

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and enlightened America's communities.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EARL
LESTER COLE

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Lester Cole, one of the great pioneers whose exemplary years of service as an educator at Grambling State University spanned nearly half a century. Earl Lester Cole's tenure at Grambling began in 1936 as a science teacher; advancing through the ranks of the faculty, becoming dean in 1946 and was appointed vice president in 1969.

"Dean Cole" as he was affectionately called even after assuming the vice presidency, can be remembered for his active involvement in implementing curriculum which is considered to be the cornerstone to courses now being offered at Grambling State University. Even after his retirement in 1977, Earl Lester Cole continued to advise members of the faculty and administrators.

Mr. Cole was highly respected by his former colleagues and students and is described as a true professional, a good administrator, and a truly outstanding man who is credited for the positive influence in the educational advancement of his former students. Honesty and a fullness of integrity were accolades from those who knew him well. Over the years, he had been recognized for his numerous contributions to Grambling, culminating 10 years ago in the naming of the university's honors college, the Earl Lester Cole Honors College.

His influential involvement in the community brought several businesses to the university and as an active member of New Rocky Valley Baptist Church, "Dean Cole" was instrumental in the construction of a building for the church.

Mr. Speaker, Earl Lester Cole recently succumbed after a prolonged illness at the age of 89. He can be remembered as a man who gave much to the field of higher education at a historically black university, always exuded a commanding presence during his lifetime. In his passing "Dean Cole" will be deeply missed by his family, colleagues and friends. Our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Garnett, his two children, and Elouise Martin, his sister-in-law.

MARTIN BANDA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending an outstanding young man from my district in South Texas, Martin Banda, who was the Southwest Region Youth of the Year in 1999 as part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the National Youth of the Year Program. They only choose five winners nationally, so this was an enormous honor.

Martin Banda is an 11-year member of the Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen, Texas. The circumstances of Martin's life are the sort that would make many people lose hope. Growing up in the Lemoyne Gardens housing project in Harlingen, Martin could easily have chosen an easy but dangerous life on the streets.

But a higher power led Martin to join the Boys and Girls Club. He thanks the Lord for guiding him to the Club because it is a safe sanctuary from the street. But Martin's obstacles were not just on the streets. His father was incarcerated when Martin was just 5 years old, quickly making Martin the man of the house. This responsible young man took care of his mother and two sisters by disciplining himself and focusing his life around positive things.

I understand the trauma with losing a father early; my own father died when I was 16, leaving me the oldest male in the house. But young Martin had to face that reality and responsibility much earlier in life than I did, and under different circumstances, so it is hard to see how difficult that event marked his young life.

While Martin is grateful to them, the Boys and Girls Club and Harlingen are grateful to Martin as well. Martin is a role model for the other young people in the Boys and Girls Club. He has great athletic ability, having played on several championship football teams. But he is mostly admired for his strong leadership skills, developed first by his participation in the Torch Club and later by his service as vice president of the Keystone Club. At last count, Martin has already won \$29,000 in scholarships. This is a very determined young man who will continue his education on his merit.

Martin is a senior in high school and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society with a 3.75 GPA. It isn't just a pleasure, it is an honor, for me to represent this young man in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Martin Banda, the Southwest Youth of the Year winner for his triumph over the odds and his dedication to excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent Monday, January 31, 2000 through Wednesday February 2, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 2 through 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 2, "yes" on rollcall vote 3, "yes" on rollcall vote 4, "yes" on rollcall vote 5, "yes" on rollcall vote 6, and "no" on rollcall vote 7.

HONORING WYCKOFF HEIGHTS
MEDICAL CENTER FOR ITS DEDICATED SERVICE TO BROOKLYN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the unwavering service and dedication

of the administrators, physicians, nurses and other staff of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, a renowned 350-bed hospital within Brooklyn's 10th Congressional District. For over 100 years, this facility has served the residents of Brooklyn with pride.

I also ask that we take a moment out of our daily business to commend Wyckoff for its extraordinary work throughout the years, and for going that extra mile this month by sponsoring the 1st annual men's health symposium. This symposium entitled "The First Step of Empowerment is Taking Care of Your Health" will be held on Monday, February 14, 2000, and will take the extraordinary step of focusing on men's health in Brooklyn, and throughout this nation.

Although there are numerous individuals who have worked to create this program, I want to applaud the efforts of four individuals: Dominick Gio, president & CEO; Pradeep Chandra, MD, chairman, Internal Medicine; Nirmal Matto, MD, senior vice president, Medical Affairs/director of Nephrology; and William Green, vice president, Ambulatory Services. They each have worked tirelessly to ensure that Wyckoff does not lose the focus of its mission: to provide excellence in care through prevention, education and treatment. In today's health care environment, their unwavering energy and steadfast determination toward improving our health care delivery system is truly a beacon of hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my esteemed colleagues join me in commending the work of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and its dedicated staff. It is truly a shining star in Brooklyn!

THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join today with Rep. SHERROD BROWN, the ranking Democrat on the Commerce Health Subcommittee, and my California colleagues Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, GEORGE MILLER, BOB MATSUI, ANNA ESHOO, TOM LANTOS, XAVIER BECERRA and LYNN WOOLSEY to introduce the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act of 2000.

This legislation would prohibit any State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) from allowing a health plan to simultaneously administer and participate in the state plan. While it is simply a technical correction to SCHIP, it is important technical correction that would eliminate a very real potential for conflict of interest problems caused by health plans playing dual roles in state programs.

The need for this legislation was first brought to our attention in 1998 when California initially granted a contract to a participating health plan to also administer the state CHIP plan. In fact, that health plan withdrew its application and the State went with a non-health plan alternative administrator.

We are now reintroducing the bill and urging its swift passage because it may soon be an issue in California again and could easily become an issue elsewhere since there is nothing in federal law that prohibits states from

granting such contracts. The second administrative vendor contract will be negotiated in California later this year. Without Congressional action on this issue, it is likely that there will once again be competition among participating health plans to obtain the vendor contract.

To further describe the seriousness of this conflict of interest, under California's program the administrative vendor performs a wide variety of functions including: providing trained staff on the program's toll free telephone lines, making eligibility determinations and redeterminations, collecting premiums, enrolling and disenrolling members, transmitting enrollment information and updates to participating health plans, administering the annual open enrollment process, and the list goes on and on. These are clearly functions over which a participating health plan has tremendous interest and will certainly attempt to influence in any system.

Clearly, allowing plans to play both roles creates an inherent bias. And, at a time when there are numerous alternatives to selecting a health plan with a financial interest in that market, it is a bias that can be easily avoided.

Further evidence that our legislation has real merit can be found in another provision of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) which included the S-CHIP program. The BBA allows state Medicaid programs to choose private enrollment brokers to handle the day-to-day enrollment functions of their Medicaid programs. However, in allowing these enrollment brokers, the law clearly stipulates that the enrollment broker be free of any conflicts of interest. Specifically, the law requires that, "The broker is independent of any such entity and of any health care providers (whether or not any such provider participates in the State plan under this title) that provide coverage of services in the same State in which the broker is conducting enrollment activities."

Our legislation would apply the same conflict-of-interest standard that exists in the Medicaid enrollment broker law to the S-CHIP law.

This is an important bill that would protect the integrity of S-CHIP programs across the country. We look forward to working with our colleagues for passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act this year.

THE JOSEPH ILETO POST OFFICE
(H.R. 3189)

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my fellow colleagues that H.R. 3189, the Joseph Iletto Post Office in Chino Hills, California, has the support of the California congressional delegation.

Today, I am submitting the names of 19 California Members who recently agreed to support my legislation which will name the soon-to-completed U.S. Post Office in Chino Hills, CA after Mr. Joseph Iletto. These 19 names will be added to the 33 Members of the California delegation who support passage of the Joseph Iletto Post Office. H.R. 3189 passed the House of Representatives on No-

vember 8, 1999 by voice vote and currently awaits action in the U.S. Senate.

You may remember that Mr. Iletto, a resident of Chino Hills, was the postal employee who was murdered on August 10, 1999 by Buford Furrow, the gunman who shot and wounded five children and employees at the North Valley Jewish Community Center (in suburban Los Angeles).

At the time of H.R. 3189's passage, I was listed as the only sponsor of the bill. The Postal Subcommittee of the House Government Reform Committee allowed me to introduce H.R. 3189 with the understanding that I would need to seek additional support within the California delegation. Even though my California colleagues will not be listed as cosponsors of H.R. 3189, they have graciously agreed to be listed as supporters.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, please add the following 19 Members as supporters of H.R. 3189:

Representative WALLY HERGER, Representative DOUG OSE, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative BARBARA LEE, Representative ELLEN TAUSCHER, Representative RICHARD POMBO, Representative TOM CAMPBELL, Representative ZOE LOFGREN, Representative GARY CONDIT, Representative GEORGE RADANOVICH, Representative CALVIN DOOLEY, Representative BILL THOMAS, Representative XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LUCILLE ROYAL-ALLARD, Representative GRACE NAPOLITANO, Representative STEVE KUYKENDALL, Representative JOE BACA, and Representative RON PACKARD.

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE MILLENNIUM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, just barely five weeks ago the world celebrated a new millennium. There were fireworks and galas and celebrations galore. We all hoped to wipe the slate clean and begin a new year, a new era—free of our old prejudices, free of our old nightmares.

That was a lofty goal and I endorse it wholeheartedly: we ought to strive for peace and harmony every chance we get. A new year and new millennium is as good a chance as you can get.

But that doesn't mean forgetting the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, or forgetting the history that has shaped our lives.

This weekend in Salinas in my home district, the community will honor Harold Gordon. Remember the Academy Award-winning film "Life is Beautiful"? Harold Gordon is "Life is Beautiful" for real.

Harold Gordon was a shy, happy child growing up in Poland when suddenly the world turned dark. He, along with the rest of his family, was trundled off to the Polish ghetto, then work camps, then concentration camps. Most of his family was killed. All of his friends disappeared. Auschwitz, Dachau, Buchenwald . . . these are words that instill fear in all of us, even though we did not live through the torture of those places. But Harold Gordon knows it first hand.

In the movie "Life is Beautiful" the child survives the concentration camp because his father is clever enough to hide him each day. The child is led to believe that he is playing a game with the SS soldiers. Harold Gordon and his father survived the concentration camp through no special gimmicks. There was no fantasy and no games. This was life-and-death reality at its worst.

And yet, Harold Gordon has written of his experience during that awful time a book that is an inspiration to us all. The Last Sunrise is Harold Gordon's memoir of his daily struggles to avoid the gas chambers and give strength to those around him, even though he was just a boy at the time.

I marvel at Mr. Gordon's ability to present a story of death at a pace that reads like a Number One Bestseller on the New York Times book list. You simply cannot put it down. I think the appeal of The Last Sunrise is that its real story is not even that of the war or of the concentration camps. It is a story ultimately of hope and survival.

Despite the gruesome realities of daily existence, Harold carried with him the belief that human spirit will overcome, that the power of humanity will survive beyond the walls of the concentration camp. Certainly, even those who lost their lives during this terrible time in mankind's history have not been forgotten but serve daily as a reminder to us all not ever to let it happen again.

At one point, Harold asks himself, "Why was I being spared?" The answer to that question is: so we can all learn from Harold's experience. It is the same question we should all ask ourselves: why are we here and what is it that we bring to this life that will benefit others? Harold found the answer by writing a most compelling book to remind us of the value of life, the power of hope and the inspiration of another day.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I commend to you The Last Sunrise and hope that you will join me in honoring Harold Gordon.

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON THE HONG KONG TRANSITION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the Sixth Report of the Speaker's Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition. It has been approximately two and half years since Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty on July 1, 1997. Prior to that historic event, at the request of Speaker Gingrich, this Member formed the House Task Force on Hong Kong's Transition. In addition to myself as Chairman, the bipartisan Task Force includes Representatives HOWARD BERMAN, SHERROD BROWN, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, ALCEE HASTINGS, DON MANZULLO, and MATT SALMON.

To date, the Task Force has prepared six reports assessing how the revision has affected Hong Kong. The seventh report, which I submit today, covers the period of March 31, 1999, through December 31, 1999. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Task Force report to be printed in full in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.