughout the entire nation. As his family mourns their loss, I would like to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of R.C. Hickman before this body of Congress and this nation.

Born in Mineola, Texas and raised in the Dallas, Hickman's exemplary photography career started during the World War II. After the war's end, he continued his professional career as a photographer at the Dallas Star Post and freelance photographer for Jet magazine.

His dreams led him to capture the likenesses of entertainers such as Sammy Davis Jr., activists Thurgood Marshall and Dr. King, and countless others whose work for civil rights. His professionalism and keen eye ignited his passion for recognizable images. Several of his photos are now housed at the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Hickman later compiled many of his pictures in the book *Behold the People: R.C. Hickman's Photographs of Black Dallas, 1949–1961*.

Madam Speaker, it is in earnest respect that I recognize the memory of Mr. R.C. Hickman before this body of Congress and this nation for the irreplaceable contributions he made to the community of Dallas and the State of Texas. My sincere condolences go out to his nieces Patricia Tuck, Royetta Tuck Potts of Los Angeles and Nelwyn Vaughn of Mineola. While his loss will be deeply felt, the memory of his kindness and the recollection of his good deeds will transcend into future generations.

SUPPORT PARALYMPICS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to call your attention to H.R. 4255, the "United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Paralympic Program Act of 2007."

This legislation authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide grants to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) to plan, develop, manage, and implement a Paralympic Program for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

Paralympics, sports for the physically disabled, traces its origins to World War II when the paralympic movement began to offer sports as a form of rehabilitation for the injured veterans of that era. Paralympic activity has a proven track record in terms of rehabilitation and improving the quality of life for the physically disabled. Paralympics also improves the mobility, vitality, physical, psychological, and social well-being of disabled veterans while reducing their incidence of secondary medical conditions.

It is particularly important that the thousands of injured military and veterans returning to the United States after service in Iraq and Afghanistan be afforded the chance to participate in such paralympic activities as part of their rehabilitation, both while on active duty and when, as veterans, they return to their home communities.

The United States Olympic Committee is particularly well-suited to plan and institute a Paralympic Program for our military and veterans. In 1998, Congress passed the "Olympic and Amateur Sports Act Amendments," which charged the USOC with the responsibility of encouraging and assisting amateur athletic programs and competitions for athletes with disabilities. Since that time, the USOC has led a resurgence in paralympic sports in the United States.

When our injured servicemembers began returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, the USOC began offering Paralympic Military Sports Camps at its training facilities, including at the USOC training facility in my district in Chula Vista, California. To date, over 1,200 injured veterans have been introduced to paralympic sports as a result of these training camps. The USOC has spent millions of dollars on this military and veteran Paralympics Program and will continue to support these efforts. However, with so many injured military and veterans, much more needs to be done.

The paralympic sports camps of the USOC last for a week at a time. The USOC is also beginning an effort to bring paralympic sports to various locations throughout the country. It is imperative that we expand these efforts so that once our injured military personnel graduate to veteran status, they will be able to participate year round in their own communities in paralympic activities as part of their continuing rehabilitation.

Under this program, the USOC will develop community-based Paralympic Programs that provide services and activities for disabled veterans and servicemembers. These activities will include instruction and competition in paralympic sports, training and technical assistance and other program-specific medical and personal care support activities necessary to create a network of community-based Paralympic Programs easily accessible to our injured veterans.

This legislation also requires the Secretary to conduct an outreach program to inform all disabled veterans about the existence of the Paralympic Program and to encourage their participation. Although non-veterans may participate in these community-based programs, the funds authorized by this legislation can only be used to support activities and services for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

The purpose of this program is to enhance the rehabilitation, readiness, and quality of life of severely injured servicemembers and veterans. There is great urgency to implement this expanded program as quickly as possible in order to motivate, teach, and inspire veterans at all stages of recovery and to return them to a lifestyle full of activity, accomplishment, and enjoyment in their own communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation. We owe it to those who have given their all for their country.