

to face numerous challenges in accessing quality care. Hispanics make up 23 percent of the total uninsured population. According to a report by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, nearly 37 percent of Hispanics under the age of 64 are uninsured. Sadly, 31 percent of Hispanic children are uninsured.

Access to affordable, quality health care is a challenge—this includes economic challenges, language barriers, cultural differences, citizenship status, even location plays a key role. And we know that it has a direct relation to health disparities. Hispanics continue to suffer disproportionately from chronic and infectious diseases such as diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

We need targeted public policy changes to reverse these trends in both the short-term and the long-term. I believe we can do so by greatly expanding insurance and other coverage, by addressing specific diseases that disproportionately impact the Hispanic community (and other communities of color), and by making institutional changes in our health professions and training so that more doctors are sensitive to the particular needs of the Hispanic community.

The Hispanic Health Improvement Act offers a variety of different strategies for expanding health care coverage, improving access and affordability, reducing health disparities and strengthening our nation's health care workforce. While I consider each provision in our bill to be important, I am just going to highlight some of the more urgent ones.

In order to address the lack of health care coverage, we examined ways to expand existing programs like SCHIP and Medicaid. While this is not a new idea, it will have an enormous impact on the Hispanic population. The legislation provides for the expansion of the successful State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to cover uninsured low-income pregnant women and parents. In addition, it provides states the option to enroll legal immigrant pregnant women and children in Medicaid or SCHIP, and other individuals based on need.

The bill also provides for a number of measures to reduce health disparities. First and foremost, it requires an annual report to Congress on how federal programs are responding to improve the health status of Hispanic individuals with respect to diabetes, cancer, asthma, HIV infection, AIDS, substance abuse, and mental health. Increased funds are provided for targeted diabetes prevention, education, school-based programs, and screening activities in the Hispanic community. Similarly, the bill provides for targeted funding for programs aimed at the prevention of suicides among Hispanic girls.

Access and affordability are key components to improving Hispanic's health care status. The bill provides for grants to expand dental services in medically underserved areas. Provisions are included to support promotoras, or community health workers, who work to improve the health of women and families. A special emphasis is placed on border health by authorizing \$200 million to improve health and infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border. Communities along the border often experience health care provider shortages making them medically underserved areas.

The last title of the Hispanic Health Improvement Act focuses on the reduction of

health care disparities by addressing the lack of providers who can provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate care. The bill provides for increased funding for HRSA's health professions diversity programs. It also seeks to promote the training of bilingual health professionals and creates a Center for Linguistic and Cultural Competence in Health Care within OMH. The Center would carry out programs that promote and facilitate the provision of health-related services, education, and training in a culturally competent manner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support and cosponsor the Hispanic Health Improvement Act. As the Hispanic community continues to grow, the implementation of these provisions will take on an even greater importance. The consequences of inaction will be felt for years to come in greater health care needs, lower productivity, and higher rates of mortality and disability.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to stand before my colleagues and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Asian and Pacific Americans have been a part of this country for over 200 years, with one of the first Asian American communities, the Filipino community, being established in the Louisiana Bayou in 1763. Since that date, the Asian Pacific American community has come a long way.

According to Census projections, Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) will account for 6.5 percent of the nation's population by the year 2025, and by 2050 they will account for 9.3 percent. Consequently, by 2050 about one out of every 11 Americans will trace their heritage to API roots. As this community continues to grow, it is important for all of us to continue to learn from each other.

In the 9th Congressional District, I am very fortunate to represent a vibrant and productive Asian Pacific American community that totals over 70,000 people. The community is very diverse, including Chinese, Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Vietnamese, Koreans, Filipinos, and Samoans. Ranging from doctors to teachers to small business owners, each member of the API community enhances our district and makes it a better place to live and work for all of my constituents. Whether I am marching in Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Sikh parades on Devon Street or celebrating the Lunar New Year on Argyle Street, I cannot help but feel a sense of pride when I see so many different cultures all tied to the single bond of being American.

Congress recognizes the importance of the Asian Pacific American community and displays this through the numerous Caucuses representing many nations, ranging from India to Cambodia. Congressional staffers have also done their part to educate themselves about the Asian Pacific American community through staff organizations such as CAPASA, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association, and SAACSA, the South Asian Amer-

ican Congressional Staff Association, of which I am proud to be a sponsor. As a Member of Congress, I will continue to utilize these resources to work with community leaders on key issues such as education and immigration, as well as encourage more Asian Americans to enter the public sector at the local, state and federal levels.

The rich cultural history and traditions of Asian Pacific communities enrich all of our lives and contribute to the American culture. Now more than ever, we need to work side by side with community leaders to help educate those outside the community that Asian Pacific Americans are, first and foremost, Americans who share the same core values and beliefs as all communities in this country. The Asian Pacific American community has come so far in such a short period of time, and I am confident that it will only continue to grow and thrive while maintaining its many cultures and values.

IN SUPPORT OF YEVGENIYA
DOBROVOLSKA AND MYKOLA
DOBROVOLSKYY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to introduce a private relief bill on behalf of Yevgeniya Dobrovolska and Mykola Dobrovolskyy.

Mr. Speaker, in 1999, Alexander Dobrovolskiy brought his wife Yevgeniya and son Mykola to the United States from the Ukraine to pursue the American dream. He worked for Prophet Financial Systems, Inc. and immediately impressed his colleagues as a committed and hard working man. Most importantly, Alexander Dobrovolskiy's greatest source of pride was his family and he demonstrated this pride as a dedicated husband and father.

Tragically, Alexander Dobrovolskiy was killed in a car accident on November 8, 2002. Prior to his death, he had applied for a green card, with his wife and son as beneficiaries of this petition. As a result of his unforeseen death, this application will be automatically terminated and his wife and son will be denied their green cards.

I'm proud to introduce a bill which provides relief for Yevgeniya Dobrovolska and Mykola Dobrovolskyy. My bill readjusts their status to permanent resident status so that Yevgeniya and Mykola will be able to remain in the United States and continue to live out the dream of Alexander.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill which will restore the hopes of Yevgeniya Dobrovolska and Mykola Dobrovolskyy.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ALLEN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved friend, outstanding community leader and longtime Congressional

aide, the late E.T. "Mike" Allen of Whitesboro, Texas, who passed away on March 14 of this year at the age of 83. Mike served as District Assistant for my predecessor, the late Congressman Ray Roberts, from 1969 to 1980, and as my district assistant from 1980 to 1995. He also served as a member of my screening board for U.S. Military Academies and was my trusted friend and associate.

Mike was knowledgeable about the legislative process—and was so understanding and helpful with constituents who sought assistance with their concerns and problems. He knew the Congressional District from top to bottom, and in addition to being knowledgeable, was always punctual and available. He was always a gentleman and always kind in everything he did.

Mike truly enjoyed people and lived a life of service—both in the workplace and in his community and church. In all that he did—and with all whom he met—Mike brought an abiding sense of optimism and a smile that was his trademark. His favorite saying was "Always keep a happy heart." He loved people. He loved his family. He had a deep and abiding faith in God. I know of no one who knew Mike who did not consider him a friend. He was a man of honor, integrity and a generous nature.

Mike was distinguished in all walks of life. He was a well-liked and well-respected community leader in Whitesboro and Sherman. He served as mayor of Whitesboro for five terms—the last of which he was elected by write-in votes. Among his many civic activities, he served as president of the Whitesboro Chamber of Commerce, president of the local Rotary Club, president of the Quarterback Club, Master of Masonic Lodge #263 and Post Commander of the American Legion Post #398.

Mike was also president of the Grayson County Development Council, a member of the original committee that secured the site for Grayson County College, chairman of the Parent's Committee for the 125th Anniversary Commission, a Council board member of the Boy Scouts of America and an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro. He served on the Wilson N. Jones Foundation Board of Directors and was a board member of the Grayson County Campfire Girls of America, the Old Settlers Park Association in Sherman and the Grayson County Child Welfare.

Mike also was a frequent visitor of the local domino hall and a good player in his own right. Playing dominoes was a cherished tradition that facilitated comradery and friendship and served as an unofficial repository of historic and humorous events in the life of Whitesboro.

It comes as no surprise that Mike was named Outstanding Citizen of Whitesboro twice—in 1970 and 1998.

Mike was born in Whitesboro on December 31, 1919, the son of E.T. Allen Sr. and Mary Anderson Allen. He graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1936 and from North Texas State University in Denton. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1942, where he became a first lieutenant. On returning to Whitesboro, he entered into private business with his father for 23 years before joining Congressman Roberts' staff.

In 1946 he married his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Ann Roberts Allen, a graduate of

Texas Woman's University of Denton. They had a special marriage—and they have a devoted family that includes their son, Michael Allen of Tyler and daughter-in-law Carol and granddaughters Lindsay and Carly; daughter Marcy Allen Brown of Greenville and son-in-law Jon and children Leigh and Ben; sister and brother-in-law Lucille and R.B. Head, Jr., and two nieces.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew and loved Mike Allen miss him dearly—but his presence continues to be felt in Whitesboro and in Sherman and in the hearts of his family and many friends. He leaves behind such wonderful memories of such an outstanding man and citizen—and such a remarkable legacy of caring and service that will be felt for many years to come.

As we approach Memorial Day and remember all those who gave their lives in service to their Nation, one of those that I will remember is my good friend Mike Allen, a man who answered the call to duty in World War II and who continued to answer the call to service to his community, his family, and his country throughout his exemplary and noble life. As we adjourn today, let us do so in memory of this great man and great American—E.T. "Mike" Allen.

TRIBUTE TO IRWIN KISHNER

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 70th birthday of my dear friend, Irwin Kushner. Irwin is a premier captain of both industry and philanthropy in my hometown of Las Vegas, beginning his career there more than 4 decades ago.

Like me, Irwin is a native New Yorker, but his family's journey to Las Vegas took him on a less direct route to Florida first as a young teen. Graduating from the University of Florida in 1954, followed by the University of Miami School of Law in 1958, Las Vegas beckoned and Irwin relocated there in 1960. Ever since, he has been a leader in the Las Vegas community, intricately involved in the professional, civic and cultural aspects of not only Las Vegas, but Nevada as a whole.

Joining the Junior Chamber of Commerce upon his arrival in Las Vegas, Irwin was soon selected by the State of Nevada as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America. He served with distinction on the Las Vegas Chamber Board of Directors for 13 years, chairing committees and as Vice President of the Chamber. In 1999, his efforts on behalf of the Chamber were recognized when he was awarded the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Community Achievement Award for Tourism.

Long before receiving that award, however, Irwin had been—and still is—at the forefront of the hotel/motel industry in Nevada, expanding an industry that provides so many jobs. In 1962, only two years after arriving in Las Vegas, Irwin opened the Somerset House Motel—a three story "high rise" with an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Also in 1962, he

joined the Rocky Mountain Hotel and Motel Association, which later evolved into the Utah-Nevada Hotel and Motel Association.

Irwin's forward thinking role with this Association enabled him to become one of the founding members of the Nevada Hotel and Motel Association (NH&MA), passionately developing the NH&MA through a variety of roles including Committee Chairman, Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors. Within the framework of NH&MA, Irwin has been a tireless champion for the Americans With Disabilities Act, working actively to ensure compliance of this Act by smaller properties. Irwin's many awards with the NH&MA include being named "Hotelier of the Year" and NH&MA's first Lifetime Service Award. Governor Kenny Guinn of Nevada has recently appointed Irwin to serve on the Governor's Commission on Tourism.

Irwin's accomplishments in this industry have not been limited to Las Vegas and Nevada. He has been very active in the American Hotel and Motel Association (AH&MA) over the years, serving on its Board of Directors representing Nevada since 1993. Also since the mid-1990s, he has been a member of the National Tourism and Travel Committee and was a founding member of the National Gaming Task Force. Irwin was also the Nevada Representative to the White House Conference on Tourism. He has represented both the AH&MA and the NH&MA in drafting a national tourism strategy for the 21st Century. Recognizing Irwin's outstanding contributions to the advancement of the lodging industry, the AH&MA presented Irwin with their prestigious Lawson A. Odde Award in 1997 and the Most Valuable Volunteer Award in 1999.

Irwin's commitment to his community does not stop at the industry and professional level. Through his time and generosity, he has provided community leadership and service to many civic and philanthropic groups throughout the city and the state. Irwin was a founding member of several organizations including the Boys and Girls Club of Clark County and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Center for the Performing Arts. The United Way of Southern Nevada utilized his services on their Board of Directors and Board of Trustees and he held many positions with the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Irwin has chaired a variety of committees for Child Haven and Opportunity Village over the years, and has worked as a volunteer administrator for the Clark County Juvenile Court Services, a Charter Member on the Board of Directors of Secret Witness and on the Board of Directors of the Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council.

Irwin is a man of tremendous talent and energy! He is dedicated to his family. He has two lovely daughters, Joanna and Sharon, both of whom have followed in their father's footsteps as attorneys, and four grandchildren who adore him. I thank Irwin for all he has been to Las Vegas, Nevada, our country, his family and to me personally, and wish him the happiest of birthdays and many, many more in the best of health.