

textbook. It is with great pride that I congratulate the Cambridge High School Environmental Club, and the leadership of their student advisor, Ed Grunden, for their commitment to environmental research and awareness.

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise before you to honor a dedicated group of men and women, the Genesee County Medical Society. On November 5, the members of this distinguished organization will gather to pay tribute to their history and the diversity of their membership at their Past Presidents Ball.

The Genesee County Medical Society was originally formed in the winter of 1841, when Drs. Robert D. Lamond, John Hoyes, John King, and George W. Fish, all natives of New York and graduates of Fairfield Medical College, met in an office in the tiny village of Flint, and drafted the constitution and bylaws for what was to be the region's first medical society. On August 17, 1871, 14 physicians gathered to organize the Flint Academy of Medicine, the precursor to today's Genesee County Medical Society. Over the years, thousands of doctors joined the society, addressing all public health issues, as well as working to improve the community and making it a safer and healthier place in which to live.

Today, the Genesee County Medical Society is home to an ever-increasing roster of health professionals, hailing from all four corners of the world. Society members, as well as their spouses and families, represent each continent and virtually every religion. The various cultures, languages, dialects, and customs exhibited by the men and women of the society, and experienced by all those they come in contact with, serve as a microcosm of our very Nation and what it stands for. Their celebration of diversity reminds us that we are "One Nation, under God."

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House of Representatives, I consider it my duty and my privilege to work to improve the quality of life for our citizens. I am grateful that the work performed by the members and staff of the Genesee County Medical Society helps make this task easier. Each member honors the spirit of the Society's vision: leadership, advocacy, and service on behalf of its members, and their patients. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating them on their tremendous work.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST ROSA PARKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Rosa Parks, a powerful woman, an American heroine, and a champion for all Americans.

The transformation of a young seamstress into an immortal heroine is a rare occurrence. Rosa Parks had a number of societal barriers working against her: she was an African American in the segregated South and a woman, with no political or social standing, emerging from humble parentage. Nonetheless, she conquered obstacles, set the stage for a movement for civil rights, and is forever an example for all of us.

Rosa Parks was born and raised in Alabama by a carpenter and a teacher. Brought into a world that degraded and intimidated her with its racism, Rosa Parks, along with many others, lived in submission and fear. By the age of 42, Rosa Parks was married and an active member in the NAACP. Her frustration with the intolerance around her led to an event that set the stage for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and became a cornerstone in the Civil Rights Movement.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat to a white rider. This dignified pronouncement depicted to the country the injustice facing African Americans. Her single action eventually led to a Supreme Court ruling that outlaws segregation on city buses. Not only did her effort lend support to America's civil rights movement, but to civil rights movements worldwide.

The fight for equality and justice Rosa Parks sparked will never end, and we will continue to be motivated by the courage of one woman who made a profound choice in 1955. In her honor, and for the integrity of every citizen in this country, it is essential to continue in Mrs. Parks's footsteps.

The United States Congress calls Rosa Parks the "Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement." Throughout her life she was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Rosa Parks, whose dedication to the pursuit of justice for all Americans will never be forgotten. Though she will be greatly missed, her legacy will be a constant reminder of how far we have come in ensuring civil, social, and political rights to African Americans, and how much further remains to guarantee equality to every citizen of our country.

IN HONOR OF ZETA EPSILON LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Zeta Epsilon Lambda alumni chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in Red Bank, New Jersey for their fiftieth anniversary on November 5, 2005. The Zeta Epsilon Lambda chapter has been an active contributor in the community over the past 50 years.

Since 1980, the chapter has donated over \$200,000 in scholarship money to approximately 150 local high school students in Monmouth and Ocean counties. A large number of these scholarship recipients have returned to

Zeta Epsilon Lambda after receiving their degrees to assist in other community outreach programs.

Over the past 17 years, through Project Alpha, the fraternity has been educating young males on the prevention of teenage pregnancies. Thus far, they have provided meaningful guidance to over 700 elementary, middle, and high school students.

Further establishing themselves as mentors in the community, the Zeta Epsilon Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha has been in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County since 2001. Through this partnership, the brothers of Zeta Epsilon Lambda have given valuable guidance to dozens of young boys each week from Asbury Park Middle School in Asbury Park, NJ. The chapter has also successfully assisted Big Brothers Big Sisters with obtaining a \$222,000 grant from the Justice Department to organize a Juvenile Mentoring Program, which has already achieved great success.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the brothers of the Zeta Epsilon Lambda chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on their 50th anniversary and thank them for their continued spirit of contribution and service to the community.

COMMENDING MR. JOHN GABUSI

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. John Gabusi, former Pima Community College Vice Chancellor.

Mr. John Gabusi retired from his position as Vice Chancellor for governmental and external relations at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. He dedicated 14 years of service to the college, where he tirelessly worked to create Pima Community College's first economic development office.

Mr. Gabusi has been credited with elevating the College's national prestige by developing strategies to convince the Governor and State elected officials that the citizens of Arizona are deserving of a strong community college system.

His work helped to limit district wide budget reductions and to revive the marketing and advertising of Pima Community College. His help also played a vital role in a thirty percent increase in student enrollment from 1996-2002.

John Gabusi consistently strived to improve educational opportunities for the people of Tucson. Thanks to Mr. Gabusi's ability to rally community support, Pima Community College was granted a \$140 million dollar bond. He focused on providing students with an environment conducive to learning, and believed that the community is deserving of an excellent community college system.

Even before his work at Pima Community College, John Gabusi was committed to serving his community. Mr. Gabusi served as an assistant to former U.S. Congressman Morris K. Udall. He led four of Mr. Udall's congressional campaigns as well as Mr. Udall's 1976 presidential campaign. After serving under Congressman Udall, Mr. Gabusi went on to start his own marketing firm called DAC international and later presided over the Washington, DC based Procurement Assistant Corporation.

Mr. John Gabusi is an outstanding member of our community. His life-long commitment to serving his community is commendable. It is the drive of Mr. Gabusi that has kept him hard at work for others and although Mr. Gabusi has been battling cancer, he wishes he could continue his work at Pima Community College. Mr. Gabusi has served his community well, and his efforts have not gone unnoticed.

I would like to personally commend Mr. John Gabusi for his tireless commitment to our community. His life and work is an inspiration to us all.

**NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH**

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, November is National Family Caregivers Month. This month we celebrate those who care for America's vulnerable populations. As a physician, child psychiatrist, and the Ranking Member of the Human Resources subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I have a particular interest in the way the Federal Government addresses the needs of abused and neglected children. There are abused and neglected children throughout our country. Sometimes we know who they are, but too often we don't. They live in big cities, small towns, rural areas and every suburb in between. There will always be too many abused children, and there will never be enough family caregivers who provide vulnerable children with the safety and stability they need to thrive.

Family caregivers open their hearts and homes to our most vulnerable populations, and they often do so knowing they will not be recognized for their efforts, nor provided Federal support. If the Congress is as committed to promoting family values as Members of Congress often say, then we should fulfill that commitment by really valuing families and providing Federal support to every foster child in family care. When a child is removed from a home because of neglect or abuse, the Federal Government should have an interest in ensuring the safety and well being of those children. But today the Federal Government is primarily interested in vulnerable children who live in the homes of strangers. We should strive to do better, Mr. Speaker.

In the meantime let us acknowledge and celebrate family caregivers around the Nation by using this month to draw attention to the many challenges that face them. Let us celebrate the hard work and commitment of those who care every day for vulnerable populations, our Nation's family caregivers.

**TRIBUTE TO THE SPINA BIFIDA COMMUNITY**

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 250,000 Ameri-

cans in the Spina Bifida Community. An estimated 70,000 people in the United States currently live with Spina Bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect. Each October we recognize these Americans during National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, but we must work year round to advance research and policies to meet the needs of this community.

As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work with the Spina Bifida Association of America, SBAA, to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research and public health efforts in Congress. For over 30 years, the SBAA has helped those living with and affected by this debilitating disease. Founded in 1973, the SBAA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through their almost 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBAA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends support and gives people essential information.

Together the SBAA, the West Michigan SBA, the SBA of the Upper Peninsula Michigan, and the SW Michigan SB & Hydrocephalus Association work tirelessly to help the families of those living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children. I would like to thank the local chapters of SBAA in my State for their work in Michigan and other areas of the country. Michigan's chapters are partners in the SB Hurricane Emergency Life Support Program to help bring vitally needed supplies to hurricane victims in the Gulf Region and to put families affected by Spina Bifida in touch with others who can help them.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. We do not know the exact cause of Spina Bifida; but research shows that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent. The exact cause of the rest of the cases is unknown, but it is believed that genetics and environment may play a role. Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that happens in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column doesn't close completely. There are 60 million women at risk of having a baby born with Spina Bifida. Every day, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine. Each year, about 3,000 pregnancies are affected by these birth defects. Spina Bifida is not one condition; it is a multitude of problems that affect the mind, the body and the spirit. No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same.

Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQ's, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical care attention and family care these people can live productive full lives with the help of braces and/or a wheelchair. There are breakthroughs every year that benefit the quality of life for those living with Spina Bifida. One of the keys to a better life for the 70,000 Americans who live with Spina Bifida is research. Our goals are to develop better treatment, better understanding of causes and new ways to prevent Spina Bifida.

I am proud to be the co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus with Congressman CHRIS SMITH and hope that all of my colleagues will join me to spread awareness about this disease. Together we can improve the quality of life of those living with Spina Bifida. I encourage my colleagues to join the caucus, which now has 52 members from both sides of the aisle.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering for those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout this Nation. We all owe a great debt to the SBAA for what they have accomplished.

**HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ED AND HARRIET NIEMIEC**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed and Harriet Niemiec on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Ed and Harriet both grew up in the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago. They knew each other as kids, even though they attended different schools. Eventually Ed and Harriet became engaged and then married on November 6, 1955. They had their only child, Ed, Jr. in August of 1956.

Following in his parent's footsteps, Ed, Jr. and his wife Maria have been married for 27 years. They have two children, Mark and Christina.

Besides an active involvement with their family, Ed and Harriet have many hobbies. Ed spends a lot of time taking care of his yard and tending to his flowers. According to his son, one would be hard pressed to find a blade of grass out of place or a visible weed. Harriet is a consummate volunteer and organizer. Her philanthropies started while she was working at Dry Storage where running the football pools spilled over into organizing senior trips, church functions and working at Christ Hospital as a "Pink Lady."

Ed and Harriet are fine examples as parents and are wonderful role models as grandparents. I would like to extend my best wishes to Ed and Harriet as they and their family celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2005*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 28, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor votes on rollcall Nos. 555 and 556.

The votes I missed included agreeing to the Conference Report on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Appropriations Act of 2006 and agreeing to the resolution condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 555 and "yea" on rollcall No. 556.