

HONORING GERALD R. BENNETT,
MAYOR OF PALOS HILLS, IL,
25TH CELEBRATION IN PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Gerald R. Bennett of Palos Hills, IL. Mayor Bennett has given 25 years of public service to the Palos Hills community.

As a native of Chicago's southwest side, Mayor Bennett attended Brother Rice High School. He then continued his education at Lewis University of Joliet and graduated from the University of Illinois—Chicago.

Mayor Bennett began his public service in 1979 by serving as alderman from the Second Ward of Palos Hills. Upon the completion of his term he was elected as mayor of Palos Hills in 1981, a position he has continued to serve for the past 25 years.

As mayor, Mr. Bennett has transformed the city of Palos Hills into a progressive community which seeks to unite all of Chicago's southwest suburban towns. Because of his exemplary leadership, Mayor Bennett has served as founder and president of the Southwest Conference of Mayors for the past 23 years. He is also the chairman of the Board of Southwest Central Dispatch, an intergovernmental police and fire 911 service.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Mayor Gerald R. Bennett. It is my honor to acknowledge Mayor Bennett for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service, in the city of Palos Hills and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

**HONORING JAMES "BUTCH"
LANGHORN**

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize James "Butch" Langhorn, an American patriot and good friend, for a lifetime dedicated to serving and defending our nation and the First Congressional District of New York in particular.

Since I was elected to Congress, it has been my honor and privilege having Butch working alongside me in my Long Island office. Butch was recently appointed Special Assistant to the Sheriff of Suffolk County. Although I will miss Butch tremendously, this important and highranking position is a well-deserved opportunity to continue his impressive career on Long Island.

Indeed, Butch is a consummate professional whose diligence and commitment constitute a shining example of public service. His tireless efforts and steadfast dedication have been invaluable assets to our constituent service operation, and I am confident that they will prove equally beneficial to the Sheriff, his office and his jurisdiction.

Time and again, Butch has risen above and beyond the call of duty, going the extra mile to provide the best service possible to our

constituents, particularly veterans, many of whom know Butch personally and respect his impeccable record and integrity. I have often said that Butch is the best veteran's staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives. If there is someone better, then I want to meet that person.

As a young man, Butch attended Riverhead High School on Long Island before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He served four years on active duty, including a tour in Vietnam. Shortly after his return, Butch joined the Air National Guard as a technician and was attached to the 106th Air Rescue Wing located at Gabreski Air Force Base on eastern Long Island. Butch was awarded multiple decorations and reached the senior rank of Chief Master Sergeant for his countless achievements, particularly for excellence in managing the base's personnel and finances.

Throughout his military service, Butch was always keenly aware and interested in Long Island's political environment. He was elected to and remains the current Democratic Town Leader of the Town of Riverhead.

Butch's dedication to his community complements his military record and civilian occupation. He has coached Little League baseball and Pop Warner football, and was awarded the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Award for the active and positive role that he has played for his church and in his community.

Butch currently resides in Riverhead with his wife, Linda. They have two children, Kelli and Michael; and four grandchildren, Katherine, Kameron, Kyler-Ann, and Danielle.

On behalf of my staff and New York's First Congressional District, I thank James "Butch" Langhorn for over four decades of public service, through which a common thread runs—his genuine commitment to his fellow veterans and Long Islanders. I wish him continued success, good health, and the best of luck in the future. Butch will be missed but always remembered with the highest degree of fondness, respect and gratitude.

**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS
AMERICAN HEART MONTH**

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge February as American Heart Month. Heart disease is an increasing issue in today's society. The risk of this detrimental disease can be prevented, if only we stop to recognize the warning signs.

Heart disease, strokes and other cardiovascular diseases are the leading causes of death in the United States. In 2003, collectively these diseases killed 910,600 of our citizens. Moreover, heart disease is the number one killer of women in America. Statistics show that more than 70 million Americans currently suffer from some form of cardiovascular disease. It is critical that we take action now to reduce the number of people who fall victim to these ailments.

As a member of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, I feel it is my duty to raise awareness of the seriousness of cardiovascular disease. The coalition is comprised of

several members of the House and the Senate. Together, we act as a resource center on heart and stroke issues such as biomedical research; quality and availability of care; health promotion and disease prevention. We also work to advance public policy aimed at fighting cardiovascular diseases. I believe in the importance of knowing the warning signs of this condition. More knowledge about this disease increases the chance of survival for our fellow countrymen.

Several things can be done to maintain a healthy heart. The first step is to be screened for heart disease, which includes having cholesterol and blood pressure checked. Next, it is important to start a conversation with health care providers about personal risks of heart disease. Most often, this includes a discussion of the family's history of stroke. Many doctors have advised that quitting smoking, losing weight and becoming more active through even moderate exercise greatly decreases the risk of cardiovascular disease. These are just a few things we can do to help reduce the risk of heart disease. The American Heart Association's website is a great resource for helpful facts, statistics, and warning signs of these impeding conditions. I believe it is crucial to heed these warnings.

Mr. Speaker, the heart is truly a vital organ pumping blood throughout our bodies everyday. I ask that you will join me in promoting heart healthy programs. Together, we will ensure Americans keep their hearts healthy.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS WESTERN'S 1966 NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of diversity in sports and civil rights in America first pioneered by Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship victory. On its 40th anniversary, I join my colleagues in recognizing the lasting impact this title game has etched into the history of American culture.

The Texas Western 1966 NCAA Championship triumph over the University of Kentucky is to this day acknowledged as the turning point for not only college basketball but American sports in general.

When no other schools in the Southeastern Conference or the former Southwestern Conference would award them athletic scholarships, African Americans had been recruited by and playing for Texas Western since the 1950s.

The university's most controversial move, however, came when the 1966 Miners were the first team in NCAA basketball to have an all-black starting lineup. Winning the title game was perhaps not as a great a feat for Coach Don Haskins as was placing five all-black starters against five all-white starters in 1966.

Haskins' daring insight combined with the players' undeniable athletic talent produced a game that would rupture the social structure of college sports and forever change the face of American sports.

The Miners' 72-65 victory over the Wildcats proved to be more than just an athletic anomaly. It became the social breakthrough that would invite the irrepressible talent and skill diversity has to offer to college athletics.

With cultural implications well beyond its sporting ones, this championship win has come to symbolize the glory that could be obtained by athletes—regardless of their heritage—who are bold enough to travel down the road of recognition, integration, and acceptance.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship as we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the team's revolutionary civil rights success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRED ANDERSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and public service of Mr. Fred Anderson of Loveland, Colorado. Mr. Anderson, a fifth generation Coloradoan, has devoted his life to public service and the people of Colorado.

In 1966 Mr. Anderson began his dutiful service in the State Senate. During his 16 year tenure as a State Senator, he chaired the Natural Resources Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee. He also served as president of the Senate from 1974 to 1982. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Anderson was responsible for Colorado becoming the first state to set up an actuarially sound pension program for public employees. Moreover, Mr. Anderson was instrumental in the recodification of Colorado Water Law. The expertise Mr. Anderson brought to this lengthy process was an invaluable asset to the people of Colorado.

Mr. Anderson's reputation as an effective leader and skilled legislator earned him national recognition. He served as president of the National Conference of State Legislators and also received a Presidential Appointment to the Advisory Commission for Inter-Governmental Relations.

Mr. Anderson's service to his community has not been limited to the political realm. He has unselfishly given of himself as a member of countless civic and philanthropic organizations. Mr. Anderson has served on the Governing Board of Lutheran Hospital and Homes Society and as chair of the United Way. He has also been actively involved in the Rotary Club, Farm Bureau, and Colorado Cattle Feeders.

Perhaps most importantly however, Mr. Anderson is a family man of tremendous character. He and his wife Anne have been married for over fifty-two years. He is the proud father of three sons and a daughter as well as a proud grandfather of seven.

INTRODUCING THE PULMONARY AND CARDIAC REHABILITATION ACT OF 2006

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD, is the number four killer in the United States, and it is the only condition in the top ten where deaths are increasing annually. Analysts predict it will move into the number three position within the next decade. But through pulmonary rehabilitation, doctors and health care providers are saving lives. This treatment is covered by Medicare, but confusion in the regulation denies many people the opportunity for this life-saving and life-extending treatment.

As far back as 1981, the Health Care Financing Administration, now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, recognized the importance of pulmonary rehabilitation and readily acknowledged it was a covered service under Medicare. But in the past 25 years, the Medicare program has not published a policy for coverage of pulmonary rehabilitation services, letting local Medicare contractors decide how best to cover the service. So in some parts of the United States, Medicare beneficiaries have no access to pulmonary rehabilitation because local Medicare contractors have no defined policy for coverage.

So, today I introduce the Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act of 2006, a companion bill to S. 1440 introduced by Senators MIKE CRAPO and BLANCHE LINCOLN. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague JOHN LEWIS as a cosponsor of this reform legislation. This legislation clarifies Medicare language to establish a specific benefit category for pulmonary rehabilitation services.

Organizations such as the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Thoracic Society, the National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care, the American Association of Respiratory Care and the American Hospital Association have all signaled their support for this reform.

Heart disease, along with other cardiovascular diseases, is the number one killer in the United States. So in addition to establishing a specific benefit category for pulmonary rehabilitation, this legislation would do the same for cardiac rehabilitation services. I commend CMS for taking action on cardiac rehabilitation and proposing a National Coverage Decision in December 2005. This bill would give legislative certainty and clarity to that action.

Because CMS agrees that cardiac rehabilitation is an important covered service, there is no cost associated with these provisions of the bill. The costs associated with the pulmonary rehabilitation section are currently being scored by the Congressional Budget Office and are expected to be minimal.

My mother recently experienced firsthand the benefits of these rehabilitation services at South Central Regional Medical Center in my hometown of Laurel, Mississippi. I hope this legislation will provide others around the country with the same health care opportunities that have so benefited my mother. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELIZABETHTOWN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to honor the First Baptist Church of Elizabethtown, Illinois, as it celebrates its bicentennial anniversary on July 9, 2006. Since its founding in 1806, the Elizabethtown Baptist Church has been preaching the gospel in the community, and has served as a symbol of faith and endurance.

The church was founded by Stephen Stilley, William Jones, and others as God led them to begin a Baptist work in the Illinoisan territory. The first meeting of the church took place—as many of the New Testament churches did—in a small home. It was built in a safe place for the worshippers near Griffith Cave. This proved to be of the utmost importance when the building was burned by the Indians, at first. In 1877, the church purchased land from the Drumms family and built the current church from bricks made at the local kiln. Today the congregation has made extensive repairs in an effort to preserve the old church for future generations.

The challenge of the church is to keep the sacred word of God and faithfulness of the people. For 200 years, God has protected and preserved his people's church through the threat of fire, flood, and other natural and man-made disasters as living testimony of His Divine Grace. As the celebrations go on, all visitors are always welcome. My family and I have been graciously invited to attend the celebration of their bicentennial anniversary.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless this historic and remarkable congregation and they would remain a positive influence for the future of the Elizabethtown community of Illinois.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join Chairman MEL WATT and the entire Congressional Black Caucus in recognizing the importance of Black History Month. While Black History Month always provides us with an important opportunity to reflect on the vital accomplishments and contributions of African Americans, it has taken on a special meaning this year with the recent passing of both Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King.

Although they have passed on, Mrs. King and Mrs. Parks continue to inspire us to work towards the noble goal of equality for all. These two women were among a group of brave pioneers who led one of the greatest movements of our time—the Civil Rights Movement. I have great respect for all those who risked beatings and arrests, and were even willing to make the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—to stand up for a cause that is right and just.