

(Ms. BROWN), Doug Jamerson and myself served together in the Florida Legislature, and today he is gone. Doug Jamerson was a patriot. He was a man who loved Florida and who demonstrated it by serving as Labor Secretary and serving as Commissioner of Education. He showed his true love for Florida.

He was instrumental and a driving force in Florida's Blueprint 2000, Mr. Speaker, and that blueprint is what set Florida on the right track in his educational programs. Doug wanted to see accountability in Florida schools, and he fought very hard for that. He was an Air Force veteran. He served from 1967 to 1971.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that anyone in the State of Florida who had respect for government and respect for love of the people did not know and did not love Doug Jamerson. He is a known man in the State of Florida. He was a loved man. He leaves a wife and a wonderful son to mourn him and the rest of us who served with him. We loved him very much. He will be remembered throughout our lives and throughout the lifetime of Florida's history as a politician and as a public servant who served both God and his people.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in closing, when I think of Doug, I think of Paul and his great work. He has done great work for the people of Florida, and we will truly miss him.

Jamerson won a national humanitarian award for helping St. Petersburg recover from racial violence in 1996, when he walked the streets, helping cool emotions. It was a natural extension of his years as a school security guard in the early '70s when he spent hours counseling teens going through desegregation at a Pinellas high school.

His parochial school education taught Jamerson the integrity of discipline and one of his first acts as education commissioner was to advocate the socially leveling effect of wearing uniforms in public schools. The idea sank, but Jamerson's reputation rose as a public servant not given to predictable solutions. He was against both paddling and prayer in schools but said both had a place in a loving home. He was a Democrat who oversaw reduction by 50 percent of the state's education bureaucracy.

Jamerson will be remembered as a gifted man whose genial disposition made it hard for even staunch opponents of his causes to dislike him. He will be missed.

□ 1345

THE BIPARTISAN SENIORS HEALTH CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, America's health care crisis affects millions of people, and I rise today on behalf of the 50,000 senior citizens on Long Island who have been kicked out of their Medicare HMOs.

Just 3 years ago, seniors had choices in their medical care. In September of 1999, 12 HMOs offered seniors health plans in my district on Long Island. Now only two remain.

In 1998 and 1999, 700,000 seniors across America were left without coverage when their HMOs decided not to renew their contracts.

This year, HCFA reports that 65 Medicare HMOs did not renew their contracts, leaving an additional 160,000 senior citizens in America with no Medicare HMO option. This is intolerable.

HMOs are choosing not to renew their 1-year contracts because of inadequate and unfair reimbursement rates. They are putting profits ahead of people. Health care should be a right, not a privilege. Ensuring Long Island seniors receive quality care is not a partisan issue; it is common sense. That is why I have been working with my Republican colleague from Long Island on a solution. Our plan, the Seniors' Health Care Bill of Rights, holds HMOs accountable and provides seniors the care they deserve. We will do this by providing carrots and sticks. Our Seniors' Health Care Bill of Rights includes three provisions: first, increase the reimbursement levels to keep HMOs operating in the senior market; second, our bill requires 3-year rather than 1-year contracts. Finally, our bill provides penalties for terminating senior coverage. If HMOs drop senior citizens in the middle of their contract year, they are going to be banned from the very lucrative Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I promised my constituents my very first piece of legislation would be this Seniors' Health Care Bill of Rights. This is only the beginning of the fight for senior health care. Now I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight.

Our senior citizens are the people who built our neighborhoods and schools, paid their taxes, raised their families, and fought our wars. Now it is time to restore the health care choice, access, and quality that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will cosponsor the bipartisan Seniors' Health Care Bill of Rights.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD A. AUSTIN

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and will be joined later by some of my colleagues to pay tribute to a man who was a mentor and a very dear friend, a man who defined the words dignity and respect. I am talking about Michigan's former Secretary of State, Richard A. Austin, who died last Friday at the age of 87.

Dick Austin was a man of great vision and one of Michigan's most distin-

guished and honored, accomplished statesman. He was Secretary of State for 24 years, having been first elected in 1970 and reelected a record five times. I had the great honor of nominating Dick Austin at three of our party's State conventions, and each time I had to struggle a little harder to try to squeeze it all in because Dick had accomplished that much in the preceding 4 years.

Under Dick Austin's direction, Michigan became a leader in highway safety and voting rights. He brought us one of America's first safety belt laws, spearheaded the drive for child passenger safety legislation, and won awards for his efforts to stop drunk driving. Thousands of people are alive in Michigan today because of Dick Austin's tireless dedication to safety.

Mr. Speaker, he helped to enact a landmark voter registration law that served as a model for other States and paved the way for the eventual passage of the national motor voter legislation. Millions of people in Michigan found it easier to exercise the franchise because of Dick Austin's determination to eliminate barriers to voting.

Dick was a great innovator. He automated the Department of State and transformed a department that consumers were upset about for its agonizing inefficiency. He did that, and made it into one of the best run, best managed and most highly acclaimed departments in the Nation.

Dick Austin was a pioneer in many fields, breaking down barriers with his intellect, self-confidence, and his dedication to hard work. He was the first African American certified public accountant in Michigan. He was the first African American candidate for mayor of Detroit, and the longest serving African American elected to statewide office.

He was born in Stouts Mountain, Alabama, the son of a coal miner who died when Dick was just 11 years old. His family moved to Detroit where he worked his way through school, never letting hardship become an obstacle to success. An academic and track star, he gave up a scholarship to Wayne State University when his family faced hardship. Undaunted, Dick sold and took night classes to earn his degree as a CPA.

Dick Austin was the perfect combination of competence and decency. He was full of charm, and he was as honest as the day is long. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. He served the people of Michigan with grace and dignity. He lived by the values that he preached. He was someone who took to heart the words of the prophet: "To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

In good times and hard times, Richard A. Austin was always there. He was calm, reassuring, standing strong.

Mr. Speaker, to his wife of over 60 years, Ida, and his daughter, Hazel, we send our deep regrets and prayers.

All of us in Michigan will profoundly miss Dick Austin. His memory and

sense of justice will carry on for years to come, and the accomplishments of his remarkable life will continue to pave the way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEON SULLIVAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I received some very disturbing news about the passing of the Reverend Leon Sullivan, founder and Chairman of OIC International.

Reverend Sullivan was a genuine example of civility and social commitment. He was a leader of human rights, and a true humanitarian. He is best known for his advocacy toward obtaining justice to end Apartheid in South Africa. This feat gained him the respect of all of us.

Through his steadfastness and determination, Reverend Sullivan enlightened history and impacted the world with his grace. He came to this earth with a bright inner glow and a spirit filled with light. Reverend Sullivan had a powerful soul and a judicious conscience. His desire to make a difference in the lives of others will be preserved now in our many memories of him. He was a true example of a public servant, and it was through his vision that many people became familiar with his love for hope and compassion for the welfare of people in underserved nations.

Reverend Sullivan was credited by President Clinton with The Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, and was the author of the "Sullivan Principles" which will serve as part of his stellar legacy. I have no doubt that the Reverend will continue to work for the benefit of humanity from his eternal state. His faith in humanity brought inspiration to our society. As a poet once said "Do not weep because they are gone, smile because they lived". Today we honor Reverend Sullivan with our everlasting gratitude and admiration. For those who have lived and not just existed, we must remember to carry on their messages. Reverend Sullivan's words will linger beyond existence, for time does not abandon immortals.

CONGRATULATING HAWAII'S 2ND DISTRICT PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate four remarkable young women from Hawaii: Lauren Noelani Calhoun, age 16, of Kapaa on the island of Kauai; Celinda Stanton, age 11, of Waimanalo on the island of Oahu; Tessa Munekiyo of Wailuku on the island of Maui, and Kaulani Ostrem of Kaawa on the island of Oahu.

Lauren and Celinda are Hawaii's top two youth volunteers for the year 2001 in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. They have each been awarded an engraved silver medallion, a \$1,000 award, and a trip to Washington, DC for the program's national recognition event. Hawaii's Distinguished Finalists—Tessa and Kaulani—have been awarded engraved bronze medallions.

Lauren Noelani Calhoun, a junior at Kauai High School, led an effort to establish a homework and learning center for children at a local family abuse shelter. As a volunteer at the shelter, Lauren was disturbed by its often hectic conditions and wondered how the children who stayed there managed to do their schoolwork. She approached the shelter's director with a plan to convert a storage area into a quiet room for the kids to do their homework. After the plan was approved by the director and the shelter's board, Lauren contacted businesses and organizations for donations.

She surpassed her goal and raised over \$1,500 in addition to many in-kind donations. Lauren purchased furniture, a computer, a printer, software, books, and two sets of encyclopedias for the homework center.

Celinda Stanton, a sixth-grader at St. Andrews, brightened the lives of elderly residents of a long-term care facility by teaching them new skills and providing them with recreational activities. After visiting the facility, where her mother works, Celinda noticed that the residents seemed to enjoy the presence of a young girl and realized she could make a difference in their lives. During her volunteer time at the facility, she entertains the seniors by performing Japanese and Hawaiian dances and helps them play games. She also has taught an 80-year-old woman how to use a computer and regularly assists the staff with recreational activities and filing.

Tessa Munekiyo, age 16, a student at Baldwin High School on the island of Maui assisted in conducting interviews with tsunami survivors as part of a museum educational project.

Kaulani Ostrem, age 17, a senior at Kahuku High School, co-chaired an effort in her community to reduce the number of deaths and accidents on the roadways in her community.

I look forward to having the opportunity to meet Lauren and Celinda and to welcome them to Washington when they come to the Capitol in May. Lauren, Celina, Tessa, and Kaulani exemplify the very best of our youth, of Hawaii, and of our nation.

REFORMS NEEDED IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I have organized my freshman Democratic colleagues to speak out on an issue of great importance to our country, that is, on the issue of health care. I understand that the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) has already spoken, and I thank my colleague for his participation.

Mr. Speaker, many of us were elected in large part because we vowed to reform our health care system, to make quality medical care and prescription drugs affordable for all Americans.

Today nearly 44 million Americans under the age of 65, 11 million of whom are children, do not have health insurance.

In the State of Rhode Island, my home, 1 out of 10 people lack health insurance. As we all know, health insurance is critical to obtaining necessary, affordable care. Those without insurance often pay two, even three times more for medical care than an insured person pays for that very same service. The uninsured are hospitalized at least 50 percent more often than the insured for avoidable conditions. They are also more likely to be diagnosed with later-stage cancer than those with insurance. Even newborn infants born to uninsured mothers have a 31 percent greater risk for adverse health outcomes. This inequity in access to medical care reflects the unfair disparity