

the St. Paul Children and Youth Reading Ministry, a program that is designed to motivate and reward children for their reading efforts.

Pastor Williams is undoubtedly one of the strongest civic leaders in the Capital Region. Pastor Williams' leadership capacities have included: President of United Pastors of Sacramento, Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc, President of the California State Baptist Convention and President of the Northern District Baptist Association. Pastor Williams is the current President of the Oak Park and St. Paul Community Outreach Program.

Pastor and First Lady Williams are the proud parents of Gwen and Ephraim Jr., although he has since passed on. They also enjoy the love and companionship of their four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Pastor Williams and First Lady Williams on their 50th wedding anniversary. As the family and friends of the Williams family gather to celebrate this terrific milestone, I would like to especially thank Pastor Williams and First Lady Williams for all their great service to their community. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Pastor Ephraim Williams and First Lady Carrie Sue Williams continued success in all their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 620, 621, 622, and 623. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 620 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S.J. Res. 22, Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service; rollcall vote 621 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S.J. Res. 18, Commending the Inspectors General; roll call vote 622 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Con. Res. 299, Honoring Sargent Shriver; and rollcall vote 623, on the Hour of Meeting.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 620, 621, 622, and 623.

HONORING MR. DANIEL MILLER OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS, TO RECOGNIZE HIS DESIGN OF THE TEXAS STATE QUARTER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel Miller of Arlington, Texas. Daniel is the artist who designed the Texas State quarter, which will debut in 2004 and will be the 28th in the series of state commemorative quarters from the U.S. Mint. His design was picked from over 3000 entries.

Daniel has gracefully and accurately captured the spirit of our great State. The Texas State quarter will feature a Lone Star springing from the outline of a map of Texas, with a lar-

iat featured prominently. When asked about what inspired him with the coin's design, Daniel simply said, "I toyed around with putting the Alamo in, but Texas is so much more than just the Alamo."

Indeed, Texas is much more than the Alamo. Its rich history and people can hardly be summed up in a coin, but Mr. Miller has gamely risen to the task. Although a native Minnesotan, having come to Texas only 15 years ago, Daniel's design tells me that the blood of a true Texan runs through his veins.

Daniel's inspired work will soon be familiar to millions of people across this great nation. Whether they collect or spend the Texas quarter, I believe that a little bit of the Texas spirit will rub off on everyone who encounters Daniel's work of art.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Daniel and his work to recognize Texas's great history. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Daniel Miller as we celebrate his design for the Texas State quarter. We salute him today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act of 2003. My bill would expand Medicare eligibility for uninsured patients with advanced chronic kidney disease before their condition progresses to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) status. The bill would provide access to healthcare and most importantly disease management and pre-ESRD educational and counseling services. It would improve the health and quality of life for those suffering from kidney disease and could provide real savings for the Medicare program by helping chronic kidney disease patients delay costly dialysis treatments and kidney transplants associated with the end stage status of the disease.

ESRD patients are the only group of patients eligible for Medicare enrollment solely due to their medical diagnosis. ESRD is characterized by a permanent loss of kidney function, which results in the need for dialysis treatments or kidney transplantation in order to sustain life. Under current law, a physician must certify that an individual's kidney functions have deteriorated to end-stage status for a patient to be eligible for the Medicare ESRD program. Subsequently, there may be an additional waiting period of up to 3 months depending on the type of dialysis procedure chosen by the patient before the individual becomes eligible for benefits. Thus, benefits are only received after the cessation of adequate kidney functioning.

The cost to the Federal Government for providing care to an ESRD patient is very high. The average per capita expense for all ESRD patients was \$33,282 in 2000, approximately 8 times the annual cost of care for the average Medicare beneficiary. The annual cost for in-center hemodialysis, the most frequent form of dialysis used, approaches \$55,000.

There has been a substantial amount of research within the past several years indicating

that the provision of improved medical care and disease-related pre-ESRD educational and counseling services to advanced chronic kidney disease patients prior to their progressing to end-stage renal status has multiple positive effects. The provision of these pre-ESRD services slows down the progression toward ESRD status, decreases the occurrence and intensity of related diseases and decreases overall mortality rates. By allowing uninsured patients with advanced kidney disease to access care prior to qualifying for Medicare due to an End Stage Renal Disease diagnosis, this bill wisely and appropriately addresses a critical unmet health need.

Under the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act, uninsured, pre-ESRD chronic kidney disease patients would be eligible for full Medicare coverage and pre-ESRD counseling and educational services. To be eligible, a physician would need to certify that a chronic kidney disease patient has reached a level of kidney functioning deterioration predictive of a need for dialysis or a transplant in the next 1½ years under a widely accepted clinical standard. Individuals eligible under the bill would pay Medicare Part B premiums. Pre-ESRD educational and counseling services provided by this legislation address treatment options, disease management, and nutrition. These new services would also be available to current Medicare enrollees who become diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

This bill also requests that the Secretary of Health and Human Services establish at least 2 demonstration projects in cooperation with recognized kidney patient organizations, to devise ways, or demonstrate means through which peer education procedures can slow progress to ESRD and improve outcomes for patients with this disease.

Today, more than 300,000 individuals are covered under the Medicare ESRD program. By 2010, it is expected that this number will more than double. This bill, which is supported by the National Kidney Association and the American Association of Kidney Patients, will help minimize the damaging impact of this chronic illness and slow the growth of individuals suffering from ESRD. By delaying the need for either dialysis or transplantation, one can also anticipate substantial cost savings to the government. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act so we can make these vital improvements to the Medicare program for those who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER DOWNEY OF CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with genuine pleasure that I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Jennifer Downey of Clinton Township, Michigan, for her recent promotion to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established in 1958 to develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions, and its significant role in national

defense. The goal of the Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach cadets patriotism, courage, confidence and self reliance.

Cadet CPO Downey has been a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Program's Tomcat Squadron for over 5 years. She has completed a large number of advanced training courses over her tenure in the program, including seamanship training aboard the USNSCS *Grayfox*, Coast Guard training, Master at Arms School, and Petty Officer Leadership Academy. In addition, she has completed sixty-four hours of community service and won numerous citations and ribbons.

Cadet CPO Downey's promotion to Chief Petty Officer was brought to my attention in a letter from her Commanding Officer, LTJG Lisa Stoyanovich, who writes me to say that CPO Downey "is a very personable young woman who takes pride in herself and her unit. CPO Downey's performance of her duties is always top-notch, her leadership abilities are exceptional, and her ability to motivate other cadets is finely tuned. Through her years of Navy League Cadet and Naval Sea Cadet training, she has earned the respect of her peers, and the officers in the unit."

The letter from Lieutenant Stoyanovich goes on to say that "Chief Petty Officer Downey has developed into a mature, solid leader and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps hopes to develop in young people."

I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Jennifer Downey for her achievements as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

OPPOSING THE SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill despite being one of its cosponsors and having voted for it when it came before the House on October 15th.

I strongly believe Syria's actions ought to be called into question. To say this regime is a bad actor is putting it mildly. Their actions are rightly condemned, especially when it comes to their tacit support for terrorism and ongoing occupation of Lebanon. The United States ought to use the tools at our disposal—both political and economic—to demand an end to their egregious policies.

There is, however, a reason why I am voting against this resolution. It is based on my long held reservations about the President's intentions on foreign policy. Given his belligerent declarations yesterday, I have genuine concerns that he may seek authority in this resolution to pursue aggressive military action against Syria.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this President did not need much to march to war against Iraq. At best, the evidence was soft, the intelligence was trumped up and now not a grain of proof can be found showing Iraq had any weapons of mass destruction. But, ultimately, President Bush used past declarations of Congress meant merely to reprimand Iraq for its policies to justify full-blown war against that regime.

This resolution today contains provisions that rightly admonish Syria, but do so on the

basis of reasonable beliefs and assumptions, not proven facts. Most notably, there is reference to Syria's "hostile actions" in regard to the United States and our troops in Iraq. Although our suspicions are well founded, there is as yet no proven connection between the government of Syria and terrorism in Iraq.

I have concerns the President may not draw this distinction and take these words as grounds for pursuing preemptive military action.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I don't trust this President. His actions toward Iraq have clearly demonstrated his willingness to lie to the American people. But, they also underscore his willingness to use force indiscriminately without the burden of proof.

I cannot support a resolution that might be used as a vehicle for the President to act counter to the interest of the American people. I vote "no" on this resolution.

HONORING THE BASIC HIGH SCHOOL MJROTC UNIT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Basic High School Marine Corps JROTC unit. I am proud to represent this outstanding group of young men and women and urge the entire House to join me in commending them today.

The MJROTC unit at Basic High, in Henderson, Nevada is one of the top JROTC units in the country, having been recognized as a Naval Honor School for the 2002–2003 school year. In addition, the Basic High MJROTC unit is the National Champion of the unarmed competition at the United States Air Force Academy National Invitational Drill Meet Championship, and has won seven times in the last 9 years. The Basic High armed competition unit has won the National Championship every time it has competed.

Basic High MJROTC is not only a champion on the drill field; it is also a champion in producing young men and women of character. Basic High MJROTC has been an active part of honoring Veterans Day in Henderson, with the whole battalion presenting the colors for the City of Henderson ceremony. The unit also led the local celebrations of the 228th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps. I want to thank the members of the unit, and instructors Lieutenant Colonel Montgomery, Master Gunnery Sergeant Ignatz, and First Sergeant Rael for standing always faithful, "Semper Fidelis," to the best traditions of Nevada, America, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the amazing life and contributions of Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, OP, Ph.D., as she prepares to retire from service to the

Barry University community this December. Sister Jeanne is the president of Barry University, which is located in Miami Shores, Florida. Since becoming president in 1981, Sister Jeanne has worked endlessly to increase the reputation and endowment of Barry University, raise hundreds of millions of dollars for her student's aid, and create a student body and alumni that stretches 70 countries, ranking number one in diversity among southern regional universities.

Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where she first learned what it meant to love and educate. As a little girl, she realized that in order to stop hatred, crime, and injustice, education must be the first priority on any agenda. Sister recalls the story when she was a 13-year old girl riding a streetcar in Detroit, she noticed a black woman enter the car with four small children. As the streetcar lurched forward, one of the children fell into her lap. Without hesitating, young Jeanne gladly held the young child for the remainder of the ride. Later, as a man departed the streetcar, he walked by and spit on young Jeanne.

Startled by what occurred, Jeanne asked her father later that evening why the man spit on her. Jeanne's father replied, "prejudice". Innocently, Jeanne asked, "how do you stop that?" "Education" was her father's answer. This simple response began a vision. A vision we honor today.

The Adrian Dominican Sisters founded Barry University in 1940, as a university dedicated to educating women. Since then, the University has continued to be administered by women, including the last 22-years with Sister Jeanne at the helm. My first year in the people's House, was also Sister's first year as Barry president. The year was 1981, and for Sister Jeanne it was the beginning of an educational revolution. In 22 tremendous years, Barry has changed from a predominantly women's university of 2,000, into a diverse campus of 8,500. She has raised nearly \$170 million for the university since she took office and has seen the university contribute nearly \$200 million to South Florida's economy last year.

Under the supervision of Sister Jeanne, Barry has been able to sustain in excess of 1,000 employees, up from 340 when Sister Jeanne started in 1981. Barry's budget has also increased dramatically rising from \$8.3 million to a staggering \$100 million. Barry's endowment has also risen more than 2,000 percent to \$22 million during the past 22 years. The university now offers seven doctoral degrees, including the only Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in the Southeast, and only seven universities in the country to offer such a degree. During her term as president, Sister Jeanne has inspired those around her to give more and more of themselves to better the lives of the students of Barry University. A tireless educator, Sister Jeanne has not only contributed greatly to Barry University, but also to many other institutions around Florida and the nation.

Sister Jeanne has served as chair of the Council of Independent Colleges from 1994–1996, the chair of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities also from 1994–1996, and as an Executive Council member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges from 1991–1996. Just in Florida alone, Sister Jeanne has