

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Class C Michigan Basketball Champions, the Houghton Gremlins, their coaches and loyal fans.

MICHAEL ADMIRE ELECTED  
TEXAS YOUTH GOVERNOR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Admire on being elected Texas Youth Governor by his peers this year as part of the YMCA National Youth in Government program. The national conference of governors is being held this week in Washington, DC.

Mr. Admire is an outstanding student who has proven to be charismatic, ambitious and full of integrity. Part of his official duties as the Texas Youth Governor includes reviewing all proposed legislation with the option to sign or veto specific bills. This task is considerable and brings a great deal of commitment and clear judgment.

The Texas Youth in Government is an outstanding program which allows students to actively participate in the government process. During the program, participating students gain an understanding of local and national government process, an understanding of political systems, as well as obtain an appreciation for the diversity of viewpoints on public issues and a respect for the beliefs of others. Democracy is built upon citizens' active participation in upholding civic responsibilities; the Texas Youth in Government program actively promotes this foundation of democracy.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Michael Admire and his accomplishments as Texas Youth Governor. As a resident of Justin, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional District, I am honored to represent Mr. Admire in Washington. He is an outstanding student and a model to the community.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR TUTT FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Tutt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Tutt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HIV/AIDS TODAY CLAIMS A MORE  
DIVERSE GROUP OF VICTIMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article, entitled *The Changing Face of HIV/AIDS Epidemic*, by Tony Best, published in the June 6, 2006 edition of New York Carib News, in the CaribHEALTH section. Mr. Best recalls the first time, twenty five years ago when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control informed the world about a disease that claimed the lives of five homosexual men in California. From then on, this mysterious disease became known as the "gay cancer" and was considered as an immediate sentence for death.

Since then, HIV/AIDS has been responsible for over 25 million deaths worldwide, and the Caribbean Islands have had nothing short of a personal encounter with the disease, as HIV/AIDS claimed 20,000 lives in the region. The most affected countries in the Caribbean have consistently been Haiti, the Bahamas, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Best quotes U.S. HIV/AIDS expert Dr. Wayne Greaves as stating that "Looking back on what has happened in the 25 years, the picture is still not a bright one." Despite all the innovative treatments that now prolong the lives of HIV/AIDS patients, there is still no cure or even a drug that prevents HIV in the first place.

Another very noteworthy point that Mr. Best emphasizes is that HIV/AIDS, while first distinguished as a homosexual, white, male disease, has now become blind to sexual orientation, gender, and race as it is alarmingly spreading and infecting increasing numbers of Blacks and heterosexual women. Although current census places Blacks as accounting for 12 per cent of the U.S. population, they also account for a whopping 51 per cent of the new HIV cases in the nation. Furthermore, the diagnosed HIV cases for women have tripled since first cases in 1985.

Mr. Best cites possible theories that may explain these surprising shifts in HIV infection such as low rate of uncircumcised Black males compared with whites, the large Black prison population, and poverty. In essence, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has completely transformed in nature with regards to who is primarily infected by the disease. Akin to the shift in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic exists the fact that the HIV virus is able to mutate so easily, making it virtually impossible for scientists to develop a vaccine against the disease.

Nevertheless, Mr. Best cites Dr. Greaves as commenting that while the cure to HIV is a "far way off," in the meanwhile, scientist can still continue to develop medications that can prolong life. This point is well taken in light of the fact that there is no cure for diabetes and hypertension, and yet, science has been able to treat people with these diseases to the point where the public no longer sees them as terminal conditions. Dr. Greaves underscores education and access to beneficial drugs as key elements in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST  
CASES—THE CHANGING FACE OF HIV/AIDS  
EPIDEMIC

(Tony Best)

To some, it was the disease from hell, the "gay cancer," that brought death. To others, it was an unfathomable plague whose origins were first believed to be in Haiti. That was a discredited medical theory scarred a nation, forcing millions from the Caribbean country to fight back to clear their name. To yet another group, the lethal virus that terrorized communities in North America, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, is still wreaking havoc, especially in Africa, but much less so in North America and the Caribbean.

The disease: HIV/AIDS.

Twenty five years after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control first told the world in a 1981 report about the deaths of five homosexuals in California from a rare form of pneumonia, few countries, if any have been spared the ferocity of this deadly disease. Some 25 million deaths later, at least 20,000 of them in Haiti, the Bahamas, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and their neighbors, the world is grappling with the devastation HIV/AIDS has left behind. The Bahamas and Barbados, for instance, are considered success stories in dealing with it, have had more than its fair share of deaths. "Looking back on what has happened in the 25 years, the picture is still not a bright one," said Dr. Wayne Greaves, a Caribbean scientist and an HIV/AIDS expert in the U.S.

For one thing, asserts Dr. Greaves who heads a research laboratory at a large U.S. pharmaceutical firm, "we can argue it is brighter than before, because there are newer and more effective drugs." Even more important, scientists know how to block some, not all, infections that attack the immune functions within the body. Still, there is no drug, which prevents HIV infection in the first place.

"From the epidemiological standpoint it is particularly disconcerting, particularly among Blacks and Hispanics," he said. "In the early days of the epidemic, 95 per cent of the total cases were among men. Two-thirds of those cases were among Caucasians. Blacks made up 20 per cent of the cases. Today, although Blacks account for 12 per cent of the U.S. population they account for 51 per cent of the new HIV cases. For women, the story today isn't very good. The cases diagnosed in the U.S. have increased dramatically among women, tripling among women. From eight per cent in 1985 women accounted for 29 percent of all the cases. It is even higher today."

The hard part is that the pattern of the diseases in Caribbean countries mirrors the trend in the U.S. Globally, more than three million died in 2004 and of the 40 million who succumbed to the disease since 1981, Africa accounted for half of them. In sub-Saharan Africa alone 25.8 million are living with HIV, a 75 per cent jump in the last decade. Sub-Saharan Africa has the world highest rate of infection followed by the Caribbean. In Asia, 8.3 million are living with the disease, an increase of almost 300 per cent since 1981. Indeed, 25 per cent of the new worldwide cases were in Asia last year. In Latin America and the Caribbean an estimated 2.1 million now have the disease, a 75 per cent increase from 1995.

"What is really very troubling in the United States is the high rate of infection among Black men, who are having sex with other men and many are also having sex with women," said Dr. Greaves. "This is really very troubling." How come such growing infections among Black men? "It's not really quite clear what's happening," Greaves said.

For instance, the causes range from a lack of knowledge about their own HIV status and then having sex with other people; low rate of uncircumcised Black males compared with whites; the prevalence of sex workers in Africa and the Caribbean; and the large Black prison population; to mistrust of the medical community; poverty and conspiracy theories.

"In summary, we are now talking about a different epidemic than the one first reported in 1981," Greaves, explained. "It is more heterosexual transmission than before; less homosexual; transmission through injection drug use remains the same; and a lot more women infected than in the early days of the epidemic." But what about treatment?

If there is a bright spot, it is that HIV positive individuals are living longer, many are leading normal lives, and infection is no longer seen as a death sentence, and that's true if you are in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, New York, Nassau or Port of Spain where retroviral drugs.

"I am optimistic from the medical and scientific standpoint in terms of the new medicines and drugs but I am not optimistic at all about the behavioral response to the messages which have been put out there in the public arena," he said.

On the horizon, some promising categories of drugs. One is entry-inhibitors, which block the virus from being able to enter the cells of the body, thus causing infections. The other is an enzymes used by the virus to infect the cell. By blocking the enzymes scientists interrupt the process of the virus multiplying and causing destruction of the cell, spawning new viruses.

"These are being developed and they look very promising," he reported. "If these successes continue, they would be useful additions to the existing drugs that we use to treat AIDS." Unfortunately, though, current research is unlikely to lead to a class of drugs anytime soon that would prevent infection. In essence, a cure is a far way off.

The problem is that the HIV virus is able to mutate so easily that scientists have been virtually unable to develop a vaccine that stimulates the right antibodies or cells that would prevent infection. "In the meantime, though, we will continue to develop better drugs and we can still prolong life," Greaves said. "We may not be able to cure the infection but we can keep people alive." After all, there's no cure for diabetes and hypertension but "we have effective drugs where people can go living virtually a normal life span," he says.

Dr. Greaves gives several Caribbean nations high marks for their efforts in fighting HIV through education and the provision of drugs to victims.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL ALLKINS

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his life to education. Dr. Michael Allkins will retire this month from Bay de Noc Community College, an institution that owes him a debt of gratitude for his tireless work to maintain, improve and strengthen not only the college, but the surrounding community.

Dr. Allkins was appointed president of Bay de Noc Community College (Bay) on August 1st of 1997. During his tenure, President

Allkins accomplished much, ensuring that Bay remains one of the finest community colleges in the Nation. On July 1st of 2006, his time at Bay will come to an end as he and his wife Linda begin a much deserved retirement.

During his administration, Dr. Allkins presided over the completion of the Joseph Heirman University Center, remodeled the Student Center, and improved the chemistry and water technology labs on the campus.

Bay was the first college in Michigan to be awarded a Michigan Technical Education Center. This innovative statewide program ensures that community colleges provide training that is relevant to the needs of local employers. It is through Dr. Allkins' leadership that Bay, in Escanaba, Michigan, was able to open the very first such technical training center in the entire state.

That accomplishment alone demonstrates that Dr. Allkins is a forward thinking leader with a strategy for Bay's future. However, Dr. Allkins' accomplishments span well beyond the Technical Education Center. For over 10 years, the staff and faculty of Bay de Noc had been working to expand the college by opening a campus in neighboring Dickinson County. Under the leadership of Dr. Allkins, the college finally succeeded in passing a millage to fund the expansion and better serve Bay's growing student body 55 miles away from the main campus. Dr. Allkins was instrumental in passing the millage and breaking ground for the new facility.

Dr. Allkins also led Bay through a lengthy, 10-year reaccreditation effort. This reaccreditation required improving the curriculum in general education, reviewing and assessing individual programs and making technological improvements a priority. Dr. Allkins also bolstered programs at the college that recognized the achievements of students, faculty and alumni and formalized Bay's graduation ceremonies.

As any president of an educational institution must be, Dr. Allkins was also an effective ambassador for Bay. He was known for working with the Michigan Community College Association and with legislators to lay a stable financial foundation for Bay. Rural community colleges often have to assert themselves to receive their fair share of funding and Dr. Allkins was an effective advocate for Bay, working to see equitable funding for Michigan community colleges.

Dr. Allkins was also involved in a variety of volunteer organizations in Escanaba and Delta counties. He served on the boards of the Delta County Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Alliance, the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes Educational Technologies, the YMCA and the Saint Francis Hospital Advisory Committee. He is an active member of the Escanaba Rotary Club.

Even prior to coming to Bay de Noc Community College, Dr. Allkins had already enjoyed a career dedicated to education. As Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Interim President at South West Community College in Mount Gay, West Virginia, Dr. Allkins made a number of important contributions to preserving and growing that institution.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Michael Allkins has clearly made education and rural education, in particular, the focus of his career. Bay de Noc Community College and its surrounding com-

munities are better for having enjoyed his stewardship. Because of his leadership skills and the importance of Bay de Noc Community College to the region, all of the Upper Peninsula benefited from having Dr. Michael Allkins and his wife, Linda Hirvonen, as professional citizens in our region of the country.

I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Michael Allkins on his retirement and in thanking him and Linda for their commitment to education and our communities.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF LANCE CORPORAL RYAN S. MILLER'S SERVICE

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lance Corporal Ryan S. Miller, United States Marine Corps, for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for superior performance of duty while serving as the Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's Color Detail at Twentynine Palms, California.

Lance Corporal Miller was responsible for posting the Combat Center's colors on a daily basis. As a result of his leadership, motivation, and attention to detail, the Color Detail accomplished its mission in an exemplary manner. Lance Corporal Miller has performed a great duty to our country. Lance Corporal Miller's Certificate of Appreciation is a permanent part of his official record at Headquarters, United States Marine Corps.

A 2004 graduate of Edward S. Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional District, Lance Corporal Miller is a fine example of how brave Americans stationed both in the United States and abroad are doing their duty faithfully and serving their country admirably.

As a member of the United States Marine Corps, Lance Corporal Miller is a part of a long tradition of military excellence. Due to the Marine's constant vigilance, the borders and freedoms of the United States are protected. The traditions of the United States Marine Corps are as old as the nation itself; Lance Corporal Miller's outstanding service and respect for traditions make him the pride of his community and a model American.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Lance Corporal Ryan S. Miller for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation. His contributions and service are a shining example to us all, and I am honored to be his representative in Washington.

#### RECOGNIZING CHANCE BROWN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 14, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chance Brown, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest