

and dangerous relationships. It is both a point of pride—in the good work they do—and despair—that the number is so large—that I report that the Women's Network has sheltered women in Rutland for 1087 bed-nights in the past three months alone.

For a decade and a half Bonnie Gainer has led the effort to provide a haven and an alternative to women who are abused. She has been a bulwark in the community, a truly essential resource for hundreds and hundreds of women. She is a remarkable woman, and I salute her, and the many, many other women who support each other in times of desperate need.

H. CON. RES. 398: EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF CONGRESS OVER IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEANS TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this ill-conceived and ill-timed legislation. Let's not fool ourselves: this concurrent resolution leads us down the road to war against Iran. It creates a precedent for future escalation, as did similar legislation endorsing "regime change" in Iraq back in 1998.

I find it incomprehensible that as the failure of our Iraq policy becomes more evident—even to its most determined advocates—we here are approving the same kind of policy toward Iran. With Iraq becoming more of a problem daily, the solution as envisioned by this legislation is to look for yet another fight. And we should not fool ourselves: this legislation sets the stage for direct conflict with Iran. The resolution "calls upon all State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), including the United States, to use all appropriate means to deter, dissuade, and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons . . ." Note the phrase "use all appropriate means."

Additionally, this legislation calls for yet more and stricter sanctions on Iran, including a demand that other countries also impose sanctions on Iran. As we know, sanctions are unmistakably a move toward war, particularly when, as in this legislation, a demand is made that the other nations of the world similarly isolate and blockade the country. Those who wish for a regime change in Iran should especially reject sanctions—just look at how our Cuba policy has allowed Fidel Castro to maintain his hold on power for decades. Sanctions do not hurt political leaders, as we know most recently from our sanctions against Iraq, but rather sow misery among the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society. Dictators do not go hungry when sanctions are imposed.

It is somewhat ironic that we are again meddling in Iranian affairs. Students of history will recall that the U.S. government's ill-advised coup against Iranian leader Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953 and its subsequent installation of the Shah as the supreme ruler led to intense hatred of the United States and eventually to the radical Islamic revolution of 1979. One can only wonder what our relations would

be with Iran if not for the decades of meddling in that country's internal affairs. We likely would not be considering resolutions such as this. Yet the solution to all the difficulties created by our meddling foreign policy always seems to be yet more meddling. Will Congress ever learn?

I urge my colleagues to reject this move toward war with Iran, to reject the failed policies of regime-change and nation-building, and to return to the wise and consistent policy of non-interventionism in the affairs of other sovereign nations.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE SAUK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sesquicentennial of the Sauk City Fire Department. On May 23, the Sauk City Fire Department will celebrate its 150 years of service to community in a festival at the Saint Aloysius Church.

Sauk City was founded in 1854 as Wisconsin's first incorporated village. That same year a Sauk City merchant, J.J. Heller, had a small wooden fire engine built to protect his store from fire. Mr. Heller organized a meeting seeking assistance with the labor-intensive fire engine, making Sauk City home to Wisconsin's oldest volunteer fire department and oldest standing fire station.

During the 19th century, there was a great need for organized and responsive fire departments due to the fire prone stoves, lamps, and chimneys of that era. Furthermore, the business districts, composed of crowded rows of wooden buildings, were constantly at risk for a rapidly spreading fire. Sauk City was a pioneer for this region in stopping these devastating fires.

This is a wonderful success story about a community coming together to fill a need. In 1859, the fire department had a new locally made fire wagon. In order to raise money to purchase a bigger fire engine, the town and its several breweries organized a festival. The outpouring of support was so impressive at the first festival that it became a boisterous event. As the community grew and the technology advanced, the Sauk City Fire Department kept pace with new stations and fire engines. Today, the thirty-eight volunteer professional firefighters of the Sauk City Fire Department serve a 170 square mile area in south central Wisconsin.

While the sheer length of the Sauk City Fire Department's service to the community is worthy of praise, it boasts several other impressive qualities. The Sauk City Fire Department has done a remarkable job of restoring two of its locally manufactured fire engines from 1924 and 1928. It was also first fire department to use the two-toned Decot siren, which was created by Sauk City Fire Chief Ted Decot and became a nationwide commercial success.

Mr. Speaker, I join Fire Chief Michael Fehrenbach and all the residents of Sauk City in celebrating the Sauk City Fire Department's 150 years of service to the community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALAN ALBERTUS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a true American. Alan Albertus was a man that served his country in the U.S. Air Force, as well as his community as an engineer. He was an outdoorsman who had few peers, respecting the land God had blessed us with while enjoying the challenges of Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Alan gave much of his time to defending our constitutional right to bear arms, and often instructed young families on firearms safety, reloading, and firearms ballistics. He was active in politics—he organized rallies, celebrated the Bill of Rights, and was a delegate to conventions. Alan believed the best legacy he could leave to America was that of freedom, and he worked hard to preserve that freedom.

Most importantly, Alan Albertus served his family and his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He will be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO MONICA GILL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Monica Gill, in recognition of her dedication to children and young adults as a teacher and social worker, as well as her accomplishments in the business world.

Monica is not afraid of anything that comes before her other than God as she has always had obstacles in her life that she had to overcome. Losing her mother at the early age of 13 set the precedent for a difficult road ahead. She attended the Spence School—High School, University of Nebraska—Omaha, University of Missouri, Kansas City and Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work. Monica earned a BA in Journalism/International Studies, a M.S. in Urban Studies and 24 credits toward her Masters in Social Work, respectively. While obtaining her college degrees, she had three children: Joan, and twins, Imani and N'Namdi. At the same time, she would also work one or sometimes two jobs.

She began her career as a photographer/public relations assistant at Warner Communications. Next she went to Europe, where she assisted Air Force personnel with their college achievements in Europe. Monica returned to the states where she worked with the college administration preparing the paths for college graduates to successfully gain employment for one of the Fortune 500 companies. She would work one job during the day around her classes and on weekends, she worked with Cox Cable of Omaha in the production and programming department.

In 1983, she received a scholarship from the National Association of Black Journalists for an essay she wrote regarding the life of Malcolm X. That same year she received a broadcaster's award from KMTV-TV Omaha and an internship from KETV-TV as a weekend reporter. She moved to Kansas City and

became an in-house writer for the Federal Reserve Bank District 10. Afterward, she worked for the Kansas City Conventions and Visitors Bureau and the Kansas City Globe (an African-American Daily). Her journalism and broadcasting career was booming, until the twins helped her change careers and she became a Language Arts Teacher for four years. The frustration of teaching children who were dirty and hungry led her to become a social worker and work to improve the lives of youth. After working as a social worker for more than 10 years, she realized her specialty was working with adolescents from 16–23 years old. She assisted over 200 youth to obtain housing, GEDs, employment and vocational training to better their lives. Finding services and advocating for the youth was a God-given vocation for her, which Monica had to recently give up due to surgical complications.

Monica is currently a real estate sales associate for Coldwell Banker-Five Star Realty and serves on the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board. She is on the Advisory Board for Building Blocks Child Care Center, Board Advisor for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services—Pyramid Reception Center, Bronx, and a consultant for the Caribbean Carnival Bands and Activities. Monica also attends Christian Cultural Center, which is pastored by the Rev. A.R. Bernard.

Mr. Speaker, Monica Gill has significantly improved her community through her work as a teacher, social worker, and now as an advisor to advocacy organizations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PRESENTING A TRIBUTE TO THE
LIFE OF WILLIE PEARL ESTERS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker: Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters was born on April 22, 1915, in Scottsville, Louisiana, she was the third child of Charlie and Lucille Graham; and was affectionately called "Pearl". She spent her early life in Bossier City and Shreveport, Louisiana where she attended public schools; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and was baptized at the Bright Star Baptist Church in Scottsville, Louisiana. She met and married Herman T. Walker and to that union two daughters were born, Maxine W. and Joyce Ann Walker; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, in 1936 moved with her family to Los Angeles, California where she united with Bethlehem Baptist Church, later she joined New Hope Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and was a member of Choir #2, and the Mission; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, in 1949 met the man who was to be her life-long spouse, Everson Boyd Esters, and after a brief courtship they were married and from this union was born a son Everson B. (Chuck) Esters; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters was always looking out for the welfare of her children and left no stone unturned to expose them to the

beauty of the arts, culture and the world of music. She would not settle for what was common, but she gave them her best in the hope that they would comprehend and excel. She surrounded them with a loving home and a rich family environment; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, with her family in God's hands, caught the fire of the holy spirit and followed her husband into the ministry. She grew a large circle of love by serving the needy and encouraging others to challenge what they weren't sure they could do. As a result, she developed a number of leaders and singers in the church, she expanded her circle and achieved State and national recognition for her voluminous work in service to others; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, after lengthy illness passed on, leaving us to humbly acknowledge the living legacy of her love of her husband, Everson B. Esters, her children, Maxine Swan, Joyce Walker and Chuck Esters and other relatives and friends. She will be missed in the lives of all those she has touched, and . . .

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD proudly recognizes this woman of faith, leadership, dedication, courage, persistence and wisdom and her distinguished service to her church and our community.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH
CARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4280. This bill gives us the wrong solution to a complex problem.

The bill will limit the rights of patients, it will harm low-income Americans and it will do nothing to lower the cost of health insurance.

This bill proposes to cap non-economic damages at \$250,000. That is fine if a victim of poor medical care is a business executive, because they will receive economic damages as compensation. But what happens to the minimum wage worker or the stay-at-home mom? They rely on non-economic damages to receive adequate compensation.

This bill shows that the life of a wealthy American is worth more than that of a new immigrant working in a restaurant or a stay-at-home mother who raises her children.

We're all searching for a way to lower the cost of health insurance for all Americans. But this bill won't help. The Congressional Budget Office found that this bill won't do anything to help bring down the costs of health insurance.

Even if the cost of malpractice insurance goes down, those savings will not be passed along to Americans who try to purchase health insurance. They will still face the high cost of health insurance without any help.

This bill does not help patients and it does not help Americans. The Republicans have given us a bill that does nothing to solve the real problems with our healthcare system.

I oppose this bill because it does nothing to lower healthcare costs. And it does nothing to protect patients' rights.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE DALE SHELROWN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an extraordinary public servant and community leader, State Representative Dale Shelrown. Dale is currently serving his third and final term representing the 103rd District of the Michigan House, which includes Roscommon, Missaukee, Iosco and Ogemaw Counties. Dale's record of leadership in public office, business and his community stands as a shining example of a citizen legislator.

Dale Shelrown was born on Election Day, November 5th, 1940, foretelling a lifelong commitment to public service and political leadership. His father, Ed Shelrown, served for 35 years as Township Supervisor, and two of his five siblings are also elected officials.

Dale has been a lifelong resident of Ogemaw County, and after earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agriculture from Michigan State University, he began his successful business career. From 1965 to 1974, Dale owned and operated his own dairy and beef farm. From 1974 to 1976, he was a sales manager at the John Deere dealership in West Branch, Michigan. Since 1976, Dale has been a partner with Century 21 Horizon Realty in West Branch.

Dale recognized long ago the importance of giving back to the community that had been so good to him. He was elected to serve on the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners from 1974 to 1982 and from 1988 to 1998. From 1986 to 1988, he was the Township Supervisor and Assessor in Edwards Township, Ogemaw County, Michigan. Dale's dedication and leadership has also been recognized by his appointment to the Michigan State Commission on Aging from 1980 to 1990.

On November 3rd, 1998, Dale was elected to his first term in the Michigan House of Representatives. In the years since, he has served with distinction on the Agriculture and Resource Management Committee, the Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Committee, and the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Dale has spearheaded efforts in the Michigan House to control the Bovine Tuberculosis epidemic that has hurt so many farmers in Northeast Lower Michigan. He has also been a leader in the State's program to award high school diplomas to veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

Dale Shelrown's exceptional life of public service and community leadership provides ample reason for this recognition, but Dale's commitment to his family is one of the things I respect most about him. Dale and his wife Lori have four grown children and four beautiful grandchildren that he never misses an opportunity to talk about. It is clear to me that whatever else Dale might be doing in his life, his family always comes first.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Shelrown's commitment to his family, his community and the State of Michigan serves as an example to all of us, and I ask the House to join me in honoring him.