

The VA's commitment to move into this realm of research, to advance our knowledge of the relationship of the genome to a host of physical and mental conditions relevant to veterans, is completely in keeping with the investigative nature of VA medicine. For 75 years our researchers and clinicians have been breaking exciting ground in virtually every aspect of medicine, with most of their work resulting in new and better ways to treat the myriad illnesses of our veterans. From Nobel Prize-winning researchers—and the VA's had three Nobel Prize winners—from Nobel Prize winners to the CAT scan to paperless records technologies, to kidney transplants, to microchip-drive prosthetics, to medical school partnerships that have trained more than half of our nation's physicians today, we are leading the world in our care for our veterans.

As I've outlined, we've done a great job so far. We are a world-class healthcare network when it comes to treating existing illnesses and disabilities. But then we ask ourselves, what if we knew how to identify the earliest possible signs of a veteran's predisposition to a particular disease? What if we knew in advance how a veteran would react to a particular drug therapy? What if we could reasonably forecast the risks a particular veteran might face with respect to some forms of cancer? What if, summing up, we could move from providing medicine that is preventative to medicine that is predictive?

With the advent of the Genomic Medicine Advisory Committee, we are positioning the VA to take a new journey, a truly great journey along the DNA trail. It is a path still not well lighted. There are so many questions of ethics and privacy that we are not going to proceed down that trail without first assessing the risks and benefits to our veterans. But we know from past experience that once we determine that a VA program is in the best interest of our veterans, we move forward with all the resources we can muster.

And when VA health care is on the move, we change the nation's healthcare landscape for the better. As medical practice incorporates the advances of science, we must harness VA's triple mission of health care, research and training to bring these advances to the veterans we serve.

I'm confident our new push down the genomic road will benefit not only our veterans, but the larger national health care community as a whole, as so much of our other research has done, such as the development of the CAT scan and the pacemaker and the first liver transplant done at the VA.

#### A TRIBUTE TO PARTHENIA HOLLIDAY

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Parthenia R. Holliday and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Parthenia R. Holliday was born in Philadelphia, PA.

Her childhood years were like so many others filled with challenges, crossroads and hur-

dles that seemed uncrossable. At the tender age of 16 she knew her life long dream and desire was the wonderful art of singing. Her father and other sibling also were musically inclined and played instruments and sang, and so it was in her blood to sing and sing she did.

Ms. Holliday sang all over the world from Budapest, Hungary, Russia, Africa, and most recently in 2005 in London, England. She has also performed with Alvin Slaughter and others.

Ms. Holliday sang in many establishments in New York City and New Jersey. Unfortunately, Ms. Holliday found herself entangled in substances that were not healthy, or helpful for her continued growth and high self-esteem. Ms. Holliday's life took a wonderful change in her early 20s, hearing the promises of God, she accepted Jesus Christ as her lord and savior. The word of deliverance was preached unto her and after many trials and errors, the chains that bound her were broken and the broken pieces of her life were put back together again. Nothing became more important to Ms. Holliday than to do the will of Him who called her out of darkness to the marvelous light.

Ms. Holliday combined the fields of dentistry and elder care for a lifetime of caring and sharing. However, she believes her greatest gift is fundraising. Ms. Holliday received a certificate for great community services from the Honorable State Senator John L. Sampson for her accomplishments at the Bible Speaks Church and Christian School of Brooklyn, NY.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Parthenia R. Holliday as she offers her talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

#### HONORING MR. CALVIN BELLAMY

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Calvin Bellamy on the occasion of his retirement as chief executive officer of Bank Calumet, where he has served the people of Northwest Indiana over the past 24 years. Throughout his time leading Bank Calumet, Mr. Bellamy has done much to improve the quality of life for everyone in Northwest Indiana. He has been an exemplary community leader as well as a successful business man, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Under Mr. Bellamy, Bank Calumet has become a crucial component for economic development in the region, with branches serving both Indiana and Illinois. Today, Bank Calumet operates in 29 locations with over 400 employees. Bank Calumet has become one of the largest locally owned bank and holding companies in Northwest Indiana with over \$1 billion in total assets. Bank Calumet has been named "one of America's best banks" by all three national rating services under Mr. Bellamy's leadership. These incredible accomplishments reflect the drive, passion, and commitment Cal Bellamy has shown to creating a world-class financial institution that invests in the communities it serves.

Cal Bellamy's contributions to the economy of Northwest Indiana are only eclipsed by his personal dedication to our community. Cal has been called on to lend his expertise and leadership to several important organizations in Northwest Indiana. Mr. Bellamy serves as chairman of the Purdue Technology Center Advisory Board, where he is involved with the center's activities to attract high-tech jobs to Northwest Indiana. He is also chairman of the Northwest Indiana Forum, the Education Committee of the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, the Ethics In Government Taskforce of the Lake County Community Development Committee, and cochair of Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana Capital Campaign.

Mr. Bellamy also serves on the Board of Directors of many organizations committed to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana, including the First District Pro Bono Committee, which provides legal services for low-income individuals, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Lake County Workforce Development, the Calumet Council Boy Scouts of America, the Northwest Indiana Minority Business Opportunity Committee, and the Northwest Indiana World Trade Council. Cal Bellamy also commits his time to educational causes throughout the area, serving as the founding director of the Hammond Education Foundation, on the Board of Advisors for Indiana University Northwest, and on the Chancellor's Council for Purdue University Calumet. Without a doubt, Mr. Bellamy has given his time and energy graciously to make Northwest Indiana a better place for future generations.

Mr. Bellamy received his B.A. with highest distinction from Indiana University, his law degree from the University of Michigan, and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Delaware. I wish him and his wife, Cathy, the best of luck as they approach the exciting next steps of their life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Cal Bellamy for his outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. His commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of the First Congressional District of Indiana is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended. Over the years, I have sought out Cal to seek his assistance on matters affecting Northwest Indiana. I have always found him to be trustworthy and deliberate in our conversations. As John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." Cal Bellamy has been a great leader for Northwest Indiana.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO BRAYTON WILBUR

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Brayton Wilbur, Jr., a great San Franciscan and a dear friend. One of our great civic leaders, he made immeasurable contributions to our most treasured institutions. Mr. Wilbur passed away on March 24 after a lifetime of service to the arts, the business

community, his family, and the city he called home.

A native San Franciscan, he was born on October 2, 1935, and was a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Business School. He joined his family's firm, Wilbur-Ellis Co., in 1963, becoming its president and CEO in 1988 and chairman of the Board of Directors in 2000 after overseeing an extraordinary era of expansion. He served as a director of several San Francisco institutions, including Safeway Stores and the Chronicle Publishing Company.

Through his enthusiasm for the arts, Mr. Wilbur eloquently expressed his love for San Francisco. He served as a director of the San Francisco Opera, a trustee of the Asian Art Museum, and as the 15th president of the San Francisco Symphony, presiding over the inauguration of our beloved Davies Symphony Hall in 1980.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Judy, his beloved wife of 43 years, his children, Michael, Jennifer, Edward and Claire, his mother Dita, and his sisters Lolita and Mary. As they have lost a loved one, so the city of San Francisco has lost one of its most distinguished sons.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAPA EMERGENCY WOMEN'S SERVICES

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Emergency Women's Services, commonly known as NEWS, of Napa, California, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Since its inception, NEWS has played a vital role in protecting and assisting women and children throughout the Napa Valley who are the victims of domestic violence. A group of concerned citizens took the initiative to address the growing problem of domestic violence and created an emergency hotline in 1979. With the dedication, leadership, and compassion of these individuals, NEWS came to fruition on October 5, 1981.

NEWS is the only organization in the Napa Valley dedicated to helping women and children lead lives free of violence. Over the past 25 years, NEWS has grown and expanded to provide numerous services to people throughout Napa County, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and education outreach programs. All of these services play an important role in providing women and children with the guidance and support necessary to help them overcome the physical and psychological damage caused by domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the lifeblood of this organization is its devoted staff and volunteers who work day and night to ensure that women and children always have a safe place to seek shelter. These hardworking individuals have changed the lives of thousands of women and children in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Napa Emergency Women's Services for its immeasurable service to Napa County. I congratulate NEWS on

their 25th Anniversary and wish them well as they continue their work to improve the lives of all Napa citizens.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LUTHER M. WRIGHT

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Luther M. Wright, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Luther M. Wright was born on June 2, 1942 in Louisa, Virginia, and he currently resides in Laurelton, New York.

Mr. Wright received his early education in New York City at P.S. 140. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and attended Queens College of the City University of New York from 1974–1977. He also attended the United States Coast Guard Engineer Program and received his license as a Chief Marine Engineer.

Mr. Wright served in the New York City Fire Department for 15 years as a Chief Engineer, retiring with 27 years of service. He served in the United States Army from 1964–1966 in active duty, as a reservist from 1969–1995 and participated in Desert Storm in 1991. Mr. Wright retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant. He is also a member of the Vulcan Society of the New York City Fire Department and Past President and Captain of the 231st Block Association.

Among his many community service projects, Mr. Wright was initiated into Tuscan Lodge No. 58 F&AM (PH) in 1978. He was elected to Worshipful Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1986; Secretary of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1987–present; Excellent High Priest of Mount Moriah Chapter No. 3 Holy Royal Arch Masons in June 2003; Ill. Commander in Chief of Long Island Consistory No. 61 AASR (PHA) in 2002 and 2003; Ill. Potentate of Abu-Bekr Temple No. 91 AEAOONMS (PHA) in 1994; and appointed Deputy of the Oasis for Abu-Bekr No. 91 in 2002, by Imperial Potentate William F. Crockett.

Additional leadership posts include: District Deputy Grand Master for the Second Masonic District from June 2001–2002; Worthy Patron in Fidelity Chapter No. 54 OES (PHA); District Deputy Grand Commander for the Second District; District Deputy Thrice Illustrious Master for the Royal & Select Masters and Assistant Recorder for the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York.

Through these organizations, Mr. Wright has distributed toys and clothing to the needy children of East New York and Kings County Hospital, fed the homeless, and sponsored young children to attend Camp Eureka during the summers of 2002 and 2003.

Luther Wright is a member of the Good News Baptist Church of Hollis Queens, New York. He has been married to the beautiful Phyllis A. Wright for the past 34 years, and they have three grown children, all 4-year college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Luther Wright as he offers his talents

for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wright's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

#### HONORING AUDREY YVONNE WILLSON, WHOSE LIFE JOURNEY LED HER TO BECOME YVE-I RASTAFARI

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Audrey Yvonne Willson, whose spiritual evolution led to her being known at the end of her life as Yve-I Rastafari. Yve-I was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, friend, artist, educator and leader in our community and our world. She passed away on March 13, 2006 at the age of 63.

Born Audrey Yvonne Willson, she grew up in the Fort Greene Projects of Brooklyn, New York, where she developed the quick wit and savvy nature for which she was known throughout her life. Living in New York, she met and married Bob Law in 1962. During that period, she became an active member of the Congress for Racial Equality, and was at the forefront of the Black Cultural/Consciousness movement, identifying strongly with her African heritage as an activist of that era and throughout her life.

In the decade that followed, Audrey began a new journey, moving to Silver Spring, Maryland and obtaining her Masters Degree in Education as well as her Montessori certification. These achievements began her lifelong devotion to the education and healthy development of children, which included her own young daughters, and ultimately led Audrey to create her own educational model.

Audrey's journey of intellectual, cultural and spiritual discovery soon led her to West Africa, where she immediately fell in love with the people, their land, and their struggles. Her proficiency in the Spanish, Twi, Amharic and Arabic languages allowed her to be a teacher and a student of the people she met there, and through her travels she forged human and spiritual ties that would last a lifetime.

In the years that followed, her newfound faith of Islam led her to change her name to Ameena, and during her time in Africa she met and married her second husband, an American named Daud Malik Watts. Upon her return to the United States, she rededicated herself to her life's mission of serving our young people by opening, with Daud, the Reston Montessori School in Virginia.

As she continued her spiritual exploration in the 1980s, she was led to return to her birth name of Audrey. During that time she also traveled frequently to the west coast and split her time between working in the non-profit sector and developing her own small business selling her delicious homemade apple pies.

As she neared the conclusion of her spiritual journey, she changed her name to Yve-I Rastafari, which was a reflection of her becoming a Rastafarian. In the 1990s, when she underwent this transition, she also moved to