

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMALLER SCHOOLS FOR BETTER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, right after the Columbine shootings I mentioned as one of the many causes of some of these problems the fact that many of our high schools are simply too big. We have done a good job in getting class sizes down, but we made a bad mistake going from small neighborhood or community-based high schools to centralized, consolidated mega-sized high schools.

Columbine had almost 2,000 students. Most young people can handle this, but some feel they have to resort to weird or sometimes even dangerous behavior to get noticed or get attention in a school where they are little more than a number.

In a small school, a young person has a better chance of making a team or being a leader in a club or a cheerleader or being elected to the student council or standing out in some positive way. I wish we did not have to have a high school of more than 500 students. Young people will be much better off going to a smaller school even if they had to go into an older building or where fewer courses were offered.

Bill Kauffman, writing in the new issue of *Chronicles Magazine* has some very interesting comments concerning the need for smaller schools and the shootings in Colorado, and this is a very lengthy quote, but I think it is worth listening to. Writing about our mobile and anonymous society he said,

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"Harris was an Army brat, spawn of a bizarre subculture that prizes rootlessness and places transience next to godliness. He grew up on a series of Socialist reservations. The family's final move was from Plattsburgh, New York, to Littleton, 2,000 miles distant. There he became just another brick in the wall of the inhumanly large Columbine High, whose 1,950 students were connected by a web so attenuated that dozens might fall through the cracks without the principal even knowing their names.

"Impersonal education factories like Columbine were a domestic innovation of the Cold War. The consolidation of small and rural schools into centralized warehouses was given its greatest push by Harvard President James B. Conant, who, subsidized by the Carnegie Corporation, produced a series of postwar reports arguing for the 'elimination of the small high school.'

Mr. Kaufman continued, "According to Conant, defenders of human-scale education were still living in a dream world which knew neither nuclear weapons nor Soviet imperialism. They believe they can live and prosper in an isolated, insulated United States." Conant, the barbarian, triumphed: The number of school districts plummeted from 83,000 in 1950 to 18,000 in 1970. Mr. Kaufman said, "Brutish kids will always make fun of others, but in a small school, parents or other adults have a fighting chance to enforce at least a minimal code of respect. And children in small, settled communities grow up with each other; by high school they almost certainly will have been to each other's homes and birthday parties and been on each other's ball clubs. Each student is essential to the small rural or neighborhood school; sports teams and the school play and a handful of clubs, 4-H rather than a model U.N., depend upon widespread participation. In a stable, which is to say blessedly immobile, community, kids know one another, and while to know Eric and Dylan may not have been to love them, the ties of human sympathy and lifelong friendship with at least some of their classmates might have braked the homicidal slide."

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say again, we need to go back to smaller high schools, even if in older buildings or even with fewer courses.

Let me mention one other thing, Mr. Speaker. *Insight Magazine*, a publication of the *Washington Times*, had a cover story a few days ago which said, almost all of these school shootings over the last 2 or 3 years have been done by young people who were taking or had recently taken very strong, mood-altering drugs such as Ritalin or Prozac.

I remember another article in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, which said we were prescribing Ritalin in the United States at six times the rate of any other industrialized Nation.

This article quoted a former top official of the DEA who said Ritalin had the same properties as cocaine and some of the strongest illegal narcotics. One study I heard about said Ritalin was most often taken by young boys who had both parents working full time.

I know some of this may be necessary, but I question whether we need it at six times the rate of other industrialized nations. Some of it may be essential, but some of these children may be just boys crying out for more attention.

We certainly should not be turning our children into drug addicts.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, we need smaller schools and fewer drugs and more time and attention for our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING NEW PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize significant events that occurred 100 years ago, in the year of 1899.

A century ago our Nation was engaged in the Philippine-American War and ending the Spanish-American War. Two great literary works were being created by two of the few African-American authors, Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery* and W.E.B. DuBois' *The Philadelphia Negro*. Two automobile empires would begin to prosper, with the entrance of Henry Ford and David Buick into the industry; and Duke Ellington and Ernest Hemingway, and, most significantly, New Psalmist Baptist Church of Baltimore City were born.

As we reflect 100 years later on this rich history, it is my honor and privilege to congratulate my pastor, Dr. Walter Scott Thomas, and my New Psalmist Baptist Church family on our 100th anniversary to be celebrated this week. What a blessing for our church celebration to be a part of a centennial anniversary of so many momentous events in our Nation's history.

From its meager beginnings in an alley, New Psalmist was guided by Reverend Junius Gray, its founder and visionary leader. From its home at Riggs Avenue and Woodyear Street to North and Druid Hill Avenues in Baltimore, Reverend Frederick Atkins took the reins and preserved the traditions and spirit of the church.

Over the years, New Psalmist Baptist Church has flourished, expanding from a membership of 5 to more than 5,000. Under the illustrious leadership of its current pastor, Dr. Walter Scott Thomas, the church has done the following:

Birthing 13 ministers; founded a fully accredited Christian school, grades pre-K through 5; an education ministry; establish a 3-year discipleship program; launched two radio broadcasts aired throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and a television ministry aired twice weekly; and established several outreach ministries, including those focused on seniors, youth, health and prison.

I was especially honored to welcome our Nation's top leader, President Bill Clinton, to our church on November 1, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years after the birth of New Psalmist, our Nation has also made tremendous strides. Our Nation has fought and won numerous wars and strives to encourage the principles of democracy worldwide.

African-American literature, movies and music have infiltrated American

culture and have become widely recognized by the mainstream. The automobile industry has developed battery-operated and electric motor vehicles, and there are 39 African-Americans that have been elected to serve as Members of the United States House of Representatives.

Even with all of these changes, albeit positive, it is still good to know that some things do remain the same. New Psalmist remains a key cornerstone of spiritual leadership to my home district of Baltimore and to the Nation, as well as a source of inspirational outreach and education.

Pastor Thomas, associate ministers, officers and members have carried on a legacy of selfless dedication and commitment to the greater Baltimore community. Not only are souls being saved, but lives are being revitalized and uplifted. Members are educating Baltimore's youth, assisting in getting people to work, and ensuring that citizens are getting appropriate health care. In other words, the church is helping real people with real-life issues.

Walking in faith and working together for good, New Psalmist has provided leadership and strength to families, men, women and children, searching for a church home. Personally, Pastor Thomas and the members have had a profound impact and have been a constant source of strength in my life and that of my family's, and it is good to have my minister and my church to call upon in good and tough times.

So it is today that I applaud New Psalmist on its continued spiritual tradition and congratulate Pastor Walter Scott Thomas and my church family on its 100th anniversary.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, at first it was campaign finance reform, then it was gun safety and school violence; now it is health care reform where we see an unfortunate recurring pattern taking place by our Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, on issue after issue, the leadership uses its power to stomp out any real discussion on the House floor. Once again, those of us who care about patients' rights have no alternative, no alternative but to sign a discharge petition to force a discussion on managed care reform, because, my colleagues, serious proposals for meaningful health care reform have been rejected by the Republican leadership.

Why? I am not sure, but it certainly looks like they are trying to protect the profits of the managed care industry. And that is protecting managed care industry's profits over the protection of all of our constituents, every single Member of the House of Representatives and the people we work for.

While they claim reform would actually allow the Federal Government to interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, our families are left unprotected.

Democrats in Congress have been waiting 2 years to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights, because we are ready. We are ready to improve Americans' access to health care. On the other hand, the leadership in this Congress has taken their sham bill from last year, broken it into eight pieces, eight pieces that they want to sell this year as health care reform.

Well, we have to be clear about this. There is no real change in their piecemeal approach. Their same refusal to protect doctors and patients from the insult of an insurance clerk's ability to dictate medical treatment procedures remains. The American Medical Association, in fact, says that their package falls short of the mark; says it does not solve any of the problems our doctors and patients have.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to put doctors and patients back in charge of our health care system. There must be enforceable rights to make consumer protections real for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we know that many States have passed legislation making a patchwork of protections. This patchwork does not provide a good fix. This fix does not work for over 160 million Americans who need a real effort to fix the problems of managed care.

While there are many top-notch managed care organizations, many in my own district; I represent Sonoma and Marin Counties in California, just north of the Golden Gate Bridge; in other areas, there are too many horror stories that we hear across this country. Doctors tell us horror stories about how they are gagged by insurance companies, companies that dictate what they can tell their patients, what they can tell their patients about their patients' treatment options. They tell us that a patient's treatment decisions are often overruled by a clerk, and that patients are denied a specialist's care, and that patients are shuttled out of hospitals before full recovery.

Americans are demanding, they are demanding that this Congress take action and that we do it now. But instead, the Republican leadership has provided legislation that does not ensure that patients have the right to see a specialist, nor do they prevent insurance companies from continuing to send women who have had mastectomies home early, against the advice of their physician.

Under the Republicans' bill, if patients are denied care, they would not have the right to a meaningful external appeal.

That is why we need to debate managed care reform. That is why we need a Patients' Bill of Rights. This legislation will make sure that doctors and patients are free to make decisions about the patient's health. The Pa-

tients' Bill of Rights will ensure that patients can openly discuss with their doctors their treatment options. The Patients' Bill of Rights will ensure that patients receive uniform information about their health plan, and they will be able to go to emergency rooms when the need arises, see a specialist, and seek a remedy from the courts when the claims have been unfairly denied.

It is time to put doctors and patients back in charge of our health care system. I urge my colleagues to support a full debate on managed care reform and support a Patients' Bill of Rights. I urge the Speaker and I urge my colleagues to give the American people what they want. I urge my colleagues to work for managed care reform.

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THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING IN SAUDI ARABIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House tonight on the eve of the third anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia.

Tomorrow will mark the third anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing. Shortly before 10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 1996, a van parked outside the Khobar Towers military complex in Saudi Arabia exploded. The van held an estimated 2,000 pounds of explosives which killed 19 American servicemen and injured approximately 500 other people.

One of those servicemen who was killed was U.S. Airman Brian W. McVeigh from DeBary, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak at Brian's high school graduation. I had the honor to speak at the unfortunate circumstance of his funeral and memorial service, and I was so honored to be asked to be part of that in memory of Brian after he was killed.

I had an opportunity on this Memorial Day to join with citizens of central Florida and the city of DeBary and others who chipped in to create a memorial park for Brian McVeigh, in memory of Brian and other U.S. servicemen and women who served our country and lost their lives. The parents of Brian were there; Jim and Sandy Wetmore, Brian McVeigh's parents.

But a park is not satisfactory. It is a nice memorial, but what I think we all demand on the eve of this horrible anniversary is justice. The investigation of this terrorist attack has included countless closed-door top secret briefings of government officials in which I have participated, and we still do not have answers.

Regardless of those closed-door briefings and discussions held to date, there