

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker I rise today in support of House Resolution 240, to establish National Community Health Centers Week. This resolution highlights the importance of health centers throughout the nation, and aids these organizations in promoting their valuable health services to the public.

Community health centers provide a wide range of essential health services, often to uninsured and underinsured individuals. Especially in this era when so many Americans remain uninsured, the role of community health centers in the health care system is critical. Among the important services provided are mental health care, senior care, HIV/AIDS services, substance abuse treatment, and immunizations. Filling a gap in providing care for low income individuals, including those without insurance, community health centers should be recognized for their dedication to the improvement of America's public health.

Thousands of these institutions operate nationwide, and in my own district in Illinois, the Melrose Park Family Health Center and the new Peterson Family Health Center are examples of the tremendous service they provide. More than 5,000 visits were made to the Melrose Park Family Health Center within three months after it opened in October 2002. Serving a wide variety of patients, many of whom have no insurance, the Center's most common services include immunizations, and treatment for respiratory infections and hypertension. As part of Chicago's Citywide Emergency Response Program, the Center also would treat victims in the case of a bio-terror attack.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representative DAVIS and the Members of the Committee on Government Reform for introducing this legislation and bringing it to the floor today. It highlights the crucial efforts of community health centers across the nation that improve and even save the lives of numerous Americans on a daily basis.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ROGER D. BRIDGES, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RUTHERFORD B. HAYES PRESIDENTIAL CENTER, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman from Ohio. A scholar, librarian, professor, and writer, Dr. Roger D. Bridges is a well-respected citizen of Fremont, Ohio. Executive Director of The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Dr. Bridges has earned credentials in a wide range of disciplines.

Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, Dr. Bridges received his B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa in 1959, and his M.A. in 1963. In 1970, Dr. Bridges earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana.

In 1970, after an early career as a teacher, librarian and assistant professor, Dr. Bridges was named an NHPRC Fellow in Documentary Editing. Assigned to the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Dr. Bridges began his professional career in historical research.

In 1971, Dr. Bridges served as the Director of Research for the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. In 1976, he was promoted to Head Librarian. In 1987, Dr. Bridges became Assistant Illinois State Historian and Founding Editor of the prestigious Abraham Lincoln Legal Papers for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency at Springfield and Illinois State University.

In 1988, the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, the nation's first presidential library and museum, asked Dr. Bridges to become the fourth director in the Center's tremendous history.

In addition to his prominent position, where Dr. Bridges has worked for the past 15 years as Director of the Hayes Presidential Center, he has received honorary doctorates from Lincoln College and Tiffin University. Furthermore, Dr. Bridges has been honored for his work in civil rights and state and local history. Dr. Bridges is also an active member of several professional organizations, including the Ohio Historical Society, served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, and is a past member of the Ohio Academy of History Executive Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Roger D. Bridges. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Dr. Bridges, who is a wonderful asset to the state of Ohio. On the occasion of his retirement, we wish Dr. Bridges all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE YEAR OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 212, to proclaim 2003 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean Armistice, it is entirely appropriate to pay tribute to the nearly 1.7 million troops who fought on the Korean peninsula by designating this year in their honor.

U.S. troops endured some of the most brutal conditions ever experienced in the history of American warfare. They fought in extreme heat as well as cold so severe that some troops literally froze to the floors of their foxholes. But sadly, their sacrifice and bravery are often overlooked. In response, this resolution ensures that the "Forgotten War" is always remembered in American history, and

that we will never forget the 37,000 troops who sacrificed their lives and the 104,000 Americans injured in Korea.

I am honored to represent 31,611 veterans who make their home in Illinois' Fifth Congressional District. One of them is a Korean War Veteran I am honored to call a good friend—Mr. Eugene Piltaver. For many years, Gene has devoted his time to ensuring that his fellow veterans are honored for their service to our country. A testament to his commitment is symbolized by the United States Military Armed Forces Veterans Memorial in his hometown in Franklin Park, Illinois. Gene not only conceived of the idea for the Memorial, but also rallied support and funding to build this impressive monument dedicated to the bravery and patriotism to Franklin Park's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Eugene Piltaver and all of the veterans who have served and sacrificed for our nation, I am proud to support the Year of the Korean War Veteran.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FARMWORKER APPRECIATION DAY—FREMONT, OHIO

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding event taking place in my district in Northwest Ohio. Saturday, August 2, 2003, people from across Ohio's Fifth Congressional District will gather in Fremont to celebrate Farmworker Appreciation Day.

There is no question that farming is the backbone of our nation. From the earliest days of our nation's history, hardworking men and women have taken to the fields to plant and harvest crops and raise livestock in order to feed their families, their neighbors, and their fellow countrymen.

Mr. Speaker, farming is an honorable profession that takes a great deal of skill, patience, and hard work. Those hardworking men and women who work on our nation's farms deserve much credit for helping to make our lands productive and fruitful.

Through the arduous process of working and cultivating the soil, these farmworkers help prepare the ground, plant the crops, and harvest the food we need to live. The lifestyle of a farmworker is tough. Like the farmer, the farmworker must endure the ever-changing seasons from the harshest winters to sun drying, waterless droughts to rain-soaked days that lead to disastrous floods. farmworkers watch the fields as thunderous storms race across them damaging the crops from which they make their living. However, through it all, farmworkers continue to the fields to do their work.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is vitally important to the Fifth District of Ohio as we are home to nineteen percent of Ohio's farmland. We know that the economy of our part of Ohio depends on farming. The prosperity of my district is dependent in large part upon the tireless efforts of the farmworkers who bring in the crops. I can think of no better way to celebrate the contributions of these individuals than to take part in farmworker Appreciation Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to farmworkers by

helping me proclaim August 2, 2003 as farm-worker Appreciation Day. We thank them for all they have done and wish them the very best for the future.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2357, the "Veterans Health Care Improvement Act." This bill will bestow Filipino veterans with the honor and dignity they deserve for their service in the Pacific theatre of World War II.

Filipino soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder and died alongside American troops at some of the war's most horrific battles like Bataan and Corregidor. During the infamous Bataan Death March, Filipino soldiers swelled the ranks of the dead to over six thousand. Yet for all their sacrifices, Congress in 1946 divested Filipino soldiers of their military benefits while soldiers of other allied countries retained their status and privileges as American veterans. It is long past time to reverse that injustice by enacting this legislation.

H.R. 2357 will restore veterans' status to the 14,000 permanent legal residents who are Filipino veterans of World War II. This will go a long way to provide comfort and security to them in their twilight years. For those suffering service-connected illnesses and injuries, Filipino veterans will finally receive the right to medical care they earned so long ago. The most elderly veterans will be granted urgently needed nursing home care.

Mr. Speaker, young Filipino men responded to the call of duty over sixty years ago and fought valiantly under the American flag. Now toward the end of their lives, they deserve to benefit from the values that the American flag represents. To that end, I stand in strong and proud support for H.R. 2357.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the DeFazio-Bradley amendment to strike the Mr. Recreational Fee Demonstration program from the Interior Appropriations bill. This program is punitive, unfair, and mismanaged.

The Recreation Fee Demonstration program allows the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Serv-

ice, and the National Park Service to charge citizens to recreate on public land, including primitive trails and unimproved campgrounds. I believe—as do many of my constituents who hike and picnic in the Angeles National Forest in Southern California—that it is patently unfair to charge them a fee to hike or picnic in these undeveloped public lands that they already support with their tax dollars.

The GAO has recently found evidence of serious mismanagement of the Recreation Fee program. Only 50 cents of every dollar collected is actually used to maintain or improve our public lands. This mismanagement is unacceptable, and we must not allow it to continue.

Let me be clear that I strongly support the National Park System, and users have already paid fees for use of National Parks, as well as developed campsites, boat launches, and other developed areas. Evidence shows that the National Park Service has a much more impressive track record in utilizing its program fees towards maintenance backlogs in national parks.

Nonetheless, we must not allow the Recreation Fee Demonstration program to continue without enhanced Congressional oversight. I urge my colleagues to support the DeFazio-Bradley amendment to strike this wasteful program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes No. 401 and No. 402 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 401 and rollcall No. 402.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 23, 2003*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence for rollcall number 401. During the vote, I was at the U.S. Department of State attending a swearing-in ceremony for Ambassador Eric Edelman, the new U.S. Ambassador to Turkey. After having the chance to work with Ambassador Edelman during his tenure with the Vice President, I wanted to personally extend my congratulations and express my appreciation for his long-standing service to our country.

However, had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye".

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF  
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SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 21, 2003*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of this resolution to establish a National Community Health Center Week. As we have discussed prescription drugs for our seniors on the House floor, some of the main points of discussion have been issues like affordability, accessibility and who is being served. Just as the bill that was passed last Congress and this Congress, there will be individuals that can not afford their prescriptions or some that will just not have access to them. Fortunately, I know that there are Community Health Centers available throughout the nation to help those in need or who get displaced by health care legislation. Community health centers have become the safety net within the health care system caring for 1 of every 5 low-income babies born in America, 1 of every 8 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 9 persons of color, 1 of every 10 rural Americans, almost 750,000 homeless and nearly 850,000 farm workers. Community health centers are established in almost every corner of our nation, representing every aspect of any Congressional district—whether it be assisting the working poor in the inner city or in the rural farmland, migrant workers, or even those who have insurance but do not have access to any other health facilities.

These health centers provide high-quality, cost effective health care as they continually meet escalating health needs and assist in reducing health disparities as well as adapting to the changing nation. With the weakened economy and unemployment reaching its highest point in almost a decade, our nation's health centers are feeling and will continue to feel the consequences by an increasing volume of patients, especially the uninsured. By establishing a week to raise awareness of community health centers, we will also be highlighting each year the great accomplishments these nonprofit, community owned and operated health providers offer so many communities. With recent numbers indicating that the nation's uninsured population is even higher than once thought, at a startling 60 million, if our nation will not realize the need for universal health care, we need to realize the importance and the need to better fund our community health centers.

One of the most amazing aspects of the community health centers is the involvement of the community. Each center tailors their services to best meet the needs and priorities of the communities of which they are in. Citizens in these communities become active participants in their community's health care decision making. Health centers even provide approximately 60,000 jobs to the residents in the communities of the centers.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers are the safety net that are committed to serving all individuals with the mission that everyone deserves quality health care services regardless