

Ms. Dixon is a well-recognized leader in the Westminster community. Her honors and awards include Jefferson County Mother of the Year, Metro North Chamber Volunteer of the Year and several marketing achievement awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing my gratitude to Ms. Dixon for her tireless work. Although her work and the issues she has championed are serious and important, she brought a refreshing, positive outlook that was infectious. Through all of this work—at times difficult and controversial—she maintained a sense of humor and humility in her interactions with others, without compromising professionalism or respect of others and their views. In a time when faith in our political system is faltering, we should recognize and acknowledge people like Ms. Dixon who have an innate devotion to enhancing the quality of life in our communities. I am proud to offer my appreciation for her work and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AUBURN  
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman BACHUS, we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the Auburn Early Education Center in Auburn, Alabama, for its receipt of the prestigious Intel Corporation and Scholastic "School of Distinction" Award. This school, through the hard work of its faculty and staff, has set a national standard in literacy achievement through innovation. We are proud to commend its laudable accomplishments.

The Auburn Early Education Center serves the needs of all kindergarten students enrolled in Auburn City Schools. This school, in developing its curriculum, focuses on a child-centered approach to learning. It is this focus, along with the integration of reading in all subject areas, that led Intel and Scholastic to recognize the Auburn Early Education Center from among 3,000 excellent competitors as one of twenty schools worthy of being designated as a "School of Distinction."

Mr. Speaker, because of the Auburn Early Education Center's success in the area literacy achievement, they will receive a grant of \$10,000 and will share in a host of technological prizes designed to further improve learning opportunities at the school. It is our sincere belief that this institution will continue to serve as a guiding example to primary schools across the United States of what is possible in literacy education when faculty, staff and parents come together with the common purpose of providing the best education to students. We are honored to recognize the Auburn Early Education Center before this body and this nation for their devotion and commitment to quality education. Congratulations on your well deserved recognition as a "School of Distinction."

HONORING CHANNEL INDUSTRIES  
MUTUAL AID ON THEIR 50TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the largest mutual aid organizations in the world, Channel Industries Mutual Aid, for their 50 years of service to Houston and the surrounding areas.

Formed in 1955 under the name of the "Houston Ship Channel Industries Disaster Aid Organization," in 1960 it became the non-profit corporation "Channel Industries Mutual Aid." Its objective remained the same: to provide mutual assistance in case of emergency situations, whether natural or man-made.

With over 100 industrial, municipal, and governmental members such as Shell Oil, Celanese, the City of Houston Fire Dept., and the U.S. Coast Guard, CIMA joins these together to respond to fire, hazardous material, rescue and medical emergencies along the Houston Ship Channel.

CIMA provides disaster assistance not only to the Houston Ship Channel, but cooperates with mutual aid organizations all along the Texas and Louisiana coastlines, and has shared its response readiness procedures with international organizations such as the International Red Cross, and countries such as Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.

For its invaluable service to the City of Houston, the 29th District of Texas, the Gulf Coast, and the rest of the world, I extend CIMA my deepest gratitude, and my heartfelt congratulations on 50 years of excellence.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VET-  
ERANS OF POLK COUNTY, FLOR-  
IDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave soldiers of Polk County, Florida who served during World War II.

At a ceremony to be held Saturday, October 22, 2005, Congressman ADAM PUTNAM and I will present representatives from each of the five United States Armed Forces with commemorative coins honoring their service during World War II.

As General George Patton once said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

The Polk County veterans we are honoring this weekend clearly met General Patton's description above. They proved themselves in battle in Europe, Africa and the Far East. Their sacrifices on the battlefield preserved liberty and freedom for millions throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like these Polk County World War II veterans should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in

battle. They are truly part of America's Greatest Generation.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ATUL B.  
CHOKSHI

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a member of the Brooklyn community and distinguished member of the healthcare profession, Dr. Atul B. Chokshi. It is an honor to represent Dr. Chokshi in the House of Representatives and it behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader in American Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, on Dr. Atul B. Chokshi's resume he states that his life's goals are to "be as complete a cardiologist as possible" and "to be as nice and loving a human being as possible." To the thousands of people of the Interfaith Medical Center community who have been touched by Dr. Chokshi's gentleness and caring nature, he has already met his life's goals.

Born and trained in India, with an 18-month stint in England, Dr. Chokshi has been with Interfaith Medical Center for nearly his entire medical career. Joining one of Interfaith Medical Center's predecessor hospitals, Jewish Hospital and Medical Center of Brooklyn, or "Brooklyn Jewish" in the summer of 1978 as an Intern in Internal Medicine. Dr. Chokshi has served in a variety of positions leading up to his being named the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

As head of Interfaith Medical Center's Cardiac Cath Lab since 1993, Dr. Chokshi has pioneered thoughtful and gentle cardiac care. In November 2004, Dr. Chokshi launched the City's first Walk-in-Walk-out transradial cardiac catheterization program. Virtually painless and allowing the patient to go home to resume normal activity within an hour, Interfaith Medical Center's Walk-in-Walk-out service involves inserting the catheter into the radial artery at the wrist for complete cardiac evaluation and even a peripheral angiogram can be done at the same time without the use of the femoral artery.

In addition to being a brilliant physician, Dr. Chokshi is an ardent student of the Bhagawad Gita, which inspired him to combine his devotion to the teachings of Lord Krishna with his cardiology expertise to help establish The Krishna Heart Institute in Ahmedabad, India. Since its opening in 2000, The Krishna Heart Institute has performed more than 4,000 open heart surgeries and 25,000 other life-saving procedures.

Dr. Chokshi is married to Dr. Vandana Chokshi, a radiologist with a subspecialty in Nuclear Medicine and Chief of both Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at Interfaith Medical Center. Drs. Atul and Vandana Chokshi have a daughter, Krishna.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments and selfless service of Dr. Chokshi as he offers his talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Chokshi has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication

that makes this kind gentleman and master scientist most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING BUTCH HICKS FOR  
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Westminster City Councilman Butch Hicks. Butch's efforts have greatly helped Adams County Coloradans and he deserves recognition for the many contributions he has made to public service.

Butch and Julia Hicks have been activist citizens. They exemplify what it means for people to participate in democracy, and although they are active Democrats, it is not Butch's partisan work that causes me to acknowledge him, but rather, his boundless enthusiasm for community service.

I am proud to know Butch and have counted him as a friend and advisor on many issues. His official duties as a member of the Westminster City Council have included many projects that we care about, including improving watersheds, parks and recreational opportunities in Colorado's Second Congressional District.

Butch was appointed to the Westminster City Council in 1999 and was elected to serve a 2-year term. He was then re-elected in November 2001 to serve a 4-year term. In addition to the City Council, Butch also serves in the Adams County Democrats as treasurer and on the Permanent Organization Committee, the Colorado State Democrats and the State Outreach Committee. Civil rights is a very important issue to Butch and drives him to monitor civil rights problems in Colorado and Westminster. He is a member of the NAACP and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Butch's career in home improvement retail allowed him to travel across the United States and finally settle in Colorado. Once in Westminster, Butch became the department manager for Home Depot and now works for the Regional Transportation District. In his spare time Butch promotes youth awareness and volunteers for battered women shelters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in acknowledging Mr. Butch Hicks for touching the community in far-reaching ways. In a time when public faith in our political system is faltering, we should recognize that there are people like Butch who have an innate devotion to furthering the progress of their communities. I'm proud to offer warm congratulations to Butch, to honor his achievements, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors. He stands out as a symbol of hope, optimism and generosity in public service.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL  
DANIEL MCVICKER

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Daniel McVicker,

a constituent from my district who died on October 6th when the humvee he was driving was hit by a roadside bomb. Daniel joined the Marines in 2003 and was serving in Iraq by providing security for convoys.

Daniel was a graduate of West Branch High School where he was active in chorale and many of the school's plays. The community fondly remembers him as always smiling and as having the ability to brighten everyone's day.

He showed true courage and the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in the pursuit for freedom and security. He is a hero and through his memory, continues to brighten the lives of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his parents and all of his family and friends who are mourning the loss of his life.

I pray for the safe return of all of our servicemen and women and thank them for the sacrifice they make every day defending our country.

HONORING CITIGROUP

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citigroup and commend them on their leadership in aiding Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts during the recovery and rebuilding of the affected area.

Citigroup and Citigroup Foundation donated \$2 million to Habitat for Humanity International in support of "Operation Home Delivery." In addition to a \$1 million immediate donation, the Citigroup Foundation is matching eligible Citigroup employee donations dollar for dollar to the American Red Cross up to \$3 million, for a potential total of \$7 million.

Hundreds of Citigroup volunteers are building and helping to organize the Habitat for Humanity build in Humanity Plaza where NBC News' "Today" show hosted the construction of Habitat homes as part of Make a Difference Today. In addition, to help the Red Cross in its nationwide telethon on September 9th, calls were routed to Citigroup call centers in St. Louis, Dallas and Jacksonville. Over 900 Citigroup employees answered more than 8,500 calls and helped to raise over \$900,000.

Citigroup is committed to working with affected customers to alleviate the temporary financial impact of this disaster. They are implementing business-specific initiatives for customers in FEMA designated Individual Assistance Areas including deferred and eliminated interest and payments, elimination of interest and fees on current and delinquent accounts, suspension of collection calls and negative credit bureau reporting, implementation of disaster credit line increases, no foreclosures on mortgages, and other solutions as appropriate.

At the Citi Cards site in Boise, Idaho, where I recently visited, employees donated more than \$139,000 to the United Way of Treasure Valley during their 2006 pacesetter campaign in July. Site President Tod Wingfield said, "The strength of an organization comes from the people within it. The same holds true for the health of a community. We are so proud to have employees who demonstrate their

passion and generosity for others by contributing to programs that benefit so many people in our valley. This sense of community and sincere desire to help others is part of what makes Citi a great place to work." Citi Cards presented a check to United Way and recognized employees at the United Way Community Campaign Kick-off event in August.

I want to thank and congratulate Citigroup and employees for their commitment to building strong communities.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, over \$1.6 trillion is spent on health care annually in the U.S., which is over 13% of the GDP. According to the National Coalition on Health Care, U.S. health care spending increased to \$1.7 trillion in 2003 and was projected to reach \$1.8 trillion in 2004. Furthermore, our country spent 15.3% of the GDP on health care in 2003 and a projected increase of 18.7% is expected within the next 10 years.

Even though the U.S. spends more on health care than any other industrialized nation, and those countries provide universal health coverage to all of their citizens, approximately 45 million Americans are uninsured. Nevertheless, the U.S. remains the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee health care for all of its citizens.

Clearly, universal health care is needed for all American citizens and a universal health care plan is certainly in the best economic interest of our country.

When one considers that health care spending accounted for only 9.7% of the GDP in our sister nation Canada, it becomes apparent that we are not best managing our resources and serving the interest of our Nation as a whole.

As members of Congress we are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting and advancing the Nation's health. It is a given that health care costs are rising for all American citizens. Let us not deceive ourselves. We are all interconnected as human beings and the health status of one impacts the health status of all regardless of one's ability to pay for health services or not.

Disease, especially communicable and infectious, has no boundaries. The current health disparities and unnecessary suffering experienced by vulnerable populations such as the poor, elderly, uninsured, women and children and racial and ethnic minorities is outright immoral. It is a national disgrace and international embarrassment that America, a country with astounding wealth and means, chooses not to provide universal health care to her citizens while her sister country Canada does so for her citizens, as does the country of Cuba whose wealth is not even comparable to that of the U.S. and other industrialized nations.

I urge Congress today to fully assume its responsibility as the defender of our Nation's health, and exercise its political will and sincerely work towards the implementation of a universal health care system and guarantee universal health care as a right for all American citizens.