she became active in the Choir, Usher Board, Baptist Student Union and the Missionary Society. Minnie worked faithfully until the birth of her children and care of ailing parents curtailed her involvement. However, her dedication and faithfulness to the legacy and growth of the church during her more than 80 years of membership remained constant. Life led Minnie toward employment within the field of hospitality. She retired from public service as the head cook of the Holiday Inn Chain of Greenville, South Carolina.

Minnie attended Greenville County public schools and was among the first graduating class of the Sterling Normal and Industrial Institute in 1927. During this time, she was a founding member and soloist of the Marian Anderson Music Club. Minnie was also a founding member of the Hattie Duckett Cultural Club. She was recognized in 1998 by the Phillis Wheatley Center and American Federal Bank for sharing her story as an outstanding member of the Phillis Wheatley basketball team. Following high school, Minnie continued her education at Benedict College, where she was awarded a Teacher's Certificate.

Minnie's lifelong commitment to family was evident in the foundation that she laid to promote personal and professional success of her children and children in the community. SHARE recognized Minnie as a community leadership icon and legendary human advancement advocate for her service to the antipoverty/Community Action movement in upstate South Carolina. In response to her long-standing dedication to the community, the Thompson-Gardner Park in the newly developed Viola Street Community was dedicated in her honor by the City of Greenville on July 11, 2005.

The Minnie Gardner College Fund for the CDC Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry Chapter of Blacks in government and the Minnie L. Gardner Scholarship have been established since her death.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House today to pay recognition to an important educational institution in Montgomery, Alabama, as it celebrates 40 years of excellence in higher education.

In September 1969, the doors to Auburn Montgomery were formally opened to students. Since that time, the student population has grown by a factor of nine and the areas of study from sixteen to over 90. Through its 40 years, Auburn Montgomery has conferred more than 31,000 degrees.

Like so many of East Alabama's proud institutions of higher education, Auburn Montgomery has produced great leaders and thinkers who have made enormous contributions to our state and our nation. We are all proud of AUM for achieving this important milestone, and look forward to its continued growth and prosperity in its next 40 years of academic excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be here to cast my vote in support for the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, but I strongly support the targeted extension of unemployment benefits provided by H.R. 3548.

The 314,000 Americans set to lose unemployment insurance this month—and the more than 1 million who will exhaust their benefits by the end of the year—need help to avert an even bigger financial tragedy, such as the loss of their home or a medical bankruptcy, which would ripple out into our larger economy.

Extending these benefits is a cost-effective and efficient way to stimulate the economy. Every $1 spent on unemployment benefits generates $1.63 in new economic demand. Not only does it help the unemployed worker stay on top of their bills, it keeps capitol flowing through small businesses and keeps the larger economy on the right track to recovery.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JAMIE BURCHER FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION III STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jamie Burcher showed hard work and dedication to the sport of baseball; and

Whereas, Jamie Burcher was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Jamie Burcher always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jamie Burcher on winning the Boys' Division III State Baseball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 baseball season.

CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to share my support and acknowledgement of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

Each year, approximately 100,000 children are born in the United States with some form of facial disfigurement. In many cases, reconstructive surgeons can correct these problems early—often while the children are still infants. In other cases, however, reconstruction is not as easy or even possible.

The Children's Craniofacial Association (CCA) is an organization that supports these children and their families. Nationally and internationally, CCA addresses the medical, financial, psychosocial, emotional, and educational concerns relating to craniofacial conditions. CCA's mission is to empower and give hope to individuals and families affected by facial differences. I am honored to acknowledge that 2009 marks their 20th anniversary and am pleased to share my support and thanks for their designation of September as Craniofacial Acceptance Month.

In 2001, my constituent Wendelyn Osborne brought the craniofacial disorders issue to my attention. At a young age, Wendelyn was diagnosed with Craniometaphyseal Dysplasia (CMD). CMD is a rare disorder that affects only 200 people worldwide. Specifically, CMD involves an overgrowth of bone which never deteriorates. In Ms. Osborne's case, this caused an abnormal appearance, bilateral facial paralysis and deafness. Other cases can include those characteristics, as well as blindness and joint pain. Wendelyn has undergone many extensive reconstructive surgeries to counteract the medical difficulties that comprise her disorder.

Unfortunately, the majority of reconstructive surgeries, such as those Wendelyn has undergone, are not covered by insurance companies. Rather, many of them are treated as strictly cosmetic. As a result, individuals are forced to fight their insurance companies just to receive the life-saving surgeries they need. The fact that these surgeries have been grouped in the same ''cosmetic'' category as surgeries that simply make people look better or younger is a tragedy.

It is my hope that further education and understanding of craniofacial disorders will allow our nation to move forward and update existing laws to better meet the medical needs of those needing reconstructive, not cosmetic, surgery. I urge my colleagues—especially in a year focused on health care reform—to join in this effort and help recognize these conditions through Craniofacial Acceptance Month so that all Americans can access the care they need.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to the City of Jonesboro on the 150th anniversary of its establishment. I stand to recognize this milestone in the City of Jonesboro's history and reflect on how far this community has progressed.

The City of Jonesboro is located in Craighead County, which was created in 1859. Despite the opposition of State Senator Thomas Craighead, the Arkansas Senate created the new county from parts of Greene, Mississippi, and Poinsett Counties. In an effort of goodwill, State Senator William Jones, who represented St. Francis and Poinsett Counties and was a proponent of the bill, named the new county after Senator Craighead. In return, once the county seat of Jonesboro was established that same year, it was named in honor of Senator Jones.

In 1860, historical records indicate Jonesboro had a population of 50. Currently,

the city is a bustling community approaching 60,000 people and has grown to become one of the strongest economic centers in the state. Jonesboro is known for award winning school districts, Arkansas State University, outstanding medical centers, and a regional destination for arts and entertainment. Jonesboro is an outstanding community to me and I am honored to represent all of the wonderful people who call Jonesboro their home.

Over the past 150 years Jonesboro has seen many changes but one thing remains the same—the people of this city, throughout good times and bad, have always come together to cherish, celebrate and support one another. This is what makes the community unique and it is their key to success. I am certain the City of Jonesboro has a bright future and will continue to be the cornerstone for prosperity in our state.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Billy Stokes is the founder and senior partner of the law firm of Stokes, Williams, Sharp and Davies in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was one of the highest-ranking state officials during the administration of former Governor Don Sundquist.

Like most Americans today, he is worried about our Country's future. He has given a lot of thought to where we are and where we are headed as a nation, and he has written to me with a proposal for a "Bill of Rights for the New Millennium."

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

I. WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

This means all of us;

II. IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION:

We pledge to cooperate and communicate with members of the opposing party to address and to resolve issues affecting our Nation in a civil manner;

Communication and cooperation does not require abandoning our core principles;

The Federal Government will not impose its will on state and local governments;

III. ESTABLISH JUSTICE:

The right of the people to seek redress and remedy in the Courts will not be impeded;

Those who seek to demean or simply profiteer by abusing our judicial system through frivolous lawsuits will not be tolerated.

IV. INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY:

Lines of communication from the citizenry to the Goremment will be open and welcome;

Citizens will not be intimidated or insulted for petitioning the government through their elected representatives, to be heard;

V. PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE:

The greatest and most honorable military in the history of the world will be maintained and supported;

We will use our might to protect our freedoms and will protect the USA from enemies of such freedoms, state-sponsored or otherwise; foreign or domestic, by all means necessary;

VI. PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE:

We will see that access to adequate healthcare is available to all Americans;

The helpless will be helped;

Meaningful opportunities for success will be open to all who are willing to work;

VII. SECURE THE BLESSINGS OR LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY:

We will support the principles of hard work that this Nation is built upon;

While taxes are necessary, hard work and success will not be punished by attempts to redistribute wealth gained thereby;

We cannot and will not pile debt upon our children and grandchildren;

VIII. WE WILL DEFEND AND PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT ALL TIMES.

EMPLOYER-OWNED LIFE INSURANCE LIMITATION ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the "Employer-Owned Life Insurance Limitation Act." Every employee makes a commitment to his employer. He commits time, energy and creativity to the advancement of the company.

However, instead of making a commitment to their employees—their health, education and wellbeing—many companies are gambling on their lives by taking out employer-owned life insurance policies in which the company is the only beneficiary. The family and loved ones of a deceased individual should be the only beneficiaries of a life insurance policy, not a speculating company.

As highlighted in Michael Moore's new film, "Capitalism: A Love Story," a corporation is allowed to take out life insurance on its employees—often without their knowledge or consent—and cash in, in the event of their death. These policies are being taken out on everyone from the CEO to the janitor, and the only beneficiary of these countless policies is the company itself.

Every day, 14,000 people in this country lose their health insurance; but instead of investing in the health, life and longevity of its employees, much of Corporate America has adopted the practice of investing its resources in the demise of its employees. My legislation would prohibit the practice of taking out employer-owned life insurance except in the case where the death of an individual would incur a significant cost to the company—that is individuals making $1 million or more in salary.

In addition, this legislation would require that the company disclose the policy to the covered individual within 30 days of taking out the policy. Also, should the employee move on to another job, the employer would have 30 days to cancel the policy. This will stop the practice of taking out policies without an employee's knowledge and maintaining the policy long after the employee has left the company.

Employees who find that their employer has taken out a policy in violation of this legislation would have the right to bring civil action against their employer to stop the company from holding the contract. Additionally, the employee could be awarded damages amounting to either $500,000 or, in the case of a deceased employee, three times the amount of the benefit paid to the employer. In the case of a living employee, the employee would be awarded three times the benefit as it exists on the date of action, whichever is greater.

I believe that taking out employer-owned life insurance policies on non-executive level employees is criminal, and my legislation would punish it accordingly by establishing such a violation as a misdemeanor punishable by a $500,000 fine and imprisonment for up to one year.

This legislation would also commission a GAO study to examine the prevalence of these policies and the number of violations under this bill to ensure that we have the most accurate information on this practice.

Madam Speaker, each year companies spend $8 billion in premiums on these policies. That is $8 billion that could be directed toward employee healthcare, pensions and educational opportunities. Instead, it goes to what is essentially a game of Craps, where an employer is betting and banking against the employee's life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in eliminating this unjust practice.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MAXINE JAMES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise with a heavy heart to remember my long time Chief of Staff and friend, Maxine James. Maxine passed away on September 21, 2009, after a lengthy illness. Prior to her retirement last year, Maxine served as my Chief of Staff from the time of my inauguration in 1989. She was an integral part of my career and I credit much of my success to her capable skills. Maxine was the consummate professional who served as my personal advisor and as Staff Developer for my office.

Maxine James was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. She was a long time resident of Newark until she purchased a home in East Orange 12 years ago. Maxine was always interested in being of service to the public at large. During her 15 years as a Community Affairs Department Staffer for Prudential Insurance Company, she served on the boards of directors of various community organizations including Second Chance, a program developed to help ex-offenders and the problem of recidivism; Newark House, a State run halfway house for prisoners and Newark Emergency Services for Families where she served the board as treasurer, vice president and president. During Maxine's tenure as president, NESF opened the first homeless shelter for families. It was while I served an executive at Prudential that I had the opportunity to meet this talented and promising young woman.

Maxine was an extraordinarily gifted woman who volunteered her skills and resources to assist others. She was only the third woman and first African-American woman to join the Newark Jaycees. She used her limited knowledge of campaigns and elections to mount a campaign for the position of external vice president which she won handily. Maxine enjoyed a vast network of friends and associates who will all miss her tremendously. Maxine