

Finally, we must bolster our research efforts to improve our understanding of the eye and visual system in health and disease, as well as developing the most appropriate and effective means of prevention, and access to treatment and rehabilitation.

This report provides the roadmap we need to raise awareness about vision loss, give individuals the tools they need to prevent it, and give hope to the millions already suffering from vision loss that better treatments for can be found.

We would like to thank all of the organizations involved in crafting this report, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, Light-house International, the National Alliance For Eye and Vision Research, the National Eye Institute (NEI) and most importantly, Prevent Blindness America. Prevent Blindness America should be commended for spearheading this effort, for bringing together these various groups, and for its almost century-long tradition of preventing vision loss.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRADLEY CHRISTIAN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who, surrounded by culture in his formative years, had a vision to preserve an important aspect of the Virgin Islands quality of life. Mr. Bradley Christian, along with Norma Christian and Claudia Walker were the first officers of the St. Croix Heritage Dancer, founded by Enrique Santos.

Mr. Christian has committed himself to preserving our cultural dances for future generations so that they may have an awareness of the rich culture to be found in the Virgin Islands, specifically on St. Croix. These dances are a combination of the influence of the seven flags that flew over our island and the ethnicities of the different people who have lived here. They have evolved into a performance that is second to none, incorporating the influences of the German and French quadrille.

Mr. Christian and the St. Croix Heritage Dancers have performed all over the Caribbean and the United States, including being featured during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 1990. The St. Croix Heritage Dancers is celebrating their 23rd year anniversary with a Hibiscus Ball on Saturday, May 22nd. King Michael Dow and Queen Sylvia Stewart will rule over this year's celebration. The 2004 honorees are Eldred "Edgie" Christian, Jr. and Ernest "Prince Galloway" Galloway, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the United States Virgin Islands, it is an honor for me to enter this tribute to Mr. Bradley Christian into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2004, due to official business, this Member unavoidably missed rollcall vote number 146 on H. Res. 605 that recognizes the importance of increasing autism awareness. Had this Member been present, he would have voted "aye."

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge that Congress make immigration reform a top priority.

Our immigration system is critically flawed. In fact, it's the Achilles' Heel of America's national security. We learned that hard reality on September 11th and we're still paying for it today, as foreign visitors and illegal immigrants alike move effortlessly across our borders.

Since 2001, Congress and the Bush Administration have made changes that have addressed some of the many systemic flaws in the immigration process. But, a great deal remains untackled on the road to ensuring America's safety.

We still have twelve to fifteen million immigrants living and working—illegally—on American soil. Fortunately, most are not security threats and simply seek to improve their own economic status by working for U.S. wages. But, as we witnessed on 9/11, some are here to do us harm either as terrorists, or, more likely, by engaging in criminal activities. We must continue to identify and expel those who pose public safety threats.

Most immigrants are good people. However, numbers matter, and simply put, we're letting too many people in, and we aren't properly assimilating the roughly 1.5 million new immigrants who come here annually. Many of them are uneducated, unskilled, and speak no English. This has real, adverse, impacts on American life. Jobs are lost to cheap foreign labor influx, schools are overcrowded, public health care is strained by millions who lack coverage, and urban sprawl and congestion impacts the environment.

Mr. Speaker, Congress can no longer ignore the immigration issue. We must reform current policies to radically curtail illegal inflows. Our colleague from South Carolina, Representative GRESHAM BARRETT, has introduced comprehensive, much needed immigration reform in H.R. 3522. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important measure.

COMMEMORATING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 20th annual Public Service Recognition Week. I am proud to be a co-chair of the Congressional Public Service Caucus, proud to have been a federal employee, and proud to represent in Congress a large number of my constituents who are federal employees. These employees are a national asset who perform hard work day after day with professionalism and dedication.

Federal employees are the backbone of our government. They can be found working to find cures for diseases at the National Institute of Health, helping seniors with their Social Security benefits, representing our interests overseas in the State Department, serving as stewards of parks in the National Park Service, helping our country defend the homeland at the Department of Defense and at the Department of Homeland Security. These are but a few examples of the many areas in which federal employees are serving our country.

We must not forget those federal employees who are risking their lives in the war against terrorism. The first combat death in Afghanistan in the wake of September 11 was CIA officer Johnny Micheal Spann, one of my constituents. And today, federal employees can be found throughout the globe fighting the war against terrorism in many different ways.

The sacrifice and hard work of our federal employees, whether abroad or at home, should never be forgotten. Federal employees deserve a proper pay raise—which is why I have been pleased to support pay parity for our federal employees since I have been in Congress.

They deserve adequate health care—which is why I have supported legislation to make sure federal employees get the health benefits they need.

And retired federal employees must not be forgotten—which is why I have supported legislation to aid federal employees in their retirement. Federal employees deserve to be honored during Public Service Recognition Week. But we must always remember the hard work they do for our country throughout the year.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ANGELO DEL ROSSI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cultural innovator in my district, Mr. Angelo Del Rossi, President Emeritus of Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, NJ. This week, the Paper Mill Playhouse will host their 2004 Paper Mill Gala as a tribute to Mr. Del Rossi's lifelong love of theatre.

Mr. Del Rossi is a native of New Jersey, who attended Rutgers University and graduated from the Neighborhood Playhouse School in New York.

Mr. Del Rossi joined Paper Mill Playhouse in 1963. He became Paper Mill's Associate

Producer in 1965, and was appointed Executive Producer in 1975.

After much of the theatre was destroyed in a fire in 1980, his commitment did not waver, and he became the driving force behind the rebuilding efforts.

Under Mr. Del Rossi's leadership, Paper Mill has continued to flourish as a cultural center in my district, creating original works, hosting national and international productions, and nurturing young artists into stars of the stage.

No stranger to accolade, Angelo Del Rossi was honored in 1983 with a special resolution from the floor of the New Jersey State Senate. He has, on multiple occasions, been given the distinction of "Outstanding New Jerseyman" by our state's newspaper, *The Star-Ledger*, and has been named one of the 25 most influential people in the New Jersey arts community.

He is a founding member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and has served as President of the Council of Stock Theaters. He is a Board member of ArtPride/New Jersey

and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. He has also served on the panel of the opera-musical theatre program of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as on its policy and planning committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to my neighbor, Mr. Angelo Del Rossi, for his contributions to the cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending him our congratulations for having brought such positive recognition to the city of Millburn.