

War. They are our living 'Legacy' and, today, we honor that legacy when we care for those who gave all they had. Therefore, I believe we do owe them a special debt of gratitude. Health care is something promised, a promise that must be paid in full. So let us honor them who honored us, and give them the best health care to be found anywhere in America, or the world.

At the conclusion of the session, Congresswoman BROWN and Ron Armstead, Executive Coordinator for the Veterans Braintrust, presided over our 11th annual awards ceremony. This event was conceived by Congressman CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) and begun 11 years ago with General Colin Powell in attendance. At this historical gathering General Powell was joined by some of the highest ranking African-American military officers ever to serve this great Nation: Lt. Gen. Julius Becton, USA, Ret., Brig. Gen. Hazel Johnson-Brown, USA, Ret., Dr. Roscoe Brown, Vice Adm. Samuel Gravely, Jr., USN, Ret., Gen. Frank Petersen, Jr., USMC, Ret., and Col. Fred Cherry, USAF, Ret.

Commenting on the significance and rich tradition of this awards ceremony, Congressman RANGEL noted that each of these recipients has distinguished themselves as true patriots in the war for veterans' rights, and they have not allowed racism to hamper their achievements.

The 1999 awards were presented to twenty-nine exemplary veteran supporters. Individual winners of the 1999 CBC Veterans Braintrust Awards included: Julius Allen, John "Buddy" Andrade, Charles Blatcher, III, Delegate Clarence "Tiger" Davis, Jeff Hansen, Alex Holmes, John Howe, Chris Jenkins, Sgt. Henry Johnson (Posthumous), John Johnson, John J. Johnson, Karen Johnson, Ruben "Sugar Bear" Johnson, Phillip "Jay" Jones, Kathleen Andrews-Lindo, Frankie Manning, Charles McLeod, Jr., Dr. Shari Miles, Wallace "Wally" Miles, W. Roy Owens (Posthumous), Robert "Pope" Powell, Larry Smith, Alexander Vernon, Cordell Walker, Barbara Waiters, and Martha Watts.

Organizations receiving this year's honors were: The Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation, The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Project (CWSS), and the National Minority Museum Foundation.

We also took a moment to recognize Jeanette Boone and Roy Martin from the Office of Senator JOHN KERRY (D-MA) for their excellent assistance on behalf of African-American veterans.

Special citations were given to stalwarts in the battle for veterans rights. The first award was given to Dr. Erwin Parson, co-founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust and renowned expert in trauma/PTSD mental health. He was recognized for his 22 years of dedicated service to veterans and their families. The second award went to Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN (D-FL) Co-Chair of the CBC Veterans Braintrust and Ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation. Ms. BROWN has shown her continued and steadfast commitment to our nation's veterans.

At the end of the ceremony, the Executive Committee members of the Braintrust and past awardees in attendance—Jerry Cochran, Arthur Barham, Morocco Coleman, Joann Williams, Ralph Cooper, Robert Blackwell, Ruben

Johnson, Leroy Colston, Robert Powell, Calvin Gross, Daniel Smith and Brig. Gen. Clara Adams-Ender, USA, Ret.—were asked to stand and be publicly recognized.

In closing, I want to personally thank Congressional staff members Brittlely Wise and Nick Martinelli, Executive Director of the Braintrust Ron Armstead and forum moderator Dr. Lawrence Gary for everything they did to make the event a success. We appreciate the assistance of forum evaluators Dr. Shari Miles, Director of the African American Women's Institute, and Michael Tanner, Director of Health and Welfare Studies at the Cato Institute for all their hard work.

As I have said before and will say again, when veterans answered the call in faithful service, the nation in essence wrote them a check for certain benefits—and it is our duty as members of Congress and as American citizens to make sure this check never comes back marked "insufficient funds!" They were promised more. They have earned more. They deserve no less.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LUCY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, December 5, 1999, the community of St. Lucy's Catholic Church, will gather to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. I rise today to honor St. Lucy's on this special occasion and pay tribute to their service to the community.

Like many other immigrant communities, Croatian immigrants came to the metro-Detroit area because of the promise of jobs and opportunities in lumber, mining and the automobile industry. After their arrival, they realized that a central component of their former life—the community church—was missing. They regained this sense of community when Father Oskar Suster was given permission by Bishop Michael Gallagher to form a new Catholic parish to serve the Croatian ethnic community. In 1924 they purchased their first building at the corner of Melbourne and Oakland Avenues in Detroit.

Following in the name of their patron saint, St. Lucy's Catholic Croatian Church has spent the last 75 years serving as a radiant light in the Croatian community. The Church, now located in Troy, Michigan, includes the sons and daughters of those original immigrants as well as many new arriving families. I have enjoyed participating in some of their activities and seeing firsthand the pride parishioners have in their Church and the sense of community it represents. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the community's discussions on issues of special concern, especially those touching on events transpiring in the Balkans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Lucy's Croatian Church on the occasion of their 75th anniversary and wishing them many more years of important service to their community.

HONORING BISHOP ODIS A. FLOYD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives today on behalf of not only one of Flint, Michigan's top citizens, but a man whom I am happy to call colleague and friend. On November 20, the congregation of New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church in Flint will gather to recognize and honor bishop Odis A. Floyd, and celebrate his 30 years of commitment as pastor to spreading the Word of the Lord.

Odis Floyd came to our community in 1948, and has established himself as one of its favorite sons. He served his country in the U.S. Army in 1958. And he has served the Flint community for many years as a well-respected man of God.

Bishop Floyd attended Monterey College, Pensacola Junior College, Mott Community College, Toledo Bible College, and the United Theological Seminary from which he received his DD degree in 1990.

It was in 1964 that he accepted his call to ministry, for which all of us in the Flint community are forever grateful. In 1965 he began assisting his grandfather, the Rev. L.W. Owens in the organization of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. Bishop Floyd was ordained in 1969, and became pastor in November of 1969 when his grandfather retired. In 1991 the church's name was changed to the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church. In 1993 he was consecrated to the office of Bishop by Paul S. Morton, Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship.

During his tenure at New Jerusalem, Bishop Floyd has presided over a growth in membership from 450 to more than 3,000. Following a terrible fire which destroyed the church, Bishop Floyd continued to serve the spiritual needs of his flock in a temporary facility. It was under his good guidance that the New Jerusalem congregation was able to construct a new, beautiful church in Flint. One need only step inside this stunning building to feel the warmth and the welcome of the people who helped make it possible.

Bishop Floyd is known not only in the Flint community, but throughout the country as a dynamic preacher, spiritual leader, moving gospel singer, and community activist. God has blessed him with a tremendous singing voice. Indeed, Bishop Floyd has been nominated for a Grammy award for the Best Soul Gospel Male Performance. His Sunday services are broadcast live on the church's radio station, and are a favorite for those in the community who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend church services.

I and many other local political and community leaders of all levels have long sought Bishop Floyd's guidance and insight, and after 30 years, he continues to make a tremendous impact wherever he goes. In addition to New Jerusalem, Bishop Floyd has been found working with groups such as the Community Alliance, Resource, Environment [CARE] Drug Rehabilitation and Prevention Center.

Mr. Speaker, our community would not be the same without the presence and influence of Bishop Odis Floyd. I know that I am a better person and a better Member of Congress

because of his commitment to the Lord's work. And I know that our community is a better place to live in because of Bishop Floyd's spiritual mission. I am pleased to ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join in congratulating his 30 years of pastoral service.

CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an historic occasion. Memorial United Church of Christ in East Toledo celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

In early 1899, Mr. J. Herman Overbeck was inspired to form a mission church of the First Reformed Church. On May 7, 1899, shortly after Mr. Overbeck's death, Reform Church leaders including Reverend Henry Gersmann, Eberhard Gerkens, John Olrich, Frederick Dahn, August Overbeck, Karl Benner, and Wilhelm Dahlmeyer came together as a committee to bring Mr. Overbeck's dream to fruition. The fully paid building was formally dedicated on November 12, 1899, the church's official anniversary date. Services were conducted and a church school was organized. On Palm Sunday, April 18, 1900, the German Evangelical Reformed Memorial Church was formally organized with 37 original members. The membership flourished with the neighborhood, and in 1920 the congregation decided to build a new church. The new building was dedicated on February 26, 1922. In 1943, Memorial Church became independent, no longer a mission church. The church grew large in both membership and property. Both the neighborhood and the church began to change in the 1970's, and Memorial grew with these changes as well. Women were allowed a more active role in the church beginning in the 1970's and 1980's, serving as deacons and church elders. The 1990's have brought Reverend Jena Garrison as Pastor, and a renewed spirit among members. Generations of families now attend the church together, as it has moved from a neighborhood church to a family church.

Throughout its century of worship, the congregants of Memorial United Church of Christ have lived the Ecclesiastes verse "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven . . ." As the seasons changed into decades and then a century, the congregation has grown, flourished, and redirected itself. It was born at the twilight of the last century, yet is poised on the dawn of the new century to continue to meet the spiritual needs of the faithful. Its future is challenged by its promise as the congregation of Memorial United Church of Christ recalls their journey: the road, the people, the vision and the faith which brought them to this milestone.

THE LEGAL EMPLOYMENT AUTHENTICATION PROGRAM (LEAP) ACT OF 1999

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, today this Member rises with his distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. BARRETT, in introducing the Legal Employment and Authentication program (LEAP) Act of 1999 which will provide employers nationwide with the tools they need to hire a legal workforce.

While some businesses clearly have flouted the laws prohibiting the employment of illegal aliens, many other businesses have indeed tried to comply with the laws. Unfortunately, the current employment verification programs provided by the INS for compliance with those laws have fallen short. The programs fail to detect sophisticated forms of identity and document fraud used by illegal aliens. Also, the current programs are limited to businesses based in seven states.

The proposed LEAP Act we are introducing would create a strictly voluntary employment verification program to address those faults. It will grant all participating employers access to information regarding a newly hired employees' eligibility to work in this country, and it will be available to all states.

This Member is pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, urges Members to cosponsor it, and strongly supports the passage of LEAP early in the next session of the 106th Congress.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF FRANK MOYA OF DENVER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic acts of Frank Moya. Earlier in November, Mr. Moya, a well-known attorney in my hometown of Denver, Colorado, thwarted an attack and saved someone's life. Mr. Moya was leaving the Arapahoe County Justice Center when he heard that a woman was being attacked in the parking lot. Without hesitation, Mr. Moya rushed to the scene where he saw the victim being viciously stabbed by her estranged husband. He saved her life by jumping in and personally subduing the attacker.

In today's often apathetic world, Mr. Moya has demonstrated courage and selflessness by coming to the aid of someone in need of help. He acted swiftly and without regard to his own safety in order to save the life of another. The world could use a hundred more like him and I am proud to count him as a fellow Denverite and friend. Colorado's first congressional district is fortunate to have Mr. Moya as one of its citizens. On behalf of myself as well as other residents of Denver and Colorado, I would like to thank Mr. Moya for his heroic actions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW INSURANCE COVERAGE EQUITY ACT (NICE ACT)

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, access to prescription drugs can mean the difference between life and death, or between health and chronic disease, particularly for senior citizens. While Medicare covers prescriptions administered in hospitals, two-thirds of older Americans have no insurance or inadequate coverage for outpatient medication. As a result, millions of seniors must pay high retail prices for drugs or inappropriately limit their drug use.

Many seniors who are not able to afford their prescription dosage only buy part of their necessary medication, and take a small portion of the required dosage. Others forgo basic life necessities such as food and heating fuel to pay for their medicine.

As a strong supporter of modernizing and strengthening Medicare, I am introducing the New Insurance Coverage Equity Act (the NICE Act) to make sure that all seniors have access to affordable drug coverage.

Time and time again, I have heard from seniors in my district about their difficulty in obtaining the critical prescription drugs they need. One woman told me that she can only afford to pay for a week's worth of medicine each month instead of filling her entire prescription. That means that instead of taking her medication all month long, she spreads seven pills out over four weeks. Unfortunately, she is not alone.

I recently spoke to a married couple in my district. Both husband and wife have expensive prescription medications they must take, but they simply can't afford to pay for both. Because his wife is more ill than he is, the husband stopped taking his medicine in order to pay for his wife's.

I have heard similar stories from so many other seniors. That is why I have developed the NICE Act, which creates a comprehensive prescription drug program that will make essential medication more affordable for all seniors. My legislation not only provides access to affordable medicine but it also gives older Americans choices.

The NICE Act creates a prescription medicine program modeled after the coverage available to Members of Congress. It would help seniors pay for all of their prescription needs at their local drug store. At the same time it would also cover seniors with pre-existing conditions—which other plans often exclude.

Under the NICE Act, every older American who chooses to enroll would receive financial assistance for their prescription drug coverage. At a minimum, individuals would receive assistance equal to 25% of the cost. For seniors living at or below 150% of the poverty rate—\$12,075 for an individual and \$16,275 for a couple—the NICE Act would cover the entire premium for their prescription drugs. Older Americans living between 150% and 175% of the poverty rate—\$14,088 for an individual and \$18,988 for a couple—would only have to pay as much as they could afford on a sliding scale.