

My question is, is NIH ever planning on doing a study using the only proper control group, that is, never vaccinated children?

Dr. FOOTE. I am not aware of—but note carefully what I said, that I am not aware of—proposed study to use a suitably constructed group of never vaccinated children. Now CDC would be more likely perhaps to be aware of such an opportunity.

Dr. BOYLE. The study that I mentioned earlier that we are doing in collaboration with Denmark compares children who received the MMR vaccine versus children who did not receive MMR.

Ms. MINTZ. But I am saying never vaccinated with any vaccine. That assumes that vaccines don't cause autism, which is what needs to be studied, not assumed.

Mr. SHAYS. Let me just say that if you would turn off your mic, I am happy to have you do the followup, if you would respond to it.

Ms. MINTZ. I'm sorry.

Mr. SHAYS. No, you don't need to apologize. And we will go to the next. Do you have any other comment based on that? The point that is being made, any vaccination. Could we just suggest that you take this under advisement?

Ms. WHARTON. The difficulty with doing such a study in the United States, of course, is that a very small portion of children have never received any vaccines, and these children probably differ in other ways from vaccinated children. So performing such a study would, in fact, be quite difficult.

The Denmark study was a study that, in fact, could not have been done in the United States, although, of course, these children did potentially receive some other vaccines, but simply hadn't received MMR.

Mr. SHAYS. I will invite anyone who is here to speak to staff or me afterwards if they want to augment a comment.

HONORING DAWN SHANNON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dawn Shannon, who has been selected by FOR Special Friends, Inc. as the recipient of the 13th Annual Sheriff's Community Service Award.

From 1972 to 2002, Mrs. Shannon was a vital part of the Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation Department in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. During her 30-year career, she helped to make the Department one of the best in the State, providing recreational activities for students, adults, and those with special needs.

Through her dedication, and the devotion of the late Paula Rourke, many residents with special needs joined basketball teams, learned to throw a softball, and were able to learn the joy of being a member of a team—many for the first time. She organized Christmas parties, dances, sleepovers, and Valentine socials. Busloads would leave the Shrewsbury Town Hall for Boston's duck tours in the summer and skiing at Ward Hill in the winter.

The program also supported Special Olympics and helped provide uniforms and celebration banquets. An advocate for "Stepping Stones Community Theatre" and a member of the Board of FOR Special Friends, Inc., Dawn's energy never seems to fade when working for the special needs community.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in

congratulating Dawn Shannon for her stellar work for the residents of the Town of Shrewsbury and wishes her the best of luck and happiness in all her future endeavors.

WORLD HUNGER

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is World Food Day. As Americans, we all enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world, and we derive much of our strength as a Nation based upon this fact. Yet in many areas of the world, poverty, and the resultant hunger, remains a serious problem that deserves our attention.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "the Progress in reducing world hunger has virtually come to a halt . . . and unless trends are sharply reversed, the world will be very far from reaching the World Food Summit 1996 goal, to reduce the number of hungry by half by 2015."

It is imperative that we act to counter this trend. It is wrong for a child anywhere in the world to suffer the crippling effects of, or, as happens to close to 6 million children each year, who die from hunger. It is appalling that close to 800 million people are malnourished, and indeed many are on the verge of starvation. It is wrong for us to sit idly by and accept this as fact.

We must also recognize that it is in our self interest to fight hunger. The plague of AIDS and other threats to health is not confined to international borders; it would be foolish and naive of us to think that we are immune to the effects of hunger. Furthermore, much of the political instability is rooted in poverty and hunger is rarely confined to any single nation.

Every year national, regional and international World Food Day events are organized around the world. These activities, including those of the World Hunger Year, brings long overdue attention to the problems surrounding the international fight against hunger, and the practical solutions available to our winning the fight against hunger. This is a fight that can be won if we all work together.

MEDICARE COVERAGE OF DIABETES SCREENING

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a serious, debilitating, chronic illness that afflicts more than 17 million Americans, including seven million Medicare beneficiaries. This sometimes silent disease causes many serious complications, including heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure and lower limb amputation. Unfortunately, more than one-third of people with diabetes won't realize they have it until they develop one of these deadly complications.

Diabetes imposes an enormous financial burden on our health care system. More than 25 percent of the Medicare budget is currently

devoted to providing medical care to seniors living with diabetes. Congress recognized the need to address this problem when it required Medicare coverage of blood-glucose monitors and diabetes education services in the Balanced Budget Act. While this was a positive development in our fight against diabetes, it has done little to help us diagnose and treat the 2.3 million seniors who do not know they have the disease.

While diabetes is sometimes a silent disease, the risk factors are often obvious. Diabetes is prevalent among individuals who are overweight, aging, and lead a sedentary lifestyle. Other health conditions, such as gestational diabetes, high cholesterol, and hypertension often lead to diabetes. It is also more common in certain racial and ethnic groups, including Hispanics, African Americans, and certain Native Americans. Additionally, 20 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have pre-diabetes, which if left untreated, will develop into diabetes.

Currently, Medicare does not cover diabetes screening, even if a patient has some of these risk factors. We must amend the Medicare program to ensure that individuals get treatment before it's too late. By testing high-risk individuals, we will be able to diagnose and treat individuals earlier on, and subsequently prevent many complications. Studies have shown that people with pre-diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes by up to 58% through lifestyle interventions, including modest weight loss and increased physical activity.

That is why I am introducing this legislation, which would require Medicare to cover diabetes screening under Part B. Diagnosing diabetes and pre-diabetes through testing, would improve the lives of our nation's seniors and prevent an increase over the already huge amount of the Medicare budget devoted to seniors with diabetes. In addition to improving the health and quality of life for millions of Americans, extending coverage to cover simple testing would save Medicare money in the long run by lowering the incidence of complications.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF MIKE McGEHEE OF RED BUD, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroism of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Freshman Mike McGehee of Red Bud, Illinois for saving the lives of his fellow students during a tragic fire in their Cougar Village apartment on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Early Saturday morning, October 12, 2002, Campus police received a call that a fire was underway at the Cougar Village Student apartment complex. The fire started at about 4:40 a.m. in the kitchen of Apartment 1B on the lower floor in the complex. Mike McGehee and his roommates were upstairs in Apartment 2C. Mike, normally a sound sleeper according to his parents Len and Ruth McGehee, woke up

about 4:30 a.m. and smelled smoke. He woke up five other people in the apartment and guided them towards the front door. When they discovered that the front door was hot, Mike's roommates went to the balcony to jump. Upon reaching the ground, Mike didn't follow. Campus Police Officer, Tony Santiago who was on the scene helped some students who were trying to jump off balconies to escape from the second story apartments.

With the fire fully engaged and Edwardsville Fire units arriving on scene, Mike became disoriented with the smoke and broke out a window, he fell to the floor and called out for help. By then Edwardsville Firefighters were evacuating other apartment units. Mike's friends alerted firefighters that Mike was still inside. Firefighters, moving through the building, felt Mike's grasp on his leg. According to Mike's parents, Mike had already mentally said his goodbyes, as he thought he was going to die.

Mike was taken from the building to a local hospital and then transferred to the burn unit at St. John's Mercy Medical hospital in St. Louis where he is currently being treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Mike is expected to be released from the hospital in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the heroism of Mike McGehee and his efforts to help save the lives of his fellow students. It was through his efforts that so many lives were saved that day.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHITTIER HEALTH NETWORK

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Whittier Health Network. Whittier was founded 20 years ago by Dr. Alfred L. Arcidi and his sons. Since 1982, Whittier has provided high quality acute rehabilitative care along Route 495. Whittier has stuck close to Dr. Arcidi's guiding principle: healthcare that incorporates traditional family values with everyday practices.

Throughout New England, Whittier is known as the premier rehabilitation hospital center. At Whittier, every patient is treated with equal dignity, reverence, and devotion. It is without a doubt that Whittier's reputation for quality care has contributed to its unparalleled prosperity. Indeed, Whittier's reputation and comprehensive care has led to its service to thousands of patients on a daily basis.

Twenty years after its founding, Whittier has branched out beyond its founding as a rehabilitation hospital. The Whittier Pharmacist was established in 1995, and it has grown to serve over 1500 patients. The corporation also has the Whittier Home Health Care Agency. The Home Health Care Agency follows the Whittier tradition by serving individuals in a friendly home environment. A special part of Whittier is that it has a Social Work Service that provides adjustment planning and guidance to both patients and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor Whittier Health Network. I am sure that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Whittier for its contribution to

New England's health during the past 20 years.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE BILL GREEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret informing our colleagues of the passing of our close friend and a former representative of the State of New York, Congressman Bill Green with whom I had the honor of serving in the House of Representatives for eight terms from February 14, 1978, until January 3, 1993 in Congress. After leaving Congress, Bill remained active in government and in the private sector.

Bill Green, a Rockefeller Republican who represented Manhattan's Silk Stocking district from 1978 to 1993, was a leader of the progressive wing of the Republican Party. His wisdom and judgement was highly regarded during his tenure in Congress. Bill's guidance will be greatly missed by all those whom he touched over the years.

Bill Green served on the House Appropriations Committee and was the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies. Bill supported abortion rights and was known throughout Washington as a pro-environmental lawmaker. Following his congressional service, Bill was very active in housing, science policy, and political reform.

Congressman Green was chosen to fill the congressional seat formerly held by Ed Koch, when Koch became mayor of the city of New York. Bill began his Federal Government career, service as the regional administrator for HUD from 1970 to 1977 and prior to his Federal post he was elected as a member of the N.Y. state assembly from 1965 to 1968.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me in extending our condolences to Bill Green's wife, Patricia, his daughter Catherine, his son Louis, his sister Cynthia Green Colin and his many friends and supporters throughout the State of New York and our nation. Bill will surely be missed by this body of Congress.

It is hoped that our thoughts and prayers for Bill will be of some solace to Bill's family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. WILLIAM P. DIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. William P. Diggs on the occasion of his 40th Anniversary as Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina. The celebrations will take place on October 26 and 27, 2002.

Rev. Diggs was born in Columbia, SC and raised in Rock Hill, SC. He earned a B.A. degree from Morehouse College, a M.A. in Sociology from Atlanta University, a Master of Di-

vinity from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary. He is married to the former Clotilda Daniels, and they are the parents of two adult children, Mary Lynne and William, Jr. They have one grandson, William, III.

Rev. Diggs has accomplished much as a leader in the Florence community. He is a Life Member of the NAACP and was the first organizer of and solicitor for the Pee Dee Area United Negro College Fund. He organized a federally operated credit union, which continues to operate today with assets of over one million dollars.

As pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Rev. Diggs led the development of a preschool institution that is licensed by the state of South Carolina, administers a church sponsored after school tutoring program which could accommodate up to forty-five students, and led Trinity from an annual budget of twenty thousand dollars in 1962 to its current over-all annual budget of one-half million dollars. Over thirty thousand dollars of Trinity's annual budget is designated for education.

Mr. Speaker, it is rare to find people who so unselfishly dedicate their time and energy to improving their community, as does Reverend William P. Diggs, and I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding leader, role model, and devoted Christian.

HONORING JACK DEMPSEY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Dempsey, a good friend and the anchor of my Congressional operations. Jack Dempsey is a "neighborhood guy" who never forgot his roots, and like no other I know, lives and breathes Philadelphia politics. Since my first campaign in 1976 for the Pennsylvania State House, Jack has been a dear friend and advisor. He has served as a key strategist, not only for my campaigns, but also for many others in the Philadelphia region.

In Washington, pundits read the Cooke Report for the political scoop, I pick up the phone and call upon the ironclad Jack Dempsey for the word on the street. For nearly two decades, Jack Dempsey has used his lifelong friendships and connections in the Philadelphia area to enhance his uncanny ability to sort out the winners and losers of local, state, and federal elections before the votes have been cast. He has an uncanny ability to read and interpret polls and bring people together. Jack knows the neighborhoods and the District like the back of his hands. His political acumen is unsurpassable and many have called upon his advice for the breakdown of their upcoming elections. Jack, without hesitation, can tell you what the issues are, who your opponents will be, and what you need to do to get the vote out to ultimately win. Luckily, for me, I have had him on my team for all these years.

More important for me, Jack has served with distinction as my District Director for 20 years. As Director, Jack assembled an outstanding and dedicated staff in the Third Congressional District that has worked tirelessly