

members and their families live in housing the Navy obtained when Ft. Sheridan and Naval Air Station Glenview, located well away from North Chicago, were closed in the 1990's. These former bases are located within the boundaries of other school districts—districts that bear the economic cost of educating children from a base, but receive none of the economic benefits a base provides. Thus, it is vitally important that we both ensure North Chicago continues to receive heavily impacted payments for the benefit of students living there, and that the surrounding communities are more fairly compensated for their loss of property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot abdicate our responsibility towards our military families. I have already introduced a bill this Congress, H.R. 390, the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act (GRADE-A), to fully fund the Impact Aid program. However, the situation in my district warrants special attention. In order to ensure that our students most in need continue to receive necessary resources, I have introduced a new bill to help North Chicago remain qualified for heavily impacted payments, and Glenview and Highland Park receive fair compensation.

By passing this bill, the federal government will be fulfilling its responsibility to these communities, and giving our military families the support they deserve. I urge the local communities to continue to work to come to an agreement that most importantly, takes care of our students.

TRIBUTE TO MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD'S 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I express today my strong support and appreciation for the 2,600 soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Brigade Combat team as they prepare to depart Camp Shelby, Mississippi for Iraq.

As the 1st Brigade heads overseas for their 12 month deployment, we will remember not just their service and sacrifice, but also that each and every one of these soldiers has a family who is also sacrificing for their country's security in the War on Terror.

Today these soldiers and their families are showing us their commitment to their Nation's security and safety.

Let us make sure we show them ours by giving them the tools and support they need to do their jobs and return home quickly and safely.

As these brave soldiers depart over St. Patrick's day, may all our prayers and the luck of the Irish be with them. May they come home safely.

HONORING MS. KATHY ALJOE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Ms. Kathy Aljoe of Flower Mound, Texas. Ms. Aljoe's zealous and passionate spirit towards community service warrants recognition. Recently, she retired as the town's longest-tenured employee after 31 years of service.

Kathy Aljoe started working for the City of Flower Mound on July 16, 1975 as an administrative assistant to the town manager. When Ms. Aljoe started working for Flower Mound, she was one of only seven town employees—Flower Mound only had 1,600 residents. The town now has grown to 62,000 residents, and Kathy has had her hand in many parts of the development throughout her career, in particular with the planning services division. Ms. Aljoe's work has been so influential, that the Town of Flower Mound has announced February 24th as Kathy Aljoe Day.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize Ms. Kathy Aljoe, who has dedicated her career to her community. Ms. Aljoe's admirable commitment to the Town of Flower Mound is greatly appreciated. I am honored to represent her in Congress, and I hope that others will follow in her steps of service to their community.

TENNESSEE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LETTERS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALES

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD letters that the entire Tennessee Congressional Delegation recently sent to Alberto Gonzales, Attorney General of the United States and Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. These letters discuss the case of *Cookeville v. Thompson* and Section 5002 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The U.S. District Court decision in this case awarded 15 Tennessee hospitals up to \$100 million in Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital payments.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2006.

Hon. ALBERTO GONZALES,
Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES: We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent Motion filed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to alter the judgment in the case of *Cookeville v. Thompson* based on Section 5002 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). As you will recall, the U.S. District Court decision in this case awarded 15 Tennessee hospitals up to \$100 million in Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments.

The U.S. District Court's ruling, which is now being challenged, was based on its rejection of the Centers for Medicare and Med-

icaid Services (CMS) DSH policy as a violation of the Medicare statute. In CMS' 2000 policy statement announcing the inclusion of certain expansion population individuals in the DSH formula, CMS stated that these individuals would only be included in the DSH calculation prospectively. Hospitals challenged the prospective nature of the policy and were awarded compensation for patients treated prior to 2000.

At the recommendation of CMS, Congress included a provision in the DRA ratifying the 2000 policy and its prospective application. Tennessee hospitals expressed concern that court decisions directing CMS to pay retroactively could be appealed with the new law. During the reconciliation process, however, CMS continually assured Congressional staff verbally, and by electronic communication, that hospitals which had been successful in litigation would still receive payment. CMS asserted that the new provision would not affect decided cases and would only be applied prospectively.

In its Motion, however, HHS cites the DRA as support for the reversal of the *Cookeville* decision. There is no mention that the regulation should only apply prospectively. In fact, HHS' position suggests that recalculation of the DSH formula should not have been required. Congress intended that this provision would only be used prospectively. Thus, hospitals that had been successful in litigation prior to passage of the DRA would still receive payment. Considering the argument made by HHS rests upon the DRA, and that it was our understanding that this provision would not be used to appeal decided cases, we request further explanation of what we believe to be a serious miscommunication by CMS.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

William H. Frist, M.D., Majority Leader,
United States Senate, Zach Wamp,
John Duncan, Jr., Jim Cooper, Marsha Blackburn, Harold Ford, Lamar Alexander, William L. Jenkins, Lincoln Davis, Bart Gordon, John Tanner, *Members of Congress.*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, March 10, 2006.

Hon. MICHAEL O. LEAVITT,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY LEAVITT: We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent Motion filed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to alter the judgment in the case of *Cookeville v. Thompson* based on Section 5002 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). As you will recall, the U.S. District Court decision in this case awarded 15 Tennessee hospitals up to \$100 million in Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments.

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Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to your prompt response.

William H. Frist, M.D., Majority Leader,
Zach Wamp, John J. Duncan, Jr., Jim Cooper, Marsha Blackburn, Harold Ford, Lamar Alexander, William L. Jenkins, Lincoln Davis, Bart Gordon, John Tanner, *Members of Congress.*

A TRIBUTE TO MARIA JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Maria Johnson, a member of the Brooklyn community and a distinguished member of the healthcare profession.

Mrs. Johnson has been a professional registered nurse for 15 years, working in various areas of nursing, such as oncology, medical-surgical nursing, visiting nursing and intensive care, and for the past 10 years, as a public health school nurse in the department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of School Health. Her passion is geared to helping and impacting people.

Mrs. Johnson is currently a supervising nurse for the Office of School Health in District 23 and 19 in Brownsville and East New York, Brooklyn. She supervises a staff of 35, consisting of nurses, public health advisors and assistants. Her goal is to provide optimal health services to children especially in underserved areas. She is passionate about providing public health teaching to the school health community, and making a difference by upholding the standards of service. Her commitment to encouraging and empowering people to become more knowledgeable about public health services helps public health professionals develop organizational systems that work well in providing care to students. She keeps her staff focused and enthusiastic so that they not only see their very difficult role as the school nurse, advisor or assistant as just a profession, but as a purpose by which they are driven. Two years ago, she inspired her staff to create a Secret Santa for various needy children in the community.

Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of Long Island University with a Baccalaureate degree in nursing. She was the first nurse to be nominated as employee of the month in the Department of Health.

Mrs. Johnson attributes her success first to God and a strong foundation from her parents, and the support from her husband and children. She is an active member of her church where she and her husband provide lay biblical counseling for pre-marital couples. She enjoys reading, dancing, craft projects and decorating.

An important question she often asks herself is, what I have done today to affect others and make a difference. Her famous motto is "Keep a smile on your face and let your spirit shine through," which is often placed on her staff's schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Maria Johnson, as she offers her talents and community services for the good of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, Maria Johnson's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL CORRIE

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, today is the third anniversary of the murder of Rachel Corrie, an American who was crushed to death by Israel's American-manufactured Caterpillar bulldozers. Rachel was protesting the Israeli Army's illegal bulldozing of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip. The Corrie family has filed suit against Caterpillar, charging it with knowingly selling machines used to violate human rights.

From the Rachel Corrie website I found a link to these lyrics by Ten Foot Pole entitled, "Rachel Corrie."

"RACHEL CORRIE"

You heard of Rachel Corrie?
The press won't tell her story
Caught between a house and bulldozer
She found out that Israel
Hates gardens and it will kill
Americans who help rebuild the Gaza Strip.
Let's pretend that everything will be OK
It's not our fault let's look the other way
And go to films or dance lessons or baseball
games at night
and trust elected leaders to choose right
I hurt for Rachel's father
To bury his young daughter
And her belief in human goodness
He taught her to fight violence
Now all that's left is silence
And the memory of her dignity
Let's pretend . . .
Rachel I hope you find justice or even a
garden where anyone can grow some food in
peace
No guns, no need to fight. No poor, no black
no white,
Heaven, you deserve a break from misery

Thanks to Maarten Joostens
(hiprock_cafe@hotmail.com) for these lyrics.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, we should be cutting off funds for the War In Iraq, not adding more dollars. The billions of dollars already appropriated are enough to sustain our troops until the kind of orderly withdrawal proposed by Representative JOHN MURTHA is implemented. It is long past time to withdraw from a war that is sucking us deeper everyday into a bottomless quicksand pit of filth. To wage this war this administration is trampling on vital political rights and abandoning basic moral values. To pay for this war we are cutting aid to public housing; aid to Medicaid and Medicare; Pell grants; aid to public education; and numerous other programs which support the general welfare of all Americans.

Deeply destructive public policies and practices have become routine in this administration as every conceivable trick is used to rationalize the war. To save the nation we must withdraw from Iraq and JOHN MURTHA has offered the most practical scenario for achieving this goal. At the heart of the Murtha proposal is the recommendation of an orderly withdrawal over a six-month period. Murtha offers an honorable way out of a quicksand pit of filth. JOHN MURTHA speaks with the voice of a soldier. He thinks with the mind of a patriot. And JOHN MURTHA feels with the heart of a grieving mother.

Very definitive polls now communicate to all leaders the American people's overwhelming disapproval of the President and his War In Iraq. Our constituents endorse and support the position of JOHN MURTHA. History will certainly illuminate and validate the courage and wisdom of JOHN MURTHA. But Members of Congress should not wait for history. We Members of Congress have a duty to make history, to guide the nation out of this peril and back to the path of progress and prosperity. There are two classes of leaders who support this administration's War In Iraq: Those who consistently vote for the war and the endless appropriations. And those leaders whose levels of concern are so low that they refuse, despite the objections of their constituents, to even take the very moderate action of becoming a co-sponsor of Murtha's well-reasoned proposal for withdrawal. Censure or impeachment proceedings may be necessary in the future. But at this immediate moment the opportunity to salvage this deteriorating situation is clearly present in the Murtha proposal. Members should co-sponsor Murtha now and let their constituents know that their voices have been heard.

Vote first against this wasteful, destructive, appropriation for Iraq. And then sign on as a Murtha co-sponsor.