

38.8 million in July 2002, an increase of nearly 10% from the 2000 census.

Unfortunately, over half of all Hispanics in the U.S. do not have health insurance. This is about 20 percent higher than the national average of approximately 30 percent.

I am especially concerned about the health of many of our nation's Hispanic seniors. Over 2.2 million Hispanics currently receive Social Security benefits.

Each time that a new tax cut is passed, we put our Social Security trust fund in further danger, thus eliminating future benefits for all Social Security recipients.

Moreover, without Social Security, over 55 percent of Hispanic seniors would be forced to live under the poverty rate.

I hope that my colleagues who supported tax cuts for the wealthy can sleep well at night knowing that their misguided policies may force millions of seniors to live in poverty.

JAY COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the American people saw on national television this morning, the Indiana flood of 2003 moved forward at a heartbreaking, record-setting pace. I have appeared here in this chamber to tell you the St. Mary's River in Decatur, Indiana, crested last night at nearly 28 feet, an all-time historic high for that river. I have also mentioned the flooding in Bluffton, Indiana caused by record water levels on the Wabash River.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize other areas of East Central Indiana affected by the flood of 2003 and those that have worked so hard to assuage the damage. Heroes such as Tami Mann, Director of Jay County Emergency Management. Robert Sours, Superintendent of the Jay County Highway Department and his crew. Jay County engineer Dan Watson.

I'd further like to thank all the city and county police officers in the areas affected. The Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross for its courageous work. And the countless volunteers who have worked diligently to battle the flooding. Their heroic efforts have kept roads open and communities safe.

The chaplain said today that "unless the Lord watches over the city" and surely, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Lord to watch over these communities in Indiana affected by the flood of 2003 and all those who labored to protect them.

TRIBUTE TO PERRYNE THOMPSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Perryne Thompson of Detroit for her 30 years of service to the Detroit Public School system.

Mrs. Perryne Thompson began teaching in the Detroit Public School system over 30

years ago. For the last 20 years, she worked at Miller Middle School as the physical education and dance teacher. Additionally, for over five years, she served as a choreographer, administrator, and eventually director of the All City Middle School Dance Company.

As a Detroit Public School Teacher and while working with the All City Dance Company, she trained over 5,000 students in the art of tap, modern, and African dance. Mrs. Thompson exposed them to the roots of African and African-American culture through the art of dance by utilizing techniques such as those developed by Katherine Dunham.

She often spent long days and nights in preparation for both Miller Middle School and All City Dance concerts, which involved not only choreographing the events and teaching students how to become performers, but also selling candy to purchase fabric for costumes she made for her students.

Her tireless dedication to transmitting her knowledge of the art of dance and emphasis on hard work, diligence, and excellence lead a number of her students to pursue majors in dance in college and to join professional dance companies.

Mrs. Thompson is also the mother of Mischa Thompson, who is currently a congressional fellow in Representative CHARLES RANGEL's office and recently completed her Doctorate degree at the University of Michigan.

Detroit is privileged to have had such a dedicated member of the teaching profession for so many years. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Perryne Thompson for her selfless dedication and service to the youth of Detroit through her role as a Detroit Public School Teacher.

IN HONOR OF MRS. PATTY CROWLEY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an exceptional advocate and friend from Chicago, Patty Crowley, who has dedicated herself to helping others and enriching our community. Mrs. Crowley is a longtime activist who unselfishly worked in support of worthy causes that helped advance women's rights, expand family programs, and increase housing opportunities.

Born on July 24, 1913, Mrs. Crowley continues to be a strong voice in our community today. She embodies the true spirit of human kindness.

In 1948, Mrs. Crowley and her husband Patrick co-founded the Christian Family Movement after a conference at the Vatican and served as co-presidents until 1970. Patty collaborated with Robert McClory to create the book *Turning Point*, which records the story of these events.

Later, Mrs. Crowley turned her attention to other causes. In the 1980's, she became active in public housing causes. She served as director of Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly until 1998, and worked closely with the Chicago Housing Board of Commissioners and the Jane Addams Advisory Council.

In 1985, Patty co-founded Deborah's Place, a shelter that provides housing and supportive

services to homeless women. She remains on the advisory council today. To commemorate her services, Deborah's Place will shortly be dedicating the Patty Crowley Apartments in her honor.

Patty's commitment to serving others extended beyond her impressive record of activism in advocacy groups and service organizations. In addition to her public work, Mrs. Crowley and her husband served as foster parents to over a dozen children, as well as hosting international exchange students.

On her 90th birthday, Patty Crowley's continued dedication to public service is an inspiration to each one of us and her lifetime achievements and commitment to activism are without match.

HONORING JAMES P. RAUSCH

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of James P. Rausch who retired on July 3, 2003, after 32 years of public service. At the time of his retirement, Jim was the Chief of the Congressional Affairs Office, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was a part of the Chief of Engineers' executive staff and the Chief's principle advisor for all legislative and congressional activities.

Jim is a lifelong resident of Maryland where he attended Towson State University and later earned a Master's Degree from the University of Maryland. Jim started federal service in 1971 with the Baltimore District of the Army Corps of Engineers where he worked on the Corps Chesapeake Bay Study and provided floodplain management services to communities to help them develop plans for reducing flood damages. In 1982 Jim accepted the first of several positions at the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While at Headquarters, Jim served a one-year Congressional Fellowship here in the House of Representatives. In 1991, Jim was selected to head up the Legislative Initiatives Branch in the Planning Division. He served as the principal contact for civil works matters for coordination with House and Senate public works committees. Jim had the lead on the development and defense of the Army Civil Works Legislative Program, which traditionally becomes the starting point for Congress as it puts together the water resources development acts to authorize important water resources projects and policies for the Corps of Engineers. He moved to his last position in the Corps in 1998 where he helped design the functions and structure of that office.

Jim and his wife Diane, who is a recently retired school teacher, will enjoy a trip to Ireland this summer. After that, I am sure that they both will remain active in community and government affairs for many years to come.

Jim Rausch has been a valuable member of the Corps team. Working mostly behind the scenes, Jim has been a key factor for many years in putting the right face of the Corps of Engineers before the Congress. At the same time he has communicated back to the Corps leadership the interests of the Legislative Branch. His comrades at the Corps and the

people of this country have been well served by this dedicated public servant. He will be greatly missed by his friends at both the Corps and on Capitol Hill. The understanding and appreciation of the Corps of Engineers here in Congress will remain strong thanks to his many years of faithful service to the Nation.

REGARDING THE ACTUARIAL VALUE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS OFFERED TO MEDICARE ELIGIBLE ENROLLEES BY A PLAN UNDER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill designed for an important purpose—ensuring that the FEHBP continues to provide retired employees, who are eligible for Medicare, with the same prescription drug benefit that current, non-retired employees receive. There are thousands of Federal Employees in my district who have earned, and deserve, the prescription drug coverage they get under the FEHBP. In addition, this is an important example to set for the private sector to ensure that they do not begin reducing and eliminating their prescription drug coverage for Medicare eligible employees once Congress passes a Medicare prescription drug benefit. As such, I will vote in support for this bill.

However, the fact that the majority is bringing this bill up today highlights both the inadequacy of the prescription drug bill they passed last month, as well as undercuts their claim that they believe our nation's seniors deserve the same prescription drug coverage that Members of Congress and other employees covered under FEHBP receive.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad this legislation was brought to the floor today. I am glad that we can support good prescription drug coverage for federal retirees and I am glad that we can set an example for the private sector. I am also glad that the majority is willing to show just how truly disingenuous their rhetoric is about seniors deserving options similar to those of Members of Congress. If H.R. 1 truly provided a real prescription drug benefit, this legislation would not be necessary, and in that, Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the majority for proving to the Nation how insufficient the prescription drug bill is that they passed two weeks ago.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GERMAN CENTRAL FOUNDATION AND THE GERMAN CENTRAL FARM OF PARMA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the German Central Foundation

and the German Central Farm of Parma, as they become one of ten statewide recipients to receive a Historical Marker from the State of Ohio Bicentennial Commission and Multicultural and Ethnic Community Advisory Counsel.

This significant marker stands as a monument to the German Central Farm—a place transformed over eight decades as a haven and vital resource for German immigrants. The marker at German Central Farm also represents the dedication, heart and soul of the German Central Foundation, reflecting the commitment of members and leaders—past and present—to preserve, protect and promote the many colorful facets of German heritage, culture and history.

The German Central Organization embodies the spirit of America—the pioneer spirit, the immigrant spirit and the spirit of diversity of all peoples from all cultures that is the foundation of our community, our state and our nation. The German Central Organization—like thousands of cultural organizations with ancestral ties that span the globe—reflects a journey toward freedom, a struggle from oppression and the blazing of a new trail in America.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of the German Central Foundation, as the German Central Farm is honored by the State of Ohio with a Historical Marker. This gathering place along York Road in Parma has been a source of heritage, comfort, resource and pride for several generations of German Americans. The cultivation and preservation of our varied places of origin is the earth of America—it is the origin of our nation. And as America has flourished, our roots remain viable—uniting us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alice G. Hastings, Lt. Col. Gilbert L. Hernandez and the staff of the Long Beach Veterans Hospital for their hard work in planning and hosting the 23rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Long Beach, CA, last week.

The first games, held in 1981, brought 74 veterans to compete from 14 States. Today, these games have grown to become the largest annual wheelchair-sporting event in the world. Last year, over 480 athletes came from 44 States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain to compete.

Wheelchair sports began after World War II, as young disabled veterans began playing basketball in VA hospitals throughout the United States.

Interest soon spread to other sports and brought a sense of belonging and camaraderie to hundreds of veterans.

I want to thank all our veterans that participate in these games, both for the sacrifice they made for our country and for keeping us inspired to be the best we can be.

TOWN OF BLUFFTON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last night the Wabash River in northeastern Indiana crested at an incredible 25 feet. However, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Mayor Ted Ellis and Sheriff Barry Story, Bluffton, IN, was spared a catastrophe.

Their leadership, in cooperation with Gov. Frank O'Bannon, and literally thousands of volunteers in Wells and Adams counties managed to stem the tide. Special commendation should go to Irving Material Incorporated and also to the Indiana National Guard's 2nd Battalion of the 151st Infantry. Under the leadership of General George Buskirk and Colonel Rick Shatto nearly 200 troops loaded and stacked sandbags and helped save the community of Bluffton, IN.

As more rain approaches, I urge the President to speed disaster relief to the counties in Indiana that the Governor has requested. I encourage the volunteers for their determination to move forward as the rain approaches and I urge prayers by all citizens to remember the cry of the Psalmist when he wrote, "God is our refuge and our strength, though the earth be removed, though its waters roar and be troubled, we will not fear."

FORTUNE MAGAZINE LISTS THE 50 BEST COMPANIES FOR MINORITIES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I had the pleasure of reading in FORTUNE magazine a report by Jonathan Hickman of the 50 best companies for minorities. This important study identifies the increase in minority representation in the higher levels of major national and international corporations in terms of management positions, annual income, ownership in corporations, and leadership as exemplified by membership on corporate boards.

These figures represent an overall increase and upward mobility of African Americans, both male and female, in our economic system, which establishes that progress is being made. It corroborates the work of the Rainbow Push Wall Street Project which has annually brought together leaders from corporate America, the federal and state governments, and businessmen and women from the African American, Hispanic, and Asian American communities nationwide. Its founder Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., has had in the annual national proceedings of Rainbow Push, a President of the United States, the Chairman of the Wall Street Stock Exchange, Richard A. Grasso, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Powell, the Commissioner of Baseball, Bud Selig, and a wide variety of chief executive officers among whom can be found some of our most notable industrialists, manufacturers, wholesalers, food processors, bankers, leaders from the sports industry, heads of civil rights and human rights