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HONORING ELIZABETH BIRCH

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a person who has ably served the national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community for over 8 years: Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign.

Elizabeth is stepping down from the helm of the Human Rights Campaign, but leaves with many victories won and a strong organization that will continue to move our country forward.

Elizabeth is a visionary. Her ideas and conceptions are remarkable. She conceived the idea of the HRC Youth College—which trains dozens of young LGBT Americans who then work on congressional campaigns. She also created WorkNet, a program that documents the ever-growing number of businesses who understand it is good stewardship, and good business, to treat their LGBT employees fairly. WorkNet also assists employees who want their company to increase its commitment to equality. These are just two examples out of literally hundreds for which Elizabeth deserves credit.

Elizabeth is a leader. When hired by the then-Human Rights Campaign Fund, she was a Californian and not accustomed to the sometimes harsh ways of Washington. As Executive Director, she secured her political footing quickly and HRC's influence continued to grow on Capitol Hill. Because of her leadership, HRC has helped defeat numerous anti-gay measures and advance policies that are based on fairness. When needed, she would take to the public airwaves to remind our leaders in Washington that Americans do not want a government intolerant to its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks cannot adequately describe the exceptional work and accomplishments of Elizabeth Birch. She is an extraordinary human being. She is my friend. I am grateful for the leadership she has provided, and she will be sorely missed.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, It would be healthy for the conference committee to debate this in the context of the overall program that will serve the senior citizens most in need. Having the possibility of the wealthiest senior citizens paying a little more does not seem unreasonable.

Unfortunately, Congress is slowly but surely painting itself into a corner. As people rule out

tax or fee increases, benefit reductions, co-payment adjustment or eligibility modifications, there appears to be no way the current program can be maintained, much less add a new, important, but expensive prescription drug benefit without a massive infusion from the general fund (borrowed dollars).

With increasing budget deficits, more tax cuts, and escalating demands on Social Security and Medicare (both in terms of service and demographics), we are headed for a train wreck. We must start making some adjustments because time is growing short and a problem that is already difficult is becoming more serious as time goes on.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE DC CITIZENS A PLACE IN STATUARY HALL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Government Reform Committee Chair Tom Davis (R-VA) introduced a bill with me today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of states are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of D.C. residents.

The District of Columbia was born with the nation itself. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. It goes without saying that the almost 600,000 American citizens who live in the nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the nation's Capitol just as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed.

Our bill would allow the Mayor and the City Council to devise the method for determining the identity of the honorees, who must be deceased. Mayor Anthony Williams has already agreed to find funds in the District's budget for these statues upon the passage of this legislation.

Every time we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 states, we undermine our own fight for congressional voting rights and full democracy. It is for this reason that I insisted on a D.C. coin when quarters were authorized for the states and a D.C. travel and tourism stamp. I got the Postal Service to issue the first hometown D.C. stamp depicting D.C. neighborhoods, as well as traditional monuments, last month. My coin bill has been introduced and is expected to be approved soon on the suspension calendar.

While D.C. residents have not yet obtained the same full political equality and voting rights as the states, they have all the responsibilities of the states, including paying all federal taxes and serving in all wars. Today when we are losing residents in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol. Recently the District lost 44-year old Lt. Col. Paul W. Kimbrough, an African-American engineer who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. A month ago I attended the funeral of 21-year old Specialist Darryl Dent of the D.C. National Guard who was killed in Iraq. There are more

than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WEAVER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great citizen from my district. John Weaver of Naturita, Colorado, an employee of the Montrose County Sheriff's Department and a devoted public servant, tragically passed away recently in the crash of his ultra-light airplane. As his family and our community mourn John's passing, I would like to pay tribute to his memory here today.

John was very active in the Naturita community. He was Lead Dispatcher at the West End Communications Center for the Montrose Sheriff's Department, where he helped make that office a unified and efficient team. His hard work and dedication saved countless lives. John was also a member of the Naturita Town Board, and he worked tirelessly to open the Basin Clinic, a local medical clinic which serves the residents of Naturita. In addition, John was instrumental in establishing the Naturita Fire and Rescue team, serving his community as a volunteer fire fighter.

Mr. Speaker, John Weaver was a man of conviction and kindness. A dedicated public servant, a devoted neighbor, and an active member of the community, John went out of his way to help his friends and neighbors whenever he could. While John has passed away, his legacy will certainly live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring John's life and memory here today.

IN HONOR OF ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Innocent Orthodox Church on the 20th Anniversary of the founding of St. Innocent the Apostle to America Parish.

Twenty years ago, a coalition of dedicated Orthodox Christians from a variety of ethnic backgrounds came together to practice their faith in a common language. These early members began holding biweekly services in the Community Room of Great Northern Mall and established committees to determine the growth and direction of the new parish. St. Innocent was chosen as the patron saint because the zeal of the missionary, who taught the Orthodox Christian Faith across North America and Alaska, would be an inspiration to the members of the new church.

In 1984, the members of St. Innocent began holding services in a rented chapel in Westlake. Members established a church school program for children and adults and weekly bible studies. The church is also very active in outreach to the surrounding community. Each month, money from an extra collection is donated to charitable organizations or

to families in need. Each Christmas, the parish supports at least one family in the community with gifts, food, financial assistance, and love.

In 1997, St. Innocent Orthodox Church found a permanent home, and consecrated its new church structure in Olmsted Falls, Ohio.

St. Innocent welcomes the diversity of its parish and combines many ethnic traditions into its services. I am confident that the growing parish family will flourish, and that the many services and activities it sponsors will continue to multiply.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION  
COMMENDING AFGHAN WOMEN

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative BIGGERT and I introduce legislation to commend Afghan women for their participation in Afghan government and civil society and to advocate for the inclusion of women's rights in the Afghan constitution.

Women's rights in Afghanistan have fluctuated greatly over the years. Women have bravely fought the forces of extremism at various points in the country's turbulent history. At one time, women were scientists and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations in local communities.

As the constitution review process goes forward, the women of Afghanistan should have a stake in the future of their country. We must support the efforts of the Afghan women to require that the constitution of Afghanistan includes equal rights for women. If women are left out of the constitution, they will disappear from public and civic life. Afghanistan has the opportunity to begin a new chapter by rejecting the ways of the Taliban, and embracing democracy, including the right to vote for all its citizens. I believe that the United States should support these efforts in every possible way.

I look forward to working with Representative BIGGERT and my other colleagues to pass this resolution and to fight for the rights of women in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO ROY J. NICHOLS FOR  
RECEIVING THE 2003 ARTHRITIS  
FOUNDATION HUMANITARIAN  
AWARD

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Roy Nichols of Huntsville for receiving the 2003 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to a citizen of Huntsville and Madison County Alabama who has displayed exemplary community leadership.

Mr. Nichols moved to Huntsville in 1973 as an employee of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation. In 1976, Mr. Nichols formed his own company, Nichols Research Corporation, a research and development business specializing in sensor, missile and information systems.

Under the leadership of Mr. Nichols, his company quickly became known as a national leader, receiving numerous awards as one of the best small companies in the United States.

Mr. Nichols retired from Nichols Research after it merged with the Computer Sciences Corporation in 1999. Today, Mr. Nichols is the Co-Chairman and CEO of Torch Concepts, a company that specializes in content management and information mining. Torch Concepts is helping the Department of the Army identify terrorist threats and is becoming widely known for its development of technology that helps in the fight against terrorism.

More importantly, in addition to his professional duties, Mr. Nichols has vigorously committed his time volunteering for many civic organizations in the North Alabama region.

Mr. Speaker, Roy Nichols' leadership and his strong dedication to the community should serve as a model for everyone to follow. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of North Alabama, to congratulate Roy Nichols for being named the 2003 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award winner.

NORTHWEST INDIANA'S MOST  
TALENTED, DEDICATED, AND  
HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and admiration that I offer congratulations to many of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Saturday, October 11, 2003, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 20, formerly also Local No. 303, will honor distinguished members at their 100th Anniversary Open House and Awards Banquet at the Local Gary Area Training Facility in Portage, Indiana. These individuals will be recognized for their many years of dedication and service to Northwest Indiana with 25-year and 40-year pins. The 2003 Sheet Metal Workers Apprentice Graduates will also be honored at this special event.

The Sheet Metal Workers will celebrate tenures ranging from 25 years to 40 years of service. The member being honored for 40 years of committed service is Mr. Walter Biser. Members being honored for 25 years of service include: Mr. Larry Alumbaugh, Mr. Lon Baczkowski, Mr. John Camplan, Mr. Elmer Dellenbach, Jr., Mr. Frank Duffy, Mr. Phillip Felling, Mr. Jeffrey Fitzgerald, Mr. Mark Fusak, Mr. Wyleania Gaither, Mr. Donald Hammond, Mr. Robert Hostinsky, Mr. Mark Katona, Mr. Ronald Kersey, Mr. Jay Kimmel, Sr., Mr. Philip Lukasik, Mr. Steven Nelson, Mr. David Noltbertowicz, Mr. Bruce Pollock, Mr. Mark Remlinger, Mr. Jack Rizzo, Mr. Dalia Salina, Mr. James Salmi, Mr. David Thomas, Mr. Timothy Weaver, and Mr. Walton Woodard.

The Sheet Metal Workers will also be recognizing and honoring the 2003 Apprentice Graduates. These individuals are Mr. Robert Alvarez, III, Mr. Jared Benavides, Mr. Richard Blackmon, Mr. Sam Bodish, Mr. Aaron Burkhardt, Mr. Steve Claussen, Mr. Dave Finnerty, Mr. Jeff Fryar, Mr. Terence Henney, Jr., Mr. Shaun Janis, Mr. Jason Johnson, Mr. Mike King, Mr. Richard Kvarata, Mr. Brian

Meeks, Mr. Jeff Myres, Mr. Dave Polen, Mr. Jason Reis, Mr. Todd Ribar, Mr. Jesse Rippe, Mr. Mark Robbins, Mr. Josh Skalba, Mr. Art Stahl, Mr. Eric Szczudlak, Mr. Chris Truman, Mr. Tim Vandermeer, Mr. Robert Vigland, and Mr. John Worline.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these hardworking and honorable members of the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 20. These individuals, along with all the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, have contributed to the growth and development to the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to fight for and honor them in Washington, D.C.

PROVIDING PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 2003*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation which would allow states and localities to provide primary and preventive health care services to undocumented residents.

An analysis by the Center for Immigration Studies of the Current Population Survey collected in March of 2002 by the Census Bureau indicates that 33.1 million immigrants live in the United States. Among those an estimate of 9 million are undocumented residents and about 900,000 are persons on long-term temporary visas, such as students and temporary workers.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) prohibits public hospitals from providing free or discounted preventive service to undocumented immigrants—even if they pay for such services with State or local funds. PRWORA does, however, allow public hospitals to provide emergency room services.

This system has created a crisis in our nation's emergency rooms. Because undocumented residents cannot afford to see the doctor for routine physicals and preventive medicine, they arrive in the emergency room with costlier, often preventable, health problems. The Federation for American Immigration Reform estimates that 29 percent of this population uses hospital and other emergency services in a given year, compared to the 11 percent use by the general U.S. population.

The costs of this broken system are especially burdensome for our nation's public hospitals. According to the Congressional Research Service, undocumented residents cost Texas taxpayers, insurance companies, and patients more than \$173,072,108 million in 2001. Since the federal government is wholly responsible for establishing immigration policy, and for policing the borders to keep out unauthorized aliens, shouldn't the federal government pay for immigration related health care costs? Unfortunately, federal Allotments for State Emergency Health Services to attend to unauthorized residents are not enough to help with the cost, so stats are forced to shoulder as much as 50 percent of the costs.

Mr. Speaker, people should not enter any nation illegally. But I cannot understand a