

VALLEJO FIGHTING BACK
PARTNERSHIP

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vallejo Fighting Back Partnership's selection as the 2001 Outstanding Coalition Award by CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America).

In the late 1980s, residents of Vallejo, California, became concerned about the city's growing crime rate—a problem blamed mainly on the prevalence of drug and alcohol use in the community. In 1988, city officials began to examine programs and strategies that would help reduce drug and alcohol use, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's plan to start more than a dozen Fighting Back Partnership coalitions across the nation. The coalitions, which would be established in mid-sized communities to reduce the demand for drugs and alcohol, were going to be given funding for a two-year planning period, followed by a \$3 million grant to carry out a five-year strategic plan.

Although more than 400 communities sent in applications to start a Fighting Back coalition, in 1989 Vallejo emerged as one of the original 14 sites. One of the pivotal moments in Fighting Back's history occurred in the mid-1990s when the coalition—with the help of its partners—developed a sophisticated five-year strategic plan that focused on substance abuse reduction in relation to three areas: neighborhoods, treatment and youth. Fighting Back's primary goals in each area were—and still are—as follows: Revitalize neighborhoods that have deteriorated because of alcohol and drug-related crime and violence; increase the availability for treatment, especially for those with no money or health insurance; work with schools and organizations to reduce the demand and availability of tobacco, alcohol and other harmful substances among youth.

To date, there are several indicators that Fighting Back has made significant progress in achieving its goals. In 1997, the Robert Wood Johnson extended the coalition's funding for another five years—an unprecedented move by the foundation at the time. Meanwhile, recent community reports and surveys show across-the-board reductions in neighborhood crime and drug use in Vallejo. Furthermore, the number of residents in certified treatment facilities has increased from 690 to 729, according to the latest statistics available. To date, more than 30 organizations and thousands of individuals have partnered with Fighting Back to develop strategies, aimed at reducing substance abuse in Vallejo. Generally speaking, Fighting Back serves as a neutral convener as opposed to a service provider—especially in the areas of substance abuse treatment and counseling. More than anything, Fighting Back exists because of its many partners. The coalition, which could be described as a vehicle for collaboration, is grateful for the large contingent of partnering agencies and individuals who help create and carry out strategies in the community. In fact, Fighting Back's good standing in the community is evident by the vast number of agencies and individuals who are willing to partner with the coa-

lition on an ongoing basis. Fighting Back's partners include individuals and agencies in the field of healthcare, law enforcement, community service (churches, neighborhood volunteers, etc.), public education, substance abuse treatment, and public and private businesses.

I know I speak for all the members when I congratulate Vallejo Fighting Back Partnership for its effective efforts to reduce substance abuse and for its selection as the 2001 Coalition of the Year by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

AMERICA MUST RETURN TO ITS
HISTORIC ROLE AS NATION OF
HOPE

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the needs of the poor in America. We have distorted the meaning and purpose of our programs for the poor—our purpose should not be to get people off of public assistance, but to assist them in becoming economically secure and self-sufficient. When they become self-sufficient, they will be off the roles and make an economic contribution to American society. In this way, they pay us back for their opportunity.

At present, the measurement of TANF is in the number of people removed from the welfare roles—it should be the number of people who have been trained and have become self-sufficient. Any other measure is not only inadequate, but self-defeating.

I have long said that education is the key to the future, and TANF absolutely must accept education as an allowable work activity. Participation in educational training should “stop the clock” on expiration of benefits, because the jobs they would get in the future would pay society back many times.

America must return to its historic role as the nation of hope, not the nation of dead ends.

RECOGNIZING ADAM VINATIERI

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adam Vinatieri, kicker for the World Champion New England Patriots, and his clutch performance in Super Bowl XXXVI.

Adam's rise to fame began in my home state of South Dakota, where at Rapid City Central High School, he lettered in soccer, track, wrestling and football, earning first team all-state honors in 1991. From there, he attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, where he was a four-year letterman, earning first-team all-conference honors in three of those seasons. He finished his collegiate career as the school's all-time scoring leader with 185 career points, having converted 104 of 114 PATs (.912) in 1992 and kicked a 51-yard field goal twice.

In 1995, Adam took his game international, playing for the Amsterdam Admirals of the

World Football League. There he converted 9 of 10 field goals and was perfect on four extra point attempts for a team-leading 31 total points, while finishing ninth in the league in scoring.

Adam signed with the New England Patriots as a free agent on June 28, 1996, where he set a rookie franchise record with 120 points. He also kicked 25 consecutive field goals without a miss over a span of two years to finish just six kicks shy of the NFL record. Adam became the third Patriot to amass 500 points during his career. Amazingly, he has totaled 575 points in his first five seasons in the NFL. This is the third most proficient start to an NFL career in the history of the game.

Mr. Speaker, until Sunday, these accomplishments had gone virtually unnoticed. However, by kicking the first game-winning field goal in Super Bowl history as time expired, Adam catapulted himself into the annals of sports. Adam is just one of the many South Dakotans who have made their hometowns proud by excelling as professional athletes. I applaud the commitment and character of Adam Vinatieri and all of the athletes from South Dakota, both past and present.

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN AFRICAN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the crisis in the African-American community in regard with the devastating disease HIV/AIDS. Nearly half of all new sufferers of HIV/AIDS are African-American.

Worse yet, 63 percent of all new cases are among African-American women, representing a massive epidemic. Racial minorities now make up over half of new cases of HIV/AIDS and over half of those living with AIDS.

This disease does not seek out people of color to infect—African-Americans are targeted due to poverty, social oppression and the continuing emotional burden which remains from slavery and segregation. This makes the fight against HIV/AIDS a civil rights battle and it must be seen as that.

The Apostle Paul pointed out that “we fight, not flesh and blood, but powers, principalities.” This is clearly true—HIV/AIDS is not just a problem of the flesh and blood, but of social injustice. We must recognize this or we will not be successful in combating it.

This war must be fought by doctors and nurses and community health advocates. But it must also be fought by ministers and churches, by companies that need to hire African-American workers at living wages, and by neighborhood integration.

We must provide hope as well as health, and life more abundant as well as life itself.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH BROWN
CALLETON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of California's

27th Congressional District, Ms. Elizabeth Brown Calleton. Ms. Calleton has served as the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Pasadena for nearly twenty-two years and has been a positive force in this Congressional District for much longer.

Ms. Calleton began her journey with Planned Parenthood of Pasadena as an Administrative Assistant in 1972 after having received her undergraduate degree in government from Smith College and her masters degree in public law and government from Columbia University in 1962. She quickly rose to the position of Associate Director in 1974 and shortly thereafter in 1979 became the Executive Director or what is today known as the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Pasadena.

Her commitment to enhancing the lives of women in our community has never wavered. Over the last thirty years she has served on no less than seven boards and committees which are devoted to improving the status of women in the 27th Congressional District and throughout our nation. As the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Pasadena she has dedicated herself to ensuring that women have accessible family planning options and she has worked tirelessly to position women's health issues at the top of our national agenda.

I know I am not alone when I say that the women of California's 27th Congressional District could not find a stronger and more loyal ally than Elizabeth Brown Calleton. So I ask all Members to join me in wishing congratulations to Ms. Calleton for her unending service to our community. I am sure that each person positively affected by Ms. Calleton's service will join me in wishing her much joy in the years to come and thank her for her time, her energy, and her efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
BURN AWARENESS WEEK, FEB-
RUARY 3 TO 9, 2002

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Burn Awareness Week that was observed February 3–9, 2002. Burn Awareness Week provides an opportunity to educate children and families about the risks that lead to unfortunate and tragic accidents, particularly for the youngest and most vulnerable—our babies and children. The children of Cincinnati who have been the victims of burn accidents have been benefiting from the service of the Shriners Hospitals for Children since 1968 when the Cincinnati burn center first opened.

Unfortunately, infants and young children face greater risks from burn injuries than adults or older children. They rely more on the adults around them to ensure their environment is safe and free from potential burn-causing hazards. That is why in addition to treating over 20 percent of all pediatric burns in the nation at their four national burn centers in Boston, Galveston, Cincinnati and Sacramento, Shriners Hospitals focus on education and prevention of burn injuries.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children is a unique charitable organization that has never sought nor received federal, state, local or third party funding of any kind. Additionally, Shriners Hospitals are distinctive in that they offer full physical, psychological, and emotional care to all the children they treat.

With the 2002 budget for the 22 orthopaedic and burn hospitals totaling over half a billion dollars, and with an active patient roster at over 156,000 children, it is obvious how important the Shriners Hospitals are to the health of our children. The Shriners Hospitals are 100 percent free, despite the fact that they will spend \$1.5 million dollars on children every 24 hours in 2002.

In recognition of Burn Awareness Week, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to commend such charitable organizations as the Shriners Hospitals that contribute greatly to the care, education, and research necessary to treat and work to prevent children's burn accidents.

RECOGNIZING THE 91ST BIRTHDAY
OF RONALD REAGAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely do wish former President Reagan and his wife well on his birthday and my thoughts and prayers are with them as he deals with the terrible disease of Alzheimer's; however, the resolution went well beyond a simple birthday wish. I could not in good faith cast a vote for a bill that stated that the Reagan Administration ensured renewed economic prosperity when millions of Americans were hurt by its economic policies and the federal government incurred massive deficit spending.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THEODORE
"TED" MAKRIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Theodore "Ted" Makris and recognize his contributions to this nation. Now a resident of Pueblo West, Colorado, Ted began his service as a soldier during the Vietnam War when he joined the Army and served in Southeast Asia. During his tour, Ted was stationed in the province of Quang Loi, and like many young Americans, was involved in fierce fighting for the control of South Vietnam.

Ted was recently decorated with an award long overdue for wounds sustained in combat. On September 15, 1967, Ted was wounded during an enemy engagement. Suffering from numerous shrapnel wounds to his body, Ted refused medical treatment and continued to fight amongst his fallen and wounded comrades. After several days of constant prodding from his commanders, he finally relented to leave the battlefield and receive treatment for his wounds.

When a member of our armed forces is killed or wounded in combat, he or she re-

ceives the Purple Heart medal for their sacrifice. Ted refused the medal once in 1967 and still refuses it today. Despite his objections and belief the he does not deserve the decoration, his wife Jan has persisted. She, along with family friend Brigadier General Philip Erdle, worked diligently to see that Ted received the long overdue award for his dedication and commitment to his country. The medal was presented to Ted at his home in late December by General Erdle.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Theodore "Ted" Makris before this body of Congress and thank him for his dedicated service during the war. If it were not for servicemen such as Ted, America would not enjoy the many freedoms that we have today. He served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself and to this great nation. Thanks Ted for your service.

TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK
WITTENBURG

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 31, 2002, Central Texans were saddened and diminished by the death of Frederick Wittenburg, Jr. of Lometa. Fred Wittenburg was a warrior. For three decades, he fought for the disadvantaged, the elderly, the infirm, the homeless, and for hungry and neglected children. He devoted those thirty years to improving the communities of the Texas Hill Country and the lives of its people as Executive Director of the Hill Country Community Action Association.

Fred joined President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty in 1966, administering a brand new community action agency that provided a wide range of services in Llano, Mason, Mills and San Saba Counties. In 1968, he became Executive Director of the growing organization, expanding its services to Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas and Milam Counties. He tirelessly raised local funds for Hill Country Programs to provide and expand services to those who needed them.

Fred Wittenburg was born in Belton, Texas in November 1930, one of four children. His parents moved to Goldthwaite, where Fred attended elementary school. Always active in sports and extracurricular activities, he graduated from high school in the Lometa School System in 1948, and was recognized as the Senior Class "Best All Around Boy."

He attended St. Edward's University in Austin for two years and then transferred to Texas Tech University in Lubbock. A Red Raider through and through, Fred was a member of the Silver Key Fraternity and the Saddle Tramp service organization. It was in a line at the campus bookstore that he met a freshman named Mary Alice Close, who would become his bride and share his life for nearly fifty years.

In thirty years as Executive Director of the Hill Country Community Action Association, Fred's dedication to the war on poverty and his vision of "building people and communities" were reflected in the commitment and energy of his staff, one of his most enduring legacies.