

the years, I have seen Don grow into a superb military leader.

I know the members of the House will join me in Honoring General Cook and in wishing his family and him all the best in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. TERRY E.
GRANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a distinguished member of the healthcare profession and Brooklynite, Dr. Terry E. Grant.

Dr. Grant is the Chief Executive Officer of Gentle Dental, which offers cosmetic and general dentistry, and which serves nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He has also been active as a Chief Division of Geriatric Dentistry at several universities and medical centers. Through dentistry he has conducted various efforts to improve the health of his community.

Dr. Grant's efforts include establishing base line data to track children and families in need of dental services, providing free dental service in his private office to children and families of the working poor and uninsured. He has also developed strategies to improve the overall healthcare of children in his community, including contacting the national dentifrice companies and soliciting their support. Most notably, he has spearheaded a community-based preventive children's dentistry program. The program provides free toothbrushes, fluoride toothpaste, and preventive dentistry lectures to children in conjunction with the Nassau County Dental Society for Children Dental Health month.

Mr. Speaker, it behooves us to pay tribute to the achievements and service of Dr. Grant. May our country continue to benefit from the selfless endeavors of individuals, such as Dr. Terry E. Grant.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LANDMARK U.S. SUPREME
COURT DECISION IN GRISWOLD
V. CONNECTICUT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Griswold v. Connecticut*. This decision served as the foundation for improvements in women's reproductive health, felt even to this day.

It is difficult to believe that just 40 years ago, it was actually illegal for American women to use birth control. But as late as 1965, 30 states still had laws prohibiting or restricting the sale and use of contraception.

The case of *Griswold v. Connecticut* involved Estelle Griswold, the Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, and the League's Medical Director, Dr. C. Lee Buxton. Ms. Griswold and Dr.

Buxton were arrested and convicted under Connecticut's 1879 law forbidding the use of contraception or assisting anyone seeking contraception. They challenged this law—ultimately fighting their case all the way to our Nation's highest court. And, on June 7th 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the Connecticut law, opening the door for nationwide counseling and use of contraception.

Griswold v. Connecticut paved the way for future decisions regarding a women's right to reproductive health and privacy—including the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court decision that extended the right to access contraception to unmarried women.

Why was *Griswold v. Connecticut* so important? Well, consider the fact that in 1965, 45 percent of births to married women were unintentional. But, today, only 14 percent of births to married women occur sooner than planned. In 1965, only 38 percent of women used some form of birth control. Today, nearly 70 percent of women do.

With good cause, a recent poll shows that 80 percent of Americans strongly support women having access to contraception. With newfound ability to control how many children to have and when, women have been able to achieve educational and professional goals that before 1965 were extremely difficult. Access to contraception has dramatically changed women's health, giving them dignity and control over their lives and their futures. Control over their own bodies has also contributed to reductions in maternal and infant mortality through better birth spacing and better health status. Because of contraception, couples can decide when they are financially and emotionally ready to start a family. So children are born into families that are ready and able to fully care for them.

Access and use of birth control are essential components of basic preventative health care for women across the U.S. and has successfully helped reduce national rates of unintended pregnancies.

And, who would have predicted in 1965, that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would recognize the significant impact of birth control on American society? But they did. In 1999, the CDC included family planning in their list of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century."

However, despite these achievements, access to contraceptives is far from guaranteed. Today, we, as political leaders, stand at a crossroads. We can maintain the status quo, or we can further strive to improve reproductive health and reduce unintended pregnancies in this country. My Prevention First bill would permit women to take greater control over their reproductive health. This legislation would allow greater access to contraception by increasing funding for family planning services to low-income women and requiring insurance companies to cover contraceptives if they cover other prescription drugs.

Today, as we commemorate the momentous *Griswold v. Connecticut* Supreme Court decision that made such a great impact on reducing unintended pregnancies by allowing women to control their reproductive health, I urge my colleagues to support common sense legislation like the Prevention First Act and join me in taking action to further reduce unintended pregnancies.

We have certainly come a long way in just 40 years, but we must remain vigilant to en-

sure that all women have access to the most basic reproductive health care services and that they are empowered to make the best personal decisions about when they are financially and emotionally ready to start a family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2005 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on S. 643 and H.R. 2326.

RECOGNIZING JOHN WERKMEISTER
OF MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize John Werkmeister of Meadville, Pennsylvania, as an exceptional history teacher and role model. Mr. Werkmeister has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award. This national award is presented every year to an educator who develops and uses innovative and creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. As a teacher at Cambridge Springs High School in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, he has shown exemplary commitment to making history education engaging and exciting, while involving his students in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. Participants qualify for national competition after competing in several local and state competitions. In preparing his students for the program, Mr. Werkmeister's work ethic and research skills provided students with the tools necessary to be successful in competition.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Mr. Werkmeister for his dedication to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT C.
WILTSHIRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert C. Wiltshire, an esteemed community leader. It is an honor to represent Mr. Wiltshire in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to such an outstanding leader.

Mr. Wiltshire obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Studies from St. Francis' College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University. He also received a Senior Managers Program certification from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Wiltshire is currently a Government Relations Manager for the KeySpan Corporation. At KeySpan, he provides counsel to the Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs and Director of Government Relations on the relevant implications of government policy. Prior to joining KeySpan, he served as a Government Relations Manager for Consolidated Edison. Mr. Wiltshire's administrative experience also includes his previous service as President and Chief Operating Officer at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. Through his efforts, the Navy Yard has become the most successful industrial park and economic development project in the nation.

Mr. Wiltshire is certainly a model for the youth in our community. His drive to improve the standard of living and to clear a path for our youth to enter the economic mainstream is evident in all of his endeavors. Mr. Wiltshire has even served as a member of the New York City Police Department, where he became involved in reaching out to young adults at risk. He also restructured the Citywide Model Cities Program and devoted two years to reforming the New York City Juvenile Justice System's approach to youth crime and incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the achievements and service of Mr. Albert C. Wiltshire.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VARIETY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens and its honoree, Chuck Viane, on the evening of the organization's 50th anniversary celebration. The Boys and Girls Club is a wonderful nonprofit organization that offers a wide array of services to New York City children. Our community's young people are truly fortunate to have such an effective and necessary resource at their disposal.

The Variety Boys Club of Queens was established five decades ago in response to the growing problem of youth gangs in the borough. The organization opened May 1, 1955 and registered 3,000 members that first day. Boys came from all parts of Queens to watch movies, play games and participate in sports. In 1981, the club's board of directors first extended services to girls and by 1985, all club programs were available to the young women of Queens.

Today, the club provides youths aged 6 to 17 with a wide range of educational and recreational activities. The club makes every effort to ensure that these children do not "fall through the cracks," giving them a place to do their homework, providing learning assistance, promoting exercise programs, and giving them a safe place to socialize with other children their own age. In so doing, the Club offers young New Yorkers a constructive alternative to truancy, violence, street gangs, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy. Variety Boys and Girls Club members can swim in an Olympic-

size indoor swimming pool, participate in a drama group or a cheerleading team, or use the club's Calder Knowledge Lab to do homework, use computers and receive tutoring. The club also provides flute, guitar, and karate lessons, along with many other stimulating and constructive programs. In short, the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens gives local kids an opportunity to succeed in whatever field inspires them.

The foregoing would not have been possible without the club's many supporters, including tonight's honoree, Chuck Viane. Mr. Viane, President of Buena Vista Pictures Distribution, is the recipient of the club's 2005 Humanitarian Award for his dedication to public service. Mr. Viane has worked closely with the organization and has coordinated such activities as a Variety Club program to purchase two neonatal ventilators for St. Francis Hospital in Los Angeles. Mr. Viane's generosity has helped the club become an even stronger force in the community, a fact for which I am most grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the staff, volunteers and friends of the Variety Boys and Girls Club.

HONORING FLINT MASONIC LODGE NO. 23, F&AM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as my hometown of Flint, Michigan celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, I rise before you today to honor an organization that is also celebrating its sesquicentennial. On June 18, Flint residents are invited to join Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, Free & Accepted Masons will invite the public to join in their commemoration festivities, which include a parade, reception, and banquet.

Based in the Flint Masonic Temple on South Saginaw Street in downtown Flint, Flint Masonic Lodge 23 was chartered on January 11, 1855, becoming another branch of America's oldest and largest fraternal organization. The new members, coming from all walks of life, now counted emperors, kings, and even many of our Founding Fathers as brethren.

Some of Flint's most prominent citizens have been or currently are members of the Masonic fraternity. Several of the city's Mayors, including Charles Stewart Mott, Colonel James Fenton, Harry Cull, George Poulous, James Rutherford, and current Mayor Don Williamson, can be counted among their ranks. Many city streets were named in honor of business and civic leaders who also served as Masons. Their legacy has become an integral part of Flint's history, and its heritage.

Flint Masons have been selflessly committed to improving the community and enhancing human dignity. They are often found at the forefront of charitable drives to benefit the less fortunate, the disabled, and both our younger and older citizens. Their efforts have benefited thousands, and have indeed made the Greater Flint area a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating the members, past and present, of Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, F&AM, on their celebration of a true milestone, and wish the Lodge continued success and growth for the next 150 years and beyond.

lating the members, past and present, of Flint Masonic Lodge No. 23, F&AM, on their celebration of a true milestone, and wish the Lodge continued success and growth for the next 150 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING OPERATION SLUGGER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fantastic program aimed at boosting the morale of our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operation Slugger is a partnership between the Association for the U.S. Army, AUSA, DHL Express, Louisville Slugger, USA Cares, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, focused on providing sporting equipment for recreational activities for our soldiers in the field. This partnership is a response to the numerous requests from U.S. soldiers asking for sports equipment for use during their leisure time.

I am proud to represent Fort Knox, which is one of the many locations across the country, including VFW posts and private businesses, where new and gently used equipment is being collected to make up sports kits. These kits will consist of baseball bats and balls, softball and baseball gloves, hats, footballs, basketballs, rugby balls, and soccer balls. The donated goods, which are expected to exceed 20 tons, will be transported by DHL to Louisville Slugger Field and on to the U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan.

As the men and women of our military put their lives on the line for us, I want to thank these organizations for giving something back to the troops. Please join me in thanking AUSA, DHL, Louisville Slugger, USA Cares, the VFW, and all of the people who have participated for their contributions to Operation Slugger.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program.

The 7(a) loan program is essential for our nation's small business owners. It provides accessible and affordable financing that enables such businesses to grow, which in turn leads to the creation of jobs so desperately needed in the current economy. In the past 10 years, the SBA has approved more than 424,000 loans totaling over \$90 billion. These loans