

IN HONOR OF MR. MIKE REINERI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the countless achievements and honors of Mr. Mike Reineri, who will be sworn into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame on November 11, 2001.

Mr. Reineri has a long and distinguished career within the broadcasting industry. He has served in countless capacities in many different cities throughout his tenure and has broadcast in many different localities. At age 14 he was invited to a radio station and was told he had absolutely no future in the radio business—he soon proved them wrong.

Mr. Reineri's first major appearance on radio was in 1959 with WFVG in North Carolina. He stayed there for about a year and soon moved to WKIK, where he did a rock-n-roll show from 7–11 p.m. at a remote studio at the Piggy-Park Drive-In in Raleigh. His outstanding style of broadcasting drew crowds from all across the state.

Throughout the next few years, his travels and career led him through Chicago, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Cleveland, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and many other places. While broadcasting for Cleveland, he started and promoted the very successful "Shoes for Kids" program that provides underprivileged and homeless children with footwear. He covered a variety of events including the Washington Peace Rally, Kent State shootings, and the George Wallace shootings. Professionally, Mr. Reineri has done promotions for many organizations including Walt Disney World. He has also participated in great activities such as flying the Goodyear Blimp and riding in the Miami Grand Prix.

Mr. Reineri has also been extremely active in his local community. For 18 years, Mike has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Miami and has been awarded the Service to Youth Award and Service Bar. In 1991 he was awarded the Easter Seals Man of the Year Award in Miami and the Miami Power Squadron Award for Outstanding Contribution to Safe Boating.

This small list only includes but a few of Mr. Reineri's many achievements and awards in broadcasting which has qualified him to be accepted into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and honoring a man who has touched the national community with not only his radio shows, but his heart, Mr. Mike Reineri, on his acceptance into the Radio & Television Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROGERS  
K. COLEMAN'S SERVICE TO THE  
HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, from small-town doctor to chairman of one of America's premier health insurance companies, Dr. Rog-

ers Coleman has made countless contributions to the nation's health care system for nearly half a century. A staunch supporter of the managed care system, which has introduced disease management and helped control escalating health care costs, Dr. Coleman also has been a leader in forging partnerships between the public and private sectors to provide basic medical care benefits for all Americans.

For 10 years, Dr. Coleman led Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas—the state's first and largest not-for-profit health insurer—through the most progressive change and largest expansion in its 62-year history. For seven of those years, he oversaw significant expansion of the company's Medicare business. From 1991 to 1996, he led Blue Cross' transformation from a fee-for-service to a managed care organization to better meet the health coverage needs of Texans. During that time, the company expanded its HMO statewide and introduced PPO and point-of-service coverage. Then from 1996 to 1998, he led the Texas Plan through significant regulatory hurdles to complete its merger with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois—quadrupling Texas' financial reserves and ensuring that for many years to come, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas would continue to help meet the health care needs of Texas communities.

As chairman of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) following the merger between the Texas and Illinois Plans, Dr. Coleman has overseen HCSC's acquisitions of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico and NYLCare's commercial HMO operations in Texas—increasing HCSC membership to approximately 7.4 million.

Over the past decade, Dr. Coleman has made quality health coverage a top priority at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. Under his leadership, the company has received five consecutive two-year accreditations from the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission for demonstrating a commitment to providing excellent service and quality PPO and point-of-service products. Over the past two years, Southwest Texas HMO and Texas Gulf Coast HMO have received NCQA accreditation for service and clinical quality that meet the NCQA's rigorous requirements for consumer protection and quality improvement.

And much of Dr. Coleman's vision for a health improvement organization has been realized with the strides Blue Cross has made in health and wellness programs. Since 1995, he has overseen the company's development of a new maternity program, a nurse counseling service, and disease management programs for asthma, diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure and HIV.

While Dr. Coleman has done much for HCSC during the last three years and for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas over the past quarter century, he will be most remembered for his efforts on behalf of the uninsured. As one of only a handful of doctors in America to head a health insurance company, he has been uniquely qualified to address one of the country's most difficult issues. He says that what he remembers most about his 18-year private practice in general medicine and surgery were the people who needed medical attention but had no health insurance.

To help solve this problem, in 1991, Dr. Coleman spearheaded the effort at Blue Cross to establish the Caring for Children Foundation

of Texas, which provided free outpatient health coverage to nearly 7,000 Texas children whose parents could not afford such coverage. In 1997, he supported the company's effort to create the Texas Care Van Program, which has provided more than 70,000 free immunizations to medically underserved children and seniors in the state since it began. In 1998, he saw that Blue Cross became the first administrator of the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool, a program that today is providing health insurance to 14,000 Texans who, otherwise, might not be able to obtain coverage.

Dr. Coleman led the organization's 1999 media campaign in Texas' largest cities to address the unprecedented level of legislative involvement in the health care industry. Instead of more mandates that he said would worsen the uninsured problem and push the private, employer-based health insurance system closer to the breaking point, Dr. Coleman advocated innovative solutions like health insurance tax credits for the uninsured—an idea that is today clearly on the table in Washington.

And last year, Dr. Coleman helped develop a proposal for the Texas Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Uninsured that would allow Texas workers to take their health insurance with them as they move from job to job.

Although Dr. Coleman's accomplishments have been many and impressive, including the "Award of Exceptional Service" from Medicare, one wouldn't know it given his unassuming and gracious demeanor. He always has recognized others for their accomplishments, never failing to say thank you for even the most ordinary contributions. Ironic in a way, since for the last half century, his contributions to the health care field have been anything but ordinary.

HONORING RICHARD F. CERESKO

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has served his country, his state, and his fellow veterans for over thirty years. Richard F. "Dick" Ceresko is retiring on Friday, October 12th, after fourteen years as the Director of the State of Colorado's Division of Veterans' Affairs. In that time, he has played an integral role in expanding and improving both state and federal services for veterans. Although he will be leaving his official post, his legacy will live on in the new partnerships he crafted with private groups and federal agencies, new facilities to care for our veterans, and new national cemeteries to honor them eternally.

You might say that Dick Ceresko was born to serve his country. His father fought in World War II, and his grandfather served in the Navy at the turn of the 20th Century. In October of 1965, Mr. Ceresko entered the U.S. Marine Corps where he earned his Naval wings and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He was ordered to Vietnam in July, 1967, and flew more than 360 missions as co-pilot, first pilot, and flight leader in a helicopter gunship during combat operations. He served throughout the northern "I-Corps," including Khe Sanh, Hue, Dong Ha and Con Thien, before

he returned stateside in 1968. In other words, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ceresko flew more than one mission per day while in Vietnam. For his service, he was honored with numerous awards and decorations including 19 Air Medals, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with Four Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation and the National Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged in 1970 in the rank of Captain.

Mr. Ceresko joined the State of Colorado Division of Veterans' Affairs in 1980, and became the director of the Division in 1987. In this capacity, he served no fewer than 410,000 veterans every year. I became acquainted with Mr. Ceresko as the State of Colorado began planning a new, 180-bed extended care facility for veterans to be located at the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. This is an incredibly important project, since Fitzsimons promises to become one of the world's preeminent medical campuses in the years to come. He was the first veteran to make me aware that then-President Clinton's Budget proposals were not sufficient to pay the federal share of constructing this new veterans' nursing home. I asked him to crunch the numbers, and we determined that in order to save the facility, I needed to fight for extra funding on the floor of the House of Representatives in the form of an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2000 VA-HUD Appropriations bill. The amendment was successful, two years in a row, diverting more than \$37 million towards state veterans' nursing homes nationwide. Since that time, I've considered Mr. Ceresko one of my best resources as I weigh the many proposals that affect veterans in Congress.

I know that Dick Ceresko will be missed by his peers and his fellow veterans, but I'm sure his retirement will be welcomed by his wife, Martha, and their four children. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the veterans of my district, I want to thank Dick for his service and wish him much happiness, fishing and fulfillment in his retirement.

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DANISH SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES IN WAKE OF TERRORISTS ATTACKS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy one month ago today on September 11 has not only created a new unity within our nation, but throughout the rest of the world and the strong political support and spontaneous public displays of compassion have touched all of us. The American people's spirits have been lifted as they've witnessed the outpouring of support and testaments of solidarity with the American people expressed by the world community. They understand that these horrific attacks were not merely aimed at the American people and our symbols of freedom and prosperity, but they were attacks against all free and democratic nations around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, while we have seen such expressions of support for our country from Nations everywhere, as Chairman of the Congressional Friends of Denmark, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to what our

Danish friends have done. The well-known Danish humanitarian spirit was in no better evidence than after the terrible attacks on New York City and Washington. As word of the tragedy arrived in the Danish capital of Copenhagen, a slow, steady stream of Danish citizens began congregating in front of our Embassy. As hundreds grasped candles, they laid on the sidewalk tokens of their sorrow and solidarity: flowers, ribbons, hastily scribbled notes, banners, drawings, and flags. People came and left throughout the night and soon thousands of candles flickered in the darkness. United States Embassy staff were greeted with handshakes, hugs and many tears as they left the building. Some Danes joined hands and sang Amazing Grace as well as traditional Danish songs of mourning.

The next morning, there was still no let up in the number of people and flowers. For the next three days, much of it in rain and cold, thousands of Danes took their turn holding vigil in front of our Embassy in as much a deep felt display of caring for the victims, as their own silent protest against the new threat to the liberty and freedom of all of us.

Mr. Speaker, by Friday, well over a thousand people, far more than could be accommodated in the small courtyard on the Embassy compound, assembled in front of our Embassy for a ceremony to honor those who lost their lives in the attacks. The event was watched on live television by much of the nation. At noon, traffic in Copenhagen literally stopped for two minutes, as average citizens stepped out of their cars, from Kongens Nytorv to Radhuspladsen, and on streets from Amager to Charlottelund, they stopped everything for two minutes of silence. No honking of horns, no rumble of buses, no sounds of airplanes, no sirens, just the ringing of thousands of church bells.

Earlier, Queen Margrethe II, the Prime Minister and all members of government, leading opposition politicians, the diplomatic corps, joined our Embassy staff at one of hundreds of memorial services. At the same time, throughout the whole country people were pouring into places of worship to express their grief.

Even today, Danish fire fighters, police officers and public servants along with numerous private organizations, amateur sports clubs and schools have started collections intended for the Red Cross and/or the victims' families. An Internet web-site was opened September 13 for sympathizers to light a candle for the victims of the terrorist attacks, and within a few hours, more than 5,000 had done so. Other web-sites offered similar services—thousands of electronic roses have thus been sent across the Atlantic.

Mr. Speaker, the Danish population stands shoulder to shoulder with their American friends against this scourge of terrorism. A recent Gallup poll shows that eighty percent of the Danes—under normal circumstances pacifists by heart—are willing to let their national troops participate in military actions against the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks. That percentage is the highest registered in all public polls in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, the Danish members of the Royal family, along with Danish politicians and government officials and the country's citizens have reacted forcefully and with great empathy to the horrible attacks on September 11. Their actions, and similar expressions of sup-

port and compassion from around the globe, have not gone unnoticed here in America. We are deeply grateful to the Danes for standing with us in our time of trouble, just as we stood with them during their own painful experience under Nazism. On behalf of all Americans, we thank you.

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TRIBUTE TO REV. PORTER S. BROWN, SR.

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues a friend and constituent of the Sixth District of New Jersey celebrating twenty years of pastoral service to the Baptist church.

Born the youngest son of the late Johnnie and Flora Brown, Porter Brown entered this world on December 6, 1947. He grew up in Atlantic City and became heavily active in the church early on.

As a child he was involved in the Junior Ushers, Church School, Youth Choir, and Baptist Training. He graduated from Atlantic City High School in 1965 and enrolled in Lincoln University in September 1966 to study literature. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Literature in English in May 1970.

He took on a variety of educational teaching offers after college from teaching at River Middle School in Red Bank to becoming the program director of the Red Bank Community Center. In 1978, Mr. Brown transferred and began teaching at Asbury Park High School, where he taught for twenty years before retiring in June of 2000.

In 1973, Mr. Brown joined the Faith Baptist Tabernacle. During this time, he served as the chairman of the Shore Community Day Care Center Building Committee and also as a church school teacher. He was ordained as an assistant to the pastor in January 1980 and preached at churches throughout New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, and continued to teach bible studies through the Monmouth Bible Institute.

In September 1981, Mr. Brown received the great honor of becoming the 4th Pastor of the Faith Baptist Tabernacle church. Pastor Brown has served the people of his community and has continued to see his church grow larger and larger with each passing year during his tenure. He is being honored on this day for his loyalty to his church, community, the educational system and the family.

He has been blessed with a wife, Elder, two sons, two daughters, and seven grandchildren. On this day we celebrate the life and journey of a man that has given so much back to what his community, church, and life has given him.

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IN HONOR OF FATHER THOMAS MARTIN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 11, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Thomas Martin, who