

CONGRATULATING UF'S WOMEN'S
TENNIS TEAM**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 2003 University of Florida women's tennis team, for achieving the highest honor in collegiate play, the NCAA title. The Gators upset the top-ranked and two time defending champion Stanford in front of a spirited sellout crowd at Linder Stadium at Ring Tennis Complex in Gainesville, Florida.

This week the University of Florida women's tennis team has been invited to The White House to participate in the 2003 NCAA Spring Sports Championship Day, recognizing the NCAA team champions from the 2003 spring season. The 2003 Gator team will be UF's fourth national championship team to visit The White House, joining the 1996 football team, the 1998 soccer and 1998 women's tennis teams. I congratulate the Women's Tennis Team on their exceptional 2003 season and wish them the best of luck in 2004. Go Gators!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on May 13, 2003. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 183, 184, and 185. On May 19, 2003, I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber. I would like the record to show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 192, 193, and 194. Furthermore, I was absent from this Chamber on May 23, 2003, and had I been present in this Chamber, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 226.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARGARET
ALLEN, DR. RAMONCITA (RAYE)
MAESTAS, AND DR. CHRISTINE
SURAWICZ**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding physicians, Dr. Margaret Allen, Dr. Ramoncita (Raye) Maestas, and Dr. Christine Surawicz, who have been nominated for the Local Legends project, sponsored by the American Medical Women's Association and the National Library of Medicine, to celebrate the lives and achievements of America's women physicians around the country.

Dr. Allen currently is Medical Director at the Hope Heart Institute in Seattle, where she conducts promising research on tissue repair and remodeling in cardiovascular disease, and cardiovascular gene therapy.

Dr. Allen is a pioneer in the field of cardiovascular disease. A cardiothoracic surgeon by training, she was recruited in 1985 by the University of Washington to develop and head its cardiac transplant service. This program received accreditation under Dr. Allen's leadership, and it has been a strong regional asset for many years. Dr. Allen served as director of the program from 1985 to 1996, and also directed the Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Program at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Allen has been active in numerous professional and non-profit organizations throughout her career. Among other positions, she has served as President of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). Dr. Allen has worked diligently to improve access to organ transplantation and to diminish disparities in access across communities.

Dr. Maestas is a family physician at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, and a member of the faculty at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Maestas has dedicated her professional career to caring for the medically underserved. Following her residency, Dr. Maestas practiced at the SeaMar Clinic, a federally qualified health center serving a largely Hispanic population. She then practiced and taught at the Providence Family Practice Residency Program within the Providence health care system, which has a long history of charitable care in the Seattle area. Her current practice site, the Harborview Medical Center, provides much of the safety net care to Seattle and King County residents.

Dr. Maestas is a distinguished educator. She serves on the faculty at Providence and the University of Washington, and is a leader in developing the new medical school curriculum at the University of Washington. Dr. Maestas also has made significant contributions to the community. Her prominent work on issues of domestic violence and cultural competency has gained her national recognition.

Dr. Surawicz is a gastroenterologist and faculty member at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. Dr. Surawicz has distinguished herself as a clinician, educator, researcher and administrator throughout her career at the University of Washington. She has directed the Gastroenterology Department since 1981, and since 1993 has served as Section Chief of Gastroenterology at Harborview Medical Center, which serves Seattle and King County. In 2002, Dr. Surawicz was appointed Assistant Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Medicine, a measure of the regard for her leadership among her peers.

Dr. Surawicz is widely recognized in her field of gastroenterology. She has published extensively in national and international peer-reviewed journals, and has held several board-level positions in national organizations, including service as President of the American College of Gastroenterology, and as Chair of the FDA's Gastrointestinal Drug Advisory Council.

I am honored to announce the selection of these physicians, nominated by their peers, each of whom has made significant contributions to her field of medicine and to her community. These extraordinary women are to be congratulated for their years of dedication and hard work. I ask my colleagues to join me today saluting Dr. Margaret Allen, Dr.

Ramoncita (Raye) Maestas, and Dr. Christine Surawicz for their service and commitment to their profession and to our community.

CHARITABLE GIVING ACT, H.R. 7

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, why are we holding the poor hostage?

Earlier this year, both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation that would provide non-itemizers the ability to claim a tax deduction for charitable giving. Yet here we are nearing the end of this session, and have yet to see a conference committee take up the legislation. Instead we have seen a great deal of negative rhetoric designed not to help the poor of our nations, but to advance individual political goals.

The money for social services needs to get into the hands of the men and women who are making the biggest impact on the lives of their communities. If we in Congress are to be good stewards of the public trust, we have to be certain that the money we dedicate for social services goes into the hands of the most effective organizations. To do otherwise would be a violation of the public's trust in us.

What we are talking about with the Charitable Giving Act, however, is not a case where we as the Congress have to make a decision about where the money should go. This legislation allows individuals across the nation to make those decisions. Who better to identify a community's needs, and the organizations that are most effectively addressing those needs, than the men and women who live and work in that community? I believe that the best way we can help the faith-based and community organizations who need financial assistance is to encourage private sector philanthropy for all individuals who contribute to charitable organizations, not just for those who itemize their tax returns. Approximately two-thirds of tax returns filed do not claim itemized deductions; therefore those individuals are unable to deduct their charitable giving. The majority of non-itemizers are low- and middle-income taxpayers. These are the very taxpayers who would benefit from the Charitable Giving Act, and these are the very people who are our best indicator of the effectiveness of an organization.

This legislation also has included a \$150 million authorization for the Compassion Capital Fund. This authorization recognizes the unique contributions of smaller community and faith-based service organizations by making it possible for these organizations to obtain a grant that they can use to expand their impact on their neighborhoods. Many of our neighborhood service organizations do not possess the capacity to manage a million dollar grant. This does not mean that these smaller organizations are not effective. On the contrary, they may be the best organizations in town. Through the Compassion Capital Fund, intermediaries are able to issue smaller grants, and provide technical assistance that will allow more organizations the ability to increase their services to the poor.

The Charitable Giving Act contains, in large part, what I believe are the most significant ways the Federal Government can lend its

support to social service organizations across the country. The government can be helpful in alleviating some of the problems facing our communities today, but we will never have enough resources to help everyone. We need to team up with faith-based and community organizations of all types to ensure that no matter how serious a person's need, they will have someplace to go for help. That place could be the local government agency, it could be the local church, or a community center. Partisan debate, while very entertaining, will not ultimately help the poor and hurting. Passing this legislation will. We all need to work together for the greater good by dropping the rhetorical bickering and get this legislation to the President's desk.

HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY"
MCDONNELL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great personal sadness that I pay final tribute to a good friend and a great leader in the San Francisco community—Robert "Bobby" McDonnell—who died on August 17th. His extraordinary work in the labor movement and in the community earned him the respect and appreciation of the City of San Francisco.

A native San Franciscan, Bobby graduated from Marin Catholic High School and attended the College of Marin and the University of San Francisco. Bobby McDonnell had a long and distinguished career dedicated to the working men and women of the San Francisco Bay Area. He served as Field Representative and as Secretary-Treasurer for the Laborers' International Union of America, AFL-CIO, Local 261 from 1968 to 1999. He was an Executive Board Member of the San Francisco Labor Council, and also a member of the San Francisco Building and Trades Council. His fierce commitment to the labor movement never ceased, and he advocated labor issues at every opportunity from coast to coast.

He was a member of the Golden Gate Bridge District's Board of Directors from 1984 until the time of his death, where he worked tirelessly to maintain a great public agency. His achievements during his long tenure are too many to list, but in all his endeavors, he served with passion, integrity and excellence.

He was a devoted and enthusiastic godfather to St. Vincent's School for Boys. He unselfishly worked as a volunteer, organizer and fundraiser not only for St. Vincent's, but also the United Way, the United Irish Cultural Center and the Amigos of Central Latino. One of his favorite activities was playing Santa Claus for the different organizations where he volunteered. It was a perfect job for him, because those who knew him say he spread joy and humor wherever he went.

To his wife Mary, his brother Danny, his stepsons Jerry, Michael, David and Harry, I extend my deepest sympathy and my profound appreciation for your sharing Bobby with us. We miss him greatly.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of November as National Diabetes Awareness Month.

An estimated 18.2 million people in the U.S., or 6.3 percent of the population have diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while an estimated 13 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, 5.2 million do not even realize they are diabetics. The American Diabetes Association estimates the economic cost of diabetes in the U.S. in 2002 was \$132 billion, or one out of every 10 health care dollars spent.

Diabetes is the number one disease-related cause of death in Los Angeles County. In California, more than 1.4 million California adults and 12,000 adolescents have been diagnosed with diabetes. Among adults ages 50–64, diabetes prevalence was significantly higher among African Americans (20.5 percent) and Latinos (17.9 percent) than whites (8.3 percent). Additionally, 176,000 adolescents not diagnosed with diabetes were at risk because they did not participate in regular physical activity and were overweight or at risk for being overweight.

I have been active in the efforts to combat diabetes because I know the burdens it imposes on people and their families. I am a co-sponsor of the Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act (H.R. 1916) which directs the National Institutes of Health to support research with respect to pre-diabetes and diabetes, particularly type II diabetes. This important legislation will help all Americans by providing much-needed diabetes prevention and outreach.

Although diabetes is an epidemic that is widespread, complicated, and severe, it can be controlled. Taking small steps like healthy diets and physical activity can lead to big rewards. Diabetes is a disease that permeates our communities, families, and friendships and we must do all that we can to stop the spread of this deadly disease.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT TODD JASON BRYANT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. Earlier this afternoon, I had the distinct honor to attend the funeral service for Todd Jason Bryant, First Lieutenant, United States Army at Arlington National Cemetery. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Todd was born on January 14, 1980, in Long Beach, California. Todd came from a military family and his desire and determination to join the military was resolute. He enlisted in the Army Reserve and completed Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma before

his senior year of high school. He came to my office for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I was proud to nominate this ambitious young man who I knew would distinguish himself at West Point, just as he had done his whole life.

He interned in my office before his senior year at West Point and graduated with a degree in Political Science on June 1, 2002. He would often joke that he was going to run for my congressional seat someday—I have no doubt he would have succeeded. After graduation, Todd attended the Armor Officer's Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating in December 2002. He reported to Fort Riley, Kansas in January 2003, and was initially assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st, Battalion 34th Armor Regiment where he served as an Assistant Operations Officer. In April of 2003, Todd was reassigned to C Company, 1–34 AR where he assumed duties as Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon. On August 30, 2003, Todd and Jenifer Reardon were married in Pennsylvania, nine days before shipping out with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On Friday, October 31, 2003, Todd was killed by an explosive device as his Humvee traveled on a road between Fallujah and Baghdad. He was 23 years old.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Todd, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Today was probably the hardest day the Bryant family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain. Larry and Linda Bryant have raised an extraordinary family. Their oldest son, Tim is a Major in the Marines, their daughter, Tiffany, is a Captain in the Army and Todd, First Lieutenant in the United States Army, recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal Army Service Ribbon, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart has been laid to rest in our country's most distinguished military cemetery.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves today in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will not be forgotten.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF CHARLEY SCHNEIDER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a good friend and a pillar of the community in Southern Nevada, Charley Schneider. I had the privilege of working with Charley, and cannot do justice to what a great person and friend Charley was.

Charley Schneider was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1938, but moved to Basic, Nevada, as Henderson was known at the time, in 1949. He was a graduate of Basic High School and worked at Farmers Insurance for 33 years.