

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.

A TRIBUTE TO JASMINE  
EDWARDS, ESQ.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jasmine Edwards in recognition of her commitment to serving families in need of assistance.

Born to Guyanese immigrants, Jasmine is a member of the first generation in her family to be born in the United States of America. Her mother emigrated to the U.S. as a registered nurse and later became a New York City school teacher. Her father, a former probation officer supervisor emigrated to the U.S. to attend the University of Connecticut. She recently became the seventh member in her family to become an attorney.

Jasmine is admitted to practice law in New York State and the United States District Courts. She is a member of the Association of Black Women Attorneys, Brooklyn Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. She is also a licensed real estate broker and an instructor at the New York Paralegal School. Her law firm of Edwards & Greenidge is based in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Jasmine and her partner, both Guyanese-Americans, are committed to serving those in the community who desperately need legal advice.

After graduating from Temple University, she worked as a social worker. Jasmine provided services to families that had been accused of child abuse and/or neglect. Her goal was to assist parents in implementing alternative parenting skills. During her tenure at CUNY School of Law, Jasmine accepted an internship at the prestigious Federal Defenders Association of Philadelphia in the Habeas Corpus Unit. The objective of the Habeas Corpus Unit was to convince the appellate courts that certain convicted criminals should not be executed. While working as a researcher that summer, Jasmine discovered that over 80 percent of the persons on death row shared the same painful experiences when they were younger as those abused and neglected children, who were part of families that she once counseled as a social worker.

These experiences coupled with her desire to assist others inspired her to establish a law office in a neighborhood where many people are underserved. Jasmine's goal is to provide outstanding legal representation that is proactive as well as reactive.

Mr. Speaker, Jasmine Edwards has dedicated her life to helping those in need, as a social worker for abused and neglected children and now as an attorney for the underserved residents of Brooklyn. 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.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPRUCE CREEK  
ROD AND GUN CLUB

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the

Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club for reaching its 100th anniversary.

Since 1904, the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club has never lost sight of its original purpose: to preserve Spruce Creek as a fishery. While maintaining its honorable traditions of conservation, the club in Huntingdon County has conquered numerous obstacles and received high acclaim for its perseverance.

Throughout the past century, the club has undergone a complete restoration, upon conclusion of which the building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1991. With the extraordinary vision of its past leaders, the club has been able to merge the old with the new by upholding its age-old traditions while improving the services available to members.

Due to its reputation for excellence, Spruce Creek has attracted such renowned leaders as Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter, Senator John Heinz, Vice President DICK CHENEY, and former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, to name a few.

The success of the club over the past one hundred years is a testament to the integrity with which the institution has been run. I would like to congratulate the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club on its 100th Anniversary. Thank you for upholding Pennsylvania's tradition of distinguished service to its citizens.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS  
THAT ALL AMERICANS OBSERVE  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WITH A COMMITMENT TO CON-  
TINUING AND BUILDING ON THE  
LEGACY OF BROWN

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in Brown versus the Topeka Board of Education.

In 1951, a door closed on Linda Brown when she was denied admission to an all-white public school in Topeka, Kansas. But on this day in 1954, a door opened for our nation. The Brown decision was the culmination of many desegregation cases. Previous court decisions had ruled that "separate but equal" was a valid policy.

By ruling in favor of Linda Brown, the Supreme Court helped America finally open its eyes and see that segregation is, in fact, wrong and does, in fact, perpetuate inequality. Through the plight of young Linda, a mere third-grader, Americans came to understand that separate is never equal.

While in law school, I was privileged to study under Paul Wilson. Earlier in his life, as a humor Kansas assistant attorney general, Professor Wilson was assigned to defend the Topeka Board of Education. He never suspected that he would end up arguing before the Supreme Court.

I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to Professor Wilson. His role in the Brown decision was a difficult one. He knew that segregation was wrong, but he was charged with the duty of defending the Topeka Board of

Education. During his time at the University of Kansas, Professor Wilson wrote about the Brown decision and his recollections of that time period. In the classroom, he told my fellow students and me about his trip to Washington, D.C., and about being admitted to the Supreme Court bar. He said to us, "The decision issued in 1954 caused me, caused America, to realize that to argue the policy of separate but equal was to defend the indefensible." Professor Wilson's words, and the tales of experiences, have stayed with me.

We must never lose sight of the importance of Brown versus the Topeka Board of Education. This decision has set a higher standard for our schools and for our nation. Even today, disparities exist among groups of students, and we must continue working to ensure that all students are learning what they need to learn, and are receiving the kind of high-quality education they deserve.

As the father of two daughters, one in middle school and one in high school, I am thankful for the change that the Brown decision brought to the American education system and to our society. I am thankful that my daughters attend school in a country where all children are considered equal.

Our public schools today are rich in diversity because of the hard work of the NAACP, and the willingness of Linda Brown and her family to stand up for what is right. Because of the Brown decision, we are better able to foster understanding, tolerance, and morality in our young people.

I am proud to have been a part of establishing the Brown vs. Topeka 50th Anniversary Commission in 2001. Since its inception, the Commission has been preparing for this anniversary. Commission members have traveled all over the country, visiting the cities whose desegregation cases set the stage for Brown's success. The Commission has also encouraged many activities across the nation related to the anniversary, including an essay contest, a film and discussion series, and traveling museum exhibits.

I want to thank everyone who worked to make this anniversary so memorable and so historic. Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of the late Oliver Brown, has worked tirelessly, not only for this anniversary, but also for educational equity everywhere. As cofounder of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, Mrs. Brown Henderson has helped establish a living tribute to the plaintiffs and attorneys involved in the Brown case.

Today, President Bush visited Kansas for the first time. The President spoke this morning in Topeka at the dedication of the National Park Service's \$11.3 million historic site in the Monroe School, the former all-black school that Linda Brown attended before the 1954 Supreme Court ruling. I want to thank President Bush and the city of Topeka for helping to make this anniversary worthy of the event it commemorates.

We cannot forget that our work is not yet done. We have celebrated and remembered, but we must do more. We must recommit ourselves to the philosophy behind the Brown decision—to the elimination of bias and the changing of society for the better. We must continue working to provide equal opportunities for all. We must make a fresh commitment to this Nation's children.

Colleagues, I trust we can be of one voice tonight. Let us join together in our celebration