

TRIBUTE TO MR. GABRIEL L.I.
BEVILACQUA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments and contributions of Mr. Gabriel Bevilacqua, Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. It is a privilege to recognize an individual that strives to ensure that Philadelphia is always at its best.

Mr. Bevilacqua is a member of the litigation team for Saul Ewing, LLP as well as an involved leader of numerous professional and civic organizations. Mr. Bevilacqua has held various leadership positions that include being Chair of the firm's Health Law Litigation Committee, serving 7 years as a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Board of Governors, and serving as the Bar Association's Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. He currently serves as a Trustee for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and is a respected former President of the foundation.

Mr. Bevilacqua has remained active outside of the professional arena by being an active member of the Nazareth Hospital Board of Trustees, and by serving on the Board of Directors for Nazareth Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and Holy Redeemer Hospital Home Health Agency. Gabriel Bevilacqua was selected as "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" by Philadelphia Magazine for 2004 for successfully upholding a professional and personal commitment to the Greater Philadelphia area.

It is my honor to recognize a person whose dedication to the community has enriched the lives of countless individuals in both my district and the state of Pennsylvania. I hope that all of my distinguished colleagues will join me and his family in honoring Mr. Gabriel Bevilacqua.

RECOGNIZING THE CONCERNS OF
POLICE SURVIVORS, INC.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. The organization, which provides support and encouragement to families of law enforcement officers who have given their lives, observes its 20th anniversary on May 14. The organization, also known as COPS, has grown into an international non-profit organization comprised of 13,000 families in the United States, with an affiliate in the United Kingdom.

The genesis of COPS occurred in 1983, when ten survivors of fallen officers gathered to talk about the difficulties they faced when their loved ones were killed. Within a year they decided there was a need for a support organization that could understand the trauma inflicted on surviving families and agencies when an officer was killed in the line of duty.

COPS was officially organized on May 14, 1984, with 110 police survivors attending the first National Police Survivors' Conference in

Washington, DC. It organized independently from other police organizations in order to allow members to reach out to any survivor regardless of their loved one's police organization affiliation.

COPS sponsors weekend retreats for surviving spouses, parents, adult children, siblings, and in-laws. The organization also hosts a week-long summer camp and a weekend wilderness experience in the Colorado Rockies for surviving children. With funding from the Department of Justice, COPS presents training that teaches officers how to help surviving families, affected co-workers, and communities deal with the tragedy of line-of-duty deaths.

Mr. Speaker, COPS is providing an important service to those families and coworkers of officers who have lost their lives. From humble beginnings in a basement office to a brand new facility in Camdenton, Missouri, COPS has brought healing and support to those who have lost a friend or loved one. I know my fellow Members will join with me in thanking members of this organization for their work and dedication.

FREEDOM FOR NELSON MOLINÉ
ESPINO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Nelson Moliné Espino, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Moliné Espino is a pro-democracy activist working for freedom for the people of Cuba. He is the President of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba and a member of the 30 November party. Mr. Moliné Espino has dedicated his energy and talents to liberating the oppressed people of Cuba from the tyrannical regime.

As a leader in the struggle for freedom and human rights for the people of Cuba, Mr. Moliné Espino has been a constant target for the dictator's thugs. According to Amnesty International, he has been harassed for his activities, called into a police station, and threatened with arrest if he did not abandon his struggle for human rights and workers rights.

Because of his belief in freedom, Mr. Moliné Espino was arrested as part of the tyrant's vicious crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists in March 2003. On March 20, he was detained and his home was searched. Eventually Mr. Moliné Espino was "indicted" on charges that he had mixed with people dedicated to "subversive" activity. After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Moliné Espino is languishing in the inhuman squalor of Castro's totalitarian gulag. According to reports, since his trial in April 2003, he has again been "tried and sentenced" to an additional year on charges of "disrespect". Let us be clear, Mr. Moliné Espino is locked in the grotesque inferno of totalitarian repression simply because he believes in democracy and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are locked in a diabolical gulag 90 miles from our shore. My

Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Nelson Moliné Espino and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING "COVER THE
UNINSURED WEEK"

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 10–16 as "Cover the Uninsured Week." This is an important opportunity to put the spotlight on those individuals without access to coverage as well as those with inadequate coverage. Over 44 million people—15% of the U.S. population—lack health insurance coverage of any kind over the entire year. It has been said many times, but it must be said yet again—the United States is the only industrialized nation which fails to provide universal health care to its people. I hope the "Cover the Uninsured Week" will not just stimulate discussion, but action, so that soon that statement will no longer be true.

Individuals without health insurance are more likely than insured Americans to postpone health care, not getting the care they need and not filling prescriptions. Access to health insurance also has a major impact on the financial well-being of families—over a third of the uninsured had a serious problem paying medical bills in the past year and nearly a quarter was contacted by a collection agency. The alarming fact is that this disturbing trend is only worsening. Throughout most of the 1990s, the number of uninsured has been steadily increasing by about 1 million people every year. This problem persists despite the fact that a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that 78 percent of all Americans believe that the government has a responsibility to expand health insurance coverage to more Americans. This strong sense of national support for expanding health care to the uninsured is a mandate to the government to act now on this urgent problem that is profoundly affecting the ability of Americans to live healthy and productive lives.

The lack of affordable health care and the national epidemic of the uninsured is not a problem with a single face. The uninsured are a diverse group of people—they are young professionals, small business owners, laborers and service employees. They are children, parents, and the near elderly. Any working person in this country can end up being uninsured at some point in their life. Today, I would like to look beyond the numbers and present before you snapshots of two people from my state of Illinois who are living without insurance.

Jocelyn Graf of Oak Park, Illinois had to give up her health insurance when she started her own small English language training business and discovered that she could not afford the insurance plans available on the market. Jocelyn has received discounted medical care with assistance from the Campaign for Better Health Care. Jocelyn explained that she has been willing to risk living without insurance because she is young and healthy, but the lack of coverage would have been harder to deal with if she had ongoing health needs or was injured.

Uyles Singleton of Chicago, Illinois worked for an envelope manufacturing company for 35 years. When the company went out of business last July, Uyles had only one month's notice his employer coverage insurance, which provided him and his wife access to medical care. Uyles quickly discovered that he could not afford to pay the exorbitantly high insurance premiums and now has to pay for all of his medical and prescription drug expenses out-of-pocket. Uyles pays \$300 a month for his monthly medications to treat a chronic condition and can no longer afford to visit his regular primary care physician. In February, Uyles went to Cook County Hospital after separating his shoulder where he was x-rayed, but was not treated because he was unable to pay for the costs of care.

Unfortunately, the problem runs much deeper than just the uninsured. Perhaps the sleeping giant of our health care coverage crisis is the population of Americans who are underinsured and lack access to urgent and necessary care. If you have a chronic medical condition and your employer changes health insurance providers or you change jobs and your new policy does not cover a preexisting condition, then you or your family may experience a serious gap in coverage. If you are in need of mental health coverage that your insurance does not cover, you will be unable to access appropriate care. And if you are self-employed or unemployed for even a small stretch of time, you may find yourself priced out of the health insurance market or paying high premiums for an insurance policy that may only cover catastrophic costs. Even temporary gaps in coverage affect the health and financial stability of the so-called "insured population." A 2002 Kaiser Foundation study found that 38 percent of insured individuals report that they or their families experienced at least one problem accessing medical services in the past year, nearly one-fifth (18 percent) reported that they postponed seeking medical care and 15 percent had a problem paying medical bills.

These numbers have real meaning to the people I represent. I have been contacted by a constituent who, although being insured, suffers from breast cancer, a condition not covered by her insurance provider. The very expensive cost of fighting this disease falls squarely on her shoulders with no help from her insurer. I am greatly troubled by the many constituents that I have heard from who struggle to pay the high premiums for their insurance, only to have to ration the medical care they need for themselves and their children because of deductibles that reach \$5,000. Insurance available in today's market is clearly not a full-proof guarantee that people can access the care they need. Given the very thin line distinguishing the underinsured from the uninsured, Congress needs to act to guarantee comprehensive, quality care for both the uninsured and the badly insured.

Any of us could become uninsured and face similar problems in obtaining medical care. Action on this critical issue is long since overdue. I urge my colleagues in Congress to not delay. We must act to make health care a right entitled to each and every single American.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS EAST HIGH SCHOOL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from Half Hollow Hills East High School in Dix Hills, New York for their hard work in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals.

The students, Carolyn Abott, Emily Chin, Samuel Dixon, George Duroseau, Jason Feinstein, Steven Frank, Antonia Fthenakis, Carrie Gerber, Qais Ghafary, Hannah Goldsmith, Bruce Halperin, Emily Kratter, Sami Rashid, Dan Rogove, Jessica Rosenbaum, Gayle Rudofsky, Lauren Shikowitz, Ricki Silverman, Rohini Singh, Caryn Teitelbaum, Shara Venezia-Wallerstein, Jason Vinokur, Nicole Weinstock, Joshua Wolinsky, and Joseph Wolken, led by their teacher Scott Edwards, demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

It is truly an honor to call these outstanding young Americans my constituents. Their success in this competition is also a testament to the exceptional teachers at Half Hollow Hills East High School and elsewhere on Long Island.

I offer my congratulations on their hard-won honorable mention and commend these students on their dedication to the study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

HONORING OAKLAND ARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Oakland Ard, who is being awarded the "Here's looking at you award."

Mr. Ard was born in Sampson, Alabama on September 17, 1925. Mr. Ard left Alabama for Florida on his twenty-fifth birthday.

He was employed by the Port St. Joe Paper Company from 1950 to 1952 and went on to work for Saint Regis Paper Company in Jacksonville, Florida between 1953 and 1957.

In 1957, Mr. Ard moved to Jay, Florida and began working at the Container Corporation in Brewton, Alabama.

Mr. Ard has been a great provider for his community by serving on the Jay Hospital Board of Trustees for four years, the ARC Board of Directors in Santa Rosa County for six years, SRC Chamber of Commerce for nine years. He is currently serving on the Committee's of Government and Military Affairs and the Board of Directors for SHIP.

Mr. Ard has generously volunteered his time with the Jay First Baptist Church in any needed capacity that involves helping his church or people in need. He has been a member of the Jay First Baptist Church for forty years.

Mr. Ard's unselfish deeds of giving his time to help others have made him a well-known and well-loved man throughout his community.

Mr. Ard and his lovely wife Marian have two sons, Freddy and Ronnie, four grandsons and one great grand daughter.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this special person for the example he has set in his community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

PROCLAMATION FROM MOUNT PLEASANT PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH GRAVE DEDICATION CEREMONY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a proclamation that was read at a grave dedication ceremony at the Mount Pleasant Primitive Baptist Church in Jones County, Georgia. This proclamation honors a patriot of the American Revolutionary War, Private Reuben McLeroy, an ancestor of one of my constituents, Mr. Travis Ellis of Hampton, Georgia. I would like to thank Mr. Ellis and the members of the Georgia Society of Sons of the American Revolution for honoring the life of Private McLeroy and keeping the memory alive of the patriots of the Revolutionary War who achieved our independence and fought for the freedoms we enjoy today as American citizens.

REUBEN MCLEROY, A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, The Lyman Hall, Ocmulgee, and Piedmont Chapters of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution conducted on April 24, 2004 a dedication of the grave marker commemorating the service of Revolutionary war patriot, Private Reuben McLeroy, and

Whereas, Reuben McLeroy married Christiana Johnson in April 1776 and lived in Wake County, North Carolina at the commencement of the Revolution. Reuben would enlist in the North Carolina Militia and serve gallantly for the duration of the war. Reuben's unit would participate in the Battle of Eutaw Springs and perform beyond expectations. It was at Eutaw Springs that the outnumbered colonists would defeat the enemy and end the British stronghold in the south.

Whereas, By the end of the Revolutionary War, Reuben McLeroy and family would migrate to Wilkes County, Georgia. When the county was later subdivided into several counties it was in Clarke County that Reuben was ordained as a Baptist preacher in September 1804 at the Mars Hill Baptist Church. Reuben would then move his family to Jones County, Georgia in 1810 and serve the Walnut Creek Baptist Church until his death on February 12, 1820.

Whereas, I recognize and extend my appreciation to the Sons of the American Revolution, Lyman Hall, Ocmulgee, and Piedmont Chapters, for their efforts to provide historical and educational knowledge and to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services and sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; now

Therefore: As the Representative for the Eighth District of Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives, I do hereby recognize the selfless sacrifice made by Patriot Reuben McLeroy as well as all others who with their courage and valor fulfilled a nations quest for Liberty. I hereby confirm the dedication of a grave marker for Private Reuben McLeroy and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.