

16 officers will no longer have to work in a doublewide trailer, but will have a fully functional station to better serve the community.

Along with his commitment to the department, he has spent numerous hours in the schools teaching children the importance of safety. He established a first aid patrol for students, teaching them the fundamental skills that can save lives.

Aside from being a hardworking and dedicated police officer, Chief Klienkauf found time in his day to volunteer as a firefighter in his hometown. He also spent years serving on the local first aid squad. He remains an active member of the New Jersey State Association of Police Chiefs and the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police.

As an inspiration to police officers in his department and the state of New Jersey, Chief Klienkauf has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING WALTER J. STYER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter J. Styer, retiring Supervisor of Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and commend him for his lifelong service to our community.

When Walter Styer first took office as Supervisor, Upper Uwchlan Township was a rural farming community with only 1,200 residents. Today, after three decades of continuing growth and development, there are now 7,000. As the community has grown, so has the job of supervisor. Mr. Styer's primary responsibility during his time in office has been to make sure that Upper Uwchlan grew responsibly and that the needs and desires of its citizens were continually met. In the beginning, his meetings would take 20 min, and would revolve around paying the bills and reading the road report. In recent years, it has not been uncommon to have multiple meetings in a single week for several hours at a time. His participation in the supervising of a rapidly growing community is a true testament to his commitment and his willingness to adapt to the increasing demands of the position. Over the years, as more and more time was required as supervisor, Walter Styer still found time to run his own businesses, remain active in his church and raise four children. What has kept him going all these years was his desire to see all of his projects and undertakings to a successful conclusion—a testament to his character and drive. His tremendous leadership and experience as been an enormous asset to Upper Uwchlan Township and has allowed it to grow responsibly and successfully for all these years.

Mr. Speaker. I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Walter J. Styer for his lifetime of exemplary citizenship and civil works to make Upper Uwchlan Township a better place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUNE VALENTINE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. The Southern Colorado Livestock Association recently named June Valentine Stockman of the Year. June is the first woman to receive this honor in the history of the association, and it is my privilege to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation today.

June has been a rancher in Las Animas County her entire life. As a rancher, June is passionate and knowledgeable. In the ranching industry, June has transcended gender stereotypes and proven herself as able as any rancher in Colorado.

June is also well known for her contributions to the community. She is an avid historian who shares her knowledge of the county's history with her many friends and neighbors. In addition, June is also involved in local government and has held many offices in service of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to June Valentine before this body of Congress and our nation today. June is an amazing rancher, historian, public servant and friend. Her contributions set a fine example for all Americans. Congratulations, June, on a well deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following roll call votes:

Roll Call 620 (S.J. Res. 22), Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research;

Roll Call 621 (S.J. Res. 18), Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years;

Roll Call 622 (H. Con. Res. 299), Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America, and for other purposes;

Roll Call 623 Motion—On Hour of Meeting.

HEALTH EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2002, the Institute of Medicine

(IOM) released a landmark report entitled: Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. Among other key findings, the report documented that minorities in the United States receive fewer life-prolonging cardiac medications and surgeries, are less likely to receive dialysis and kidney transplants, and are less likely to receive adequate treatment for pain. Its first and most telling finding States that "racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare exist and, because they are associated with worse outcomes in many cases, are unacceptable." The reasons for these disparities in treatment are wide and varied, and include, but are not limited to: healthcare provider prejudice or bias, the implicit nature of stereotypes, and broader historic and contemporary social and economic inequality. The report included a series of recommendations and interventions for policy changes to eliminate these unacceptable disparities.

Whether it is the recently released IOM report on Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, the Commonwealth Fund's report Diverse Communities, Common Concerns: Assessing Health Care Quality for Minority Americans or a recent report by Physicians for Human Rights (2003) found that many minority groups receive lower quality evaluation and treatment than white Americans for a wide range of medical conditions, even when each has health insurance.

We are continually reminded that throughout the history of our great Nation, our people have been denied access to the best that medical science has had to offer—often relegated to hospitals with outdated equipment and served by African-American health care providers who, although as capable, intelligent, and gifted as their white counterparts, often could not obtain equivalent training because of racist practices such as segregation.

This segregated health system was largely responsible for the health inequities that existed during the early and middle part of this century. Indeed, in 1951 Dr. W. Montague Cobb, editor of the Journal of the National Medical Association, stated "For nearly fifty years the retarded health status of our Negro population has been common knowledge and the object of sporadic corrective effort". With the Civil Rights came an acknowledgment came greater equality in many aspects of life for African-Americans, including greater access to quality health care.

As an effort to extend such acknowledgment I am proud to introduce the Health Empowerment Zone Act of 2003. This act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Directors of the Office of Minority Health, of the Office of Community Services and National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities to establish health empowerment zone programs in communities that disproportionately experience disparities in health status and health care, and for other purposes.

To be eligible the communities must demonstrate that they experience disproportionate disparities in health status and health care, set forth a strategic plan and create a partnership, with individuals, businesses, schools, minority health associations, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, hospitals, health care clinics, and foundations.

The health empowerment zone designation would provide communities the ability to effectively access Federal programs (namely in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration) to improve the health or environment of minority individuals in the community and to coordinate the efforts regarding the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities in health status and health care. Special consideration is given to community that have demonstrated expertise in providing culturally appropriate and linguistically responsive services.

The bill directs communities to establish a health empowerment zone coordinating committee that will provide technical assistance and evidence-based strategies to the zone, including providing guidance on research, strategies, health outcomes, program goals, management, implementation, monitoring, assessment, and evaluation processes.

This bill recognizes that disparities in health and health care found among minority Americans have multiple causes. Lower socioeconomic status and a higher rate of uninsurance are major contributors to the health disparities experienced by minority Americans but non-health factors also play an important role.

The bill codifies legislatively the framework needed to implement sound public health practices such as:

Primary health promotion and disease prevention: Identifying and strengthening protective ecological conditions conducive to health; and identifying and reducing various health risks.

Secondary health promotion and disease prevention: Identifying, adopting, and reinforcing specific protective behaviors; and early detection and reduction of existing health problems.

Tertiary health promotion and disease prevention: Improving the quality of life of community members affected by health problems; and avoiding deterioration, reducing complications from specific disorders, and preventing relapse of risky behaviors.

This bill is a start to a new paradigm for health and I urge my colleagues to support this bill, so that we do what is so clearly needed to improve the health and health care for millions of minority Americans.

YOUTH ATTITUDES ABOUT CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, at the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education held recently in Washington, D.C., a new report was released that deserves our highest attention and concern. The report, "Citizenship: A Challenge for All Generations," showed that young people are disengaged from the political process and lack the knowledge necessary to be effective citizens. According to the public opinion survey described in the report, more young Americans know the name of the reigning American Idol than know the political party of their state's governor.

The survey did provide a source of good news, however. It reported that courses in civics and government make a significant difference in sparking young people's interest in government and increasing their understanding of the American system of government.

Both the landmark Congressional Conference on Civic Education and this new national survey of youth civic attitudes, knowledge, and participation were products of the Representative Democracy in America Project, a new congressional initiative designed to reinvigorate Americans and educate them about the critical relationship between government and the people it serves. This national project is a collaboration among the National Conference of State Legislatures' Trust for Representative Democracy, the Center on Congress at Indiana University and the Center for Civic Education. The project, which is strictly nonpartisan, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress. I would like to submit for the record the executive summary of the report "Citizenship: A Challenge for All Generations."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This public opinion survey shows that young people do not understand the ideals of citizenship, they are disengaged from the political process, they lack the knowledge necessary for effective self-government, and their appreciation and support of American democracy is limited. The older generations have failed to teach the ideals of citizenship to the next generation. But there is hope. The report provides new evidence that civic education makes a big difference in the attitudes toward citizenship, knowledge and civic engagement of young people.

The report is based on a national public opinion survey designed to tap how the civic attitudes, knowledge and participation of young people—the DotNet generation between 15 and 26 years of age—compare to those of older generations. The poll was conducted by Knowledge Networks, a research firm that conducts scientifically based Internet surveys. The sampling error for the two age groups—15 to 26 and over 26—is approximately ±4 percentage points each.

The survey results reveal a breakdown in how older generations pass on the values of democracy to younger Americans, especially in the area of what it means to be a good citizen.

Here are some key findings regarding the qualities of good citizens:

Seventy-eight percent of those in the older generations say we need to pay attention to government and politics compared with 54 percent of the younger generation.

Less than half of the DotNets think that communicating with elected officials or volunteering or donating money to help others are qualities of a good citizen.

Only 66 percent of the DotNets say that voting is a necessary quality for being a good citizen, compared with 83 percent of those over age 26.

Among the DotNet generation, 64 percent report that they have taken a high school course on civics or American government. Those who have done so are much more likely to believe they are personally responsible for making things better for society and have a more expansive concept of the qualities of a good citizen. On the importance of voting, for example, there is a 24 point spread between those who have taken a government class and those who haven't.

In the area of civic engagement—the act of governing ourselves:

Only half of the DotNets reported that they voted in the most recent elections or

that they follow politics, compared to three-quarters of those over age 26.

In many areas of civic participation, two or three times more DotNets who have taken a civics class report that they have engaged in civic activities than those who have not.

On civic knowledge—the tool that enables us to govern ourselves:

Three-quarters of the older generations correctly identified the party of their state's governor and three out of five knew the Republicans control Congress. But only one-third could correctly identify the party in control of their state's legislature.

Among DotNets, eight out of 10 know that the cartoon Simpsons live in Springfield, and the great majority know that Ruben Studdard is the reigning American Idol. But less than half know the party of their state's governor, and only 40 percent can say which party controls Congress.

On attitudes toward representative democracy—our appreciation and understanding of the complexities of the legislative process:

The majority of Americans grasp the fact that people disagree on the issues and the system has to work to resolve such disagreements.

The public is cynical about the people and processes of government. They are about equally divided on whether legislators care what people in their districts think or don't care about the opinions of ordinary people. Two in five believe that those elected to public office are out to serve their own personal interests, while only one in three thinks they are trying to serve the public interest. A majority believes that the system is run by a few big interests rather than for the benefit of all.

Americans believe the country would be better off if the people decided issues directly by voting on them. Support for representative democracy is limited.

The gap between the civic attitudes, knowledge and participation of the new generation of DotNets and the older ones is substantially greater than the gaps between previous generations. It suggests that the DotNets will never be as engaged in democracy as their elders, even as they age.

Civic education makes a big difference in the attitudes, knowledge and engagement of young people. Thirty-nine states have civics or government class requirements for high school graduation. All states will want to review their civic education requirements, standards, assessments, teacher training and course content to determine if they are delivering effective civic education that produces informed citizens.

COMBATING THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to share with this body the extraordinary work being done by a constituent company of mine, BD, the Becton, Dickinson and Company of Franklin Lakes, NJ in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

First, I would like to applaud the Senate's efforts in passing the McConnell-Sessions-Leahy amendment, as part of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004 that will provide funding to combat unsafe medical practices in Africa as a means to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS on that continent.