

HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Cover the Uninsured Week, May 1–8, 2005.

As we come together for this year's Cover the Uninsured Week, we will continue to let the leaders of this country know it is time that we make health coverage for all Americans our top priority. Today, 45 million Americans have no health insurance, including more than 8 million children. Eight out of 10 uninsured Americans either work or are in working families.

Being uninsured means going without needed care. It means minor illnesses become major ones because care is delayed. Tragically, it also means that one significant medical expense can wipe out a family's life savings. There are millions of working, uninsured Americans who go to bed every night worrying what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes.

In my home state of Ohio there are currently 1,362,000 uninsured, an increase of 18,000 people since 2003. We have also seen the strain on many of the local hospitals in my district when people are forced to use emergency rooms as their source of primary care.

The problem is getting worse. As the price of health care continues to rise, fewer individuals and families can afford to pay for coverage. Fewer small businesses are able to provide coverage for their employees, and those that do are struggling to hold on to the coverage they offer. It is a problem that affects all of us and we cannot sit idly by while the people of this country continue to go without health insurance.

We must begin to move forward in a bipartisan manner to expand access to affordable, quality and reliable health coverage for America's families.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 2005 as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud to represent the 29th District of California, home to one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in Southern California; almost one-fourth of my constituents are of Asian Pacific heritage. Earlier this year I had the honor of naming Temple City, City Councilmember Judy S. Wong and Alice Lan-Hua Hwang 29th Congressional District Women of the Year for 2005 in recognition of their contributions to our community.

Countless lives in Southern California benefit from the leadership provided by these

women and other prominent Asian Pacific Americans such as Board of Equalization Member John Chiang, Assembly Members Judy Chu and Carol Liu, Alhambra City Council Member Gary Yamauchi, Alhambra School Board Members Robert Gin and Chester Chau, Altadena Town Council Member Lucille Hino, Glendale Community College Trustee Victor King, Monterey Park Mayor Mike Eng, Monterey Park City Council Members Betty Tom Chu and David Lau and Monterey Park City Treasurer Mitchell Ing, Garvey School Board Members Henry Lo and John Yuen, Temple City School Board Member Edward Chen, South Pasadena Council Member Mike Ten, South Pasadena School Board Member Joseph Loo, San Gabriel City Council Member Chi Mui and San Gabriel School Board Member Ken Tcheng.

This week the House considered a resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past thirty years. The consideration of this bill is timely as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam to Communist rule. Over the course of three decades, through perseverance and hard work, the 1.5 million Vietnamese who resettled in the United States have been able to build new lives and form a vibrant community which has strengthened our nation immeasurably. Yet this community has not forgotten its heritage and has worked tirelessly to promote democracy and freedom in Vietnam; to extend the same rights they enjoy to the people of the land they were forced to leave.

From every tragedy springs a new hope. The fall of Saigon resulted in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, creating over three million refugees. But were it not for this event, America would not be the same. As with millions of other Asian and Pacific Islanders, Vietnamese Americans have enriched our society and woven their own traditions into the beautiful tapestry that is America. I would like to thank the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for their contribution to our district and society, our community would be incomplete without them.

RECOGNIZING MARY NELL
GODBAY**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the wonderful state of West Virginia has known many great Americans. My neighbors in southern West Virginia each have their own interesting story, they are all a pleasure for me to represent. Today, I am here to recognize Mary Nell Godbey who passed away at the end of April.

Mary Nell Godbey was an outstanding member of her community. As a WVU Extension Agent in Raleigh County, she helped southern West Virginians on a daily basis.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. She touched so many people's lives throughout her many years and will surely be missed.

I also ask that the following article from the Register-Herald in Beckley be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD after these remarks. Bev Davis, a friend and former co-worker of Mary Nell Godbey, wrote this column which shows how well loved Ms. Godbey was in southern West Virginia.

BELOVED WVU EXTENSION AGENT LEAVES
GREAT LEGACY BEHIND

(By Bev Davis)

"Call Mary Nell." Those were words I heard repeatedly when I worked at the West Virginia University Area Extension Office in Beckley. Area division leader Oscar Hutchison was my boss, overseeing the nine-county WVU Extension offices.

Mary Nell Godbey was a WVU extension agent for Raleigh County, and everything that had to do with homemaking, food preparation, food preservation and hand crafts fell under the umbrella of her expertise.

She taught workshops on everything from decoupage, macramé and quilting to canning foods and how to get mold off your carpet.

When I saw her obituary in our newspaper this week, it really hurt to accept the fact she's gone. I remember her as such a lady—always impeccably dressed and a woman who always conducted herself with such dignity.

At the same time, she was warm, friendly and willing to help.

Mary Nell was a virtual encyclopedia of knowledge for all of us and for hundreds of callers. I lost count of the times I told someone, "Call Mary Nell Godbey. If anyone knows the answer to your question, she will."

A gentle woman with a great sense of humor, Mary Nell made friends easily. She made me laugh often, and I probably use something I learned from her almost every day of my life.

She was a lady with a quiet spiritual faith, and I know her long absence because of illness has left some big shoes to fill at First Baptist Church in Beckley, where she was a member for many years.

I'm sure I speak for a huge community of people when I extend my deepest condolences to Mary Nell's family. Her influence had a wide impact, and her passing leaves a vacant spot in our hearts.

In passing on her legacy, Mary Nell would want me to sound a trumpet for the organization to which she dedicated so much of her life.

As we have moved away from a more agrarian lifestyle, the function and scope of the WVU Extension has changed a great deal over the years.

It is, nevertheless, still a vital resource for our communities.

The county offices provide a wealth of information on homemaking, gardening, help for working women, parenting—just about any topic that enhances daily living.

I know Mary Nell would want me to remind people to think of a WVU Extension office first when a question comes to mind. She has passed the torch to a new generation of agents who are eager to make a difference in their community.

During the years I've worked at the newspaper, it's been rewarding to refer callers to this agency for help. Because of all the dedicated extension agents still around, it's a pleasure to say to someone on the phone, "Call the WVU Extension office. If anyone can answer that question, they can."

The next time I say that, however, it will become a tribute to Mary Nell.