

as a Sunday School teacher. Also, he was a member of Ducks Unlimited, Vernon County Bar Association and the Missouri Bar Association. Judge Kelso was a charter member of the Nevada Jaycees, served on the steering committee for the Nevada Centennial Celebration and was a leader in the Boy Scouts. He dedicated himself to conservation and was voted Farmer-Sportsman of the Year in 1966.

Mr. Speaker, Judge H.A. Kelso will be missed by all who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family, his wife Doradee and his three daughters, Maridee Kelso Devore, Constance Kelso Beaver and Sylvia Kelso Tucker.

LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an emerging health problem. People living with HIV/AIDS are not able to afford the cost of the medications that improve their health and extend their lives. People who have traditionally been able to rely on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) under Title II of the Ryan White Care Act are not able to get the help that they need because we continue to underfund the program.

In my home state and many others, the number of clients served by ADAP is on the rise. If enrollment continues to increase at the current rate in New York, we will soon need to implement waiting lists as 11 other states have already been forced to do.

In the 2004 fiscal year, New York has a federal shortfall in ADAP funding in the tens of millions of dollars. New York bears about 20% of the national HIV/AIDS epidemic impact, as it has for over two decades. Yet this number extends far beyond just money; it equates to people, specifically, 3,137 people in New York who are HIV positive, with gross incomes of less than \$44,000 a year, who cannot afford their AIDS drugs, which can cost as much as \$1,000.00 a month, or more. These 3,137 people are obviously in need of ADAP, but are not receiving assistance. According to the federal poverty statistics, these people are impoverished, but they remain unserved by New York's ADAP.

Today we have more people living with HIV/AIDS as opposed to dying from HIV/AIDS than ever before. AIDS-related deaths have declined drastically since 1996, which can be attributed to the success of HIV/AIDS treatment regimens and ADAP. We can't continue to allow Americans to die of HIV/AIDS when we know how to save their lives.

Yet, as I stand here today, we are allowing Americans to die who cannot afford their treatment regimens because we are not fully funding the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. We cannot allow Americans to die on waiting lists as they have in Kentucky and West Virginia.

ADAP helps people like Annie Ball of New Hampshire, a former nurse who had become too sick to work due to her HIV status. Yet, because of a successful treatment regimen she was able to return to work. Annie relies on ADAP to afford the expensive prescriptions

that have allowed her to become a productive member of society again. Yet, if the ADAP program is threatened, Annie will, in her words, "devastate me, my family and my loved ones, and my community, as I will not be able to work and contribute my talents."

President Bush just allocated an additional \$20 million to help in the relief of the ADAP crisis, however we need a total of \$122 million just to clear all of the waiting lists for ADAP and preserve existing drug access in line with federal standards of HIV care. We need to increase funding above that level to deal with expected demand for new enrollment, and for existing patients in the coming 24 months. The true need for ADAP in Fiscal Year 2005 is \$217 million; the committee fell far short of that mark in the bill we are considering today. I urge that the conference report on this bill fully fund the program so that no American who qualifies for ADAP will suffer needlessly.

HONORING DANIEL R. PORTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor a great man who has dedicated his life to his country as a Citizen Soldier of the United States Army Reserve. After 10 years of service, Daniel Porter received the Meritorious Service Medal as a Master Sergeant in the United States Army Reserve. This medal was presented for service offered from June of 1986 until June of 1996 as Daniel dedicated his free time to serving our Nation and the great state of Nevada as a military reservist.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand today to honor this man. It is men and women such as Daniel Porter that continue to help our country remain safe and protected from the increasing dangers we see every day. I would hope that my colleagues would stand with me in honoring Daniel Porter, and the many other military reservists that protect our freedom and combat terror.

REGI PHELPS: SAN DIEGO LABOR COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize Regi Phelps, as he is honored by the San Diego Labor Community with the 2004 Johns Fellowship Award at the Twenty-Second Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet on September 11, 2004.

Regi was born and raised in San Diego, California, graduating from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. He served in the United States Navy from 1970–1973 and completed overseas tours of duty in Vietnam and the Philippines.

His job with Bechtel began in 1976. He worked as a subcontracts administrator on the Hope Creek Nuclear Project in southern New Jersey. In 1978, he moved to Richmond, Virginia to work in labor relations for the Virginia

Electric Power Company at the North Anna Nuclear Facility. In 1979, he rejoined Bechtel in labor relations in the early days of construction at the San Onofre Nuclear Project.

Regi has served at Bechtel as Labor Relations Representative, Area Labor Representative, Senior Labor Relations Representative, Labor Relations Supervisor, and Regional Manager. In 2004, he was named Vice-President and Manager/Labor Relations, with overall labor relations responsibility for Bechtel Worldwide.

He has been involved in developing the San Onofre Nuclear Project Labor Agreement—including the recently-renegotiated agreement in effect through 2010—between Southern California Edison (the owner), the San Diego Building Trades, and Bechtel. This labor agreement and project provides employment for thousands of Building Trades Craftspeople.

Regi also serves as a Director to the North American Contractors Association, and as Management Trustee to the Laborers' National Safety and Health Fund. He previously served as Vice-Chairman of the Boilermakers' Health and Welfare fund and as Trustee to numerous local union apprenticeship trusts throughout the western United States.

Regi's grandfather was a proud member of Laborers' Local 89. His father, Ray, retired from Bechtel in 1985, is a current member of IBEW Local 569, and was recently awarded his 45-year membership pin. Regi and his wife, Christine, have been married for 28 years and are currently living in San Francisco Bay area. They have two children: Kevin, who is a junior at the University of Southern California, and Lauren, who is a sophomore at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania.

The banquet at which Regi will be presented his award is named in recognition of the late John Lyons of the Teamsters who was very active in the San Diego community. He was a founder of the San Diego Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America. The friends of Mr. Lyons continue to support his cause, and proceeds from the yearly banquets are used to support bone marrow testing and local research grants. Since its inception, the John Lyons Memorial Banquet has raised over one million dollars.

Regi deserves our highest praise for his dedication to the labor movement and specifically to labor relations. My congratulations go to Regi Phelps as he receives this prestigious Johns 2004 Fellowship Award from his peers.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OLYMPIAN PAUL HAMM

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Paul Hamm for his historic 2004 Olympic gold medal in the individual All-Around exercise, for his silver medal on the high bar exercise, and for being a member of the silver medal-winning U.S. men's Olympic gymnastics team.

Paul showed to the entire world courage, fortitude, and the American spirit of determination in overcoming adversity during his all-around competition. After the fourth of six rotations, Paul was a distant 12th, but he did not

give up. He willed his way through flawless executions on the parallel bars and the high bars to retake first, claim the gold medal, and make history.

However, this was not the first time that Paul has made history. Paul also became the first American man to win the individual all-around world title last year at the 2003 World Championships in Anaheim, California. Hamm completed a clutch performance on the difficult high bar routine during the final rotation to secure the title. He was only the second American to win a medal in the all-around world competition. Paul also secured a gold medal for the floor exercise, helping to lead his team to a silver medal.

In 2003, Paul was named by the International Gymnastics Federation as the Gymnast of the Year. Without question, gymnastics has no better representative.

Paul was born in Wisconsin, but chose to train for the Olympics at The Ohio State University. Paul is now a distinguished resident of Columbus, and his community is proud of all that he has accomplished.

Again, I congratulate Paul for the dedication and hard work he has demonstrated over the years, and for the incredible achievements that he has made both personally and with his team while representing our great nation on the world stage in Athens.

RECOGNIZING THE OAKLAND LITERACY COUNCIL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today in America, nearly 1 in 5 adult Americans functions at the lowest literacy level. I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in Southeast Michigan that is making tremendous strides in the fight against adult illiteracy. The Oakland Literacy Council delivers quality individualized basic reading and English language instruction to Oakland County, Michigan adults, many of whom are English as a second language students.

Since its inception in 1984, the Oakland Literacy Council has contributed more than 527,000 hours of instruction to 7,000 adults. The Literacy Councils' free service has been valued at over \$13.2 million. In 2003 alone, 400 volunteers donated 43,920 hours of their time to give 450 Oakland County residents the literacy skills necessary for a new job, a high school diploma, or just to read a bedtime story to their children.

Mr. Speaker, the Oakland Literacy Council showcases the very best of America's generosity. Besides the thousands of hours of donated time, the Literacy Council is entirely supported by public and private donations to offer free tutoring to all of its students. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service the Oakland Literacy Council, and its gracious donors and volunteers, have provided to Southeastern Michigan.

HONORING THE REVEREND ABRAHAM MARSACH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of one of our most outstanding leaders, and my dear friend, Reverend Abraham Marsach, as he celebrates his retirement. However, I am quite sure that his retirement does not mean the end of his advocacy and activism.

As we have seen across the Nation, the Hispanic community in New Haven, has grown and flourished over the last several decades. As it has grown, so has its demands for strong, vocal advocates willing to stand and fight for the needs of its members. Reverend Marsach has been just this kind of advocate—a passionate, active leader who has made a real difference in the lives of many. It is not often that you find such dedicated individuals who commit themselves so fully to the betterment of their community.

As both a community and spiritual leader, Reverend Marsach has touched the lives of thousands in New Haven. In his role as President of the Asociacion Ministerial Evangelica Hispana de New Haven, he helped to unite religious leaders across the community and worked with municipal leaders to effect change in the community. The founder of Junta for Progressive Action, he created a social service agency which has helped thousands in New Haven's Hispanic community access the programs and services they need to improve their quality of life. Mentor, leader, advocate, and friend—Reverend Marsach is a true community treasure.

Reverend Marsach has been a fixture in our community for many years and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for the multitude of contributions he has made that have enriched all of our lives. As a spiritual guide at the Star of Jacob Christian Church in New Haven, he has nourished the souls of many, often providing much needed comfort in the hardest of personal trials. I would be remiss if I did not personally thank him for the wonderful tribute that he made to Maria Perez, a member of my staff who passed away just over two years ago. He shared a unique friendship with Maria and his words were of great comfort to her family and my staff during a most difficult time.

Through his hard work and unparalleled dedication, Reverend Marsach has left an indelible mark on the New Haven community and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. For his innumerable contributions and selfless dedication, I am proud to stand today to extend my deepest thanks and sincerest appreciation. It gives me great pleasure to join his wife, Margarita, his three daughters, family, friends, and the New Haven community in congratulating Reverend Abraham Marsach as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE THOMPSON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a man with a distinguished career in public service. Throughout the course of his illustrious career, my great friend, Steve Thompson, served his beloved people of California with great passion, integrity, and distinction. On August 17th, California lost its most influential advocate for healthcare policy when Steve passed away after a brief and courageous battle against cancer. As his family and friends gather to pay tribute and remember Steve's countless achievements and contributions to the people of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of the Capitol's most well-respected figures, and my dear friend, Steve Thompson.

Steve started his forty-year Capitol career in 1964 as an Assistant Economist for the Department of Water Resources. In 1966, Steve moved to the Legislative Analyst's Office and, a year later, to the Assembly Health Committee. In 1971, Steve took a job as Principal Consultant to then Assemblyman Willie Brown's Ways and Means Committee. At Ways and Means, Thompson was part of what is now considered an all-star team of staffers that included John Mockler, now a leader on education, Phil Isenberg, who eventually became the Mayor of Sacramento and served in the Legislature for fourteen years, Ray Sullivan, who became a fiscal policy leader, and Bob Connelly, who became the Assembly's Chief Administrative Officer. Steve's numerous gifts were apparent to his cohorts from early on in his career. "In politics, you have to have passion, knowledge and perspective to succeed and Steve had all three," said John Mockler, a friend since 1965.

During this early part of his legislative career, Steve drafted California's first bill on autism and helped create the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, California's landmark reform on mental health services. Steve also played a big role in shaping legislation in the 1960s that created the system for caring for severely developmentally disabled people in smaller regional centers rather than in large state hospitals. Steve left the Legislature in 1974 and founded a public policy research firm. Seven years later, Steve returned to the Capitol as the Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Assembly, Willie Brown. Willie Brown often referred to Steve as being "central" to his operation. In 1986, Steve took over as director of the Assembly Office of Research.

Throughout the Capitol, Steve was affectionately known as "the Health SMIC," short for "smartest man in California" on health care related issues. In 1992, Steve's mastery of health care related issues landed him the post of government affairs director and chief lobbyist for the California Medical Association. Steve used his influence to fight for the issue that he cared about the most: improving healthcare coverage for the medically uninsured. Just last year, Steve was the driving force behind legislation that requires employers to provide health care benefits to workers. Steve's passion to improve health care was so great that he was still testifying before legislative committees a week before his death.