

of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, an organization that promotes minority brotherhood and leadership; he continues his connection to the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., represented on several occasions in the Las Vegas Sun and Review Journal newspapers; and has held memberships in Negro Aviation International (NAI), the Dadailians, and served on the Board of Directors of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce. Today, Lt. Col. George Sherman (Ret.) remains active in the pursuit of minority youth achievement in aviation, while maintaining his commitment of volunteer work within the Clark County community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Lt. Col. George Sherman on the floor of the House today. I thank him for his services to this country and congratulate him on a wonderful eighty years.

TRIBUTE TO THE HAITIAN EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIAMI

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church of Miami on the occasion of the blessing of its new Sanctuary.

On Sunday, April 9, 2006, the Reverend David Eugene will lead the members of his congregation to celebrate this milestone of the Church, which sits in the heart of my District's North Dade community.

Founded in August 1980, this Church has unselfishly committed its ministry of bringing the message of salvation to newly-arrived Haitian immigrants. Part of its stewardship is an ongoing teaching component and counseling service that helps meet the needs of immigrant families as they strive to adapt to a new culture. It has also defined its outreach effort as to bring the "whole gospel to the whole man," striving to empower the members of its congregation with their spiritual, emotional, mental and relational well-being, and to draw closer to other communities. Consistent with this philosophy of ministry, this Church has embarked on and supported many community projects to improve the quality of life of underprivileged Haitian children in the Miami-Dade community, and in Haiti as well.

Since its establishment 26 years ago, the prime focus of Church members has been the construction of a sanctuary where people of all races and cultural backgrounds can come together to worship. On its appointed hour at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, this cherished dream will come to fruition when members of this Congregation will join their voices to those of many prominent members and supporters of this community to inaugurate this long-awaited sanctuary and give thanks to all those who have labored long and hard to ensure that this day would come.

Reverend Eugene has spearheaded not only a spiritual rejuvenation of the members of his Church, but he has also made magnificent strides in ensuring that their commitment to the mandate of the Gospel is defined by its outreach efforts to provide free and reduced-price daycare services to the children in the community, along with an after-school pro-

gram for low-income families, dropout prevention, computer literacy and acculturation classes, voters' education and registration. It has also established free student tutorials, substance-abuse prevention counseling, along with counseling for dysfunctional families, parenting skills, and regular seminars on cultural diversity.

I am confident that this Church will continue to serve as an unerring instrument for good by evoking in us the centrality of God in our daily lives, conscious of the fact that mandate of our faith must define our charity, understanding and compassion for those who could least fend for themselves.

With the consecration of its Sanctuary on its 26th year of establishment, the Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church of Miami symbolizes a magnificent legacy for the perseverance and resilience of our Haitian community. I join Reverend Eugene and his congregation in celebrating this historic event. My genuine pride in sharing their friendship is only exceeded by my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for all that they have done to help the people of our community.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF KIDNEY DISEASE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, as Congress recognizes National Minority Health Month, I join my colleagues, Congresswoman Christensen and Congressman Jefferson to increase awareness about the devastating effects of kidney disease on the African American community.

Both kidney failure and its precursor, Chronic Kidney Disease, CKD, disproportionately affect African Americans. Although only about 13 percent of the U.S. population, African Americans make up 32 percent of the patients treated for kidney failure. The American Heart Association reports that African Americans have a 4.2 times greater rate of kidney failure than white Americans. The Congressional Black Caucus is especially concerned about the growing prevalence of kidney disease because of this disproportionate impact.

Mr. Speaker, the leading causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, both of which also disproportionately affect African Americans. Diabetes occurs at twice the rate in the African American community than it does with Caucasians. High blood pressure affects 1 out of every 3 African American adults. According to the American Heart Association, the prevalence of hypertension in the African American community is among the highest in the world.

Mr. Speaker, African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than Caucasians. African Americans make up 12 percent of the population but account for 30 percent of people with kidney failure. Diabetes and high blood pressure account for about 70 percent of kidney failure in African Americans. A recent National Kidney Disease Education Program, NKDEP, survey of African Americans found that only 17 percent named kidney disease as a consequence of diabetes,

and only eight percent named it as a consequence of high blood pressure. African American males ages 22–44 are 20 times more likely to develop kidney failure due to high blood pressure than Caucasian males in the same age group. Forty-five percent of African American men with kidney failure received late referrals to nephrologists. In some cases people were not aware they had a problem until they needed dialysis.

We must continue our strong support of the efforts of the kidney care community to meet the needs of these patients. We must fund education programs to raise awareness of the disease within the African American community. We must ensure that Medicare treats those who care for patients with kidney disease the same way it treats all other groups of providers—this means enacting an annual update mechanism to recognize inflation and other increases related to caring for these patients. Without equitable reimbursement, it will be difficult for the community to continue to meet the needs of the ever-growing patient population.

Supporting educational programs and high quality care not only improves quality of life for patients, but also reduces the cost to the overburdened Medicare program. Preventing kidney failure and improving care will result in substantial savings for the government. In addition, if treated early, individuals with kidney disease will experience an improved quality of life and be able to maintain more daily life activities, including keeping their jobs.

My colleagues and I applaud the efforts to increase awareness about this important issue and to show support for Americans living with kidney disease. We must act now to help Americans learn more about this deadly disease and how to prevent its development and progression to kidney failure.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DAVE PETERSON

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 6, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Dave Peterson, of Overland Park, Kansas, who died on March 20th. Dave was born March 31, 1951, to Harold and Josephine (Lewis) Peterson. He was a lifelong resident of the Kansas City area and married Cindy Peterson, with whom he had two daughters: Erica and Andrea Peterson, all of Overland Park. He is also survived by his sister Pat Higgins and brothers Harold Peterson, Jr., and John Peterson.

Dave Peterson was a member of United Auto Workers Local 31 since he began working at General Motors in 1976. He became the President of the local in 2002, a position he held until the time of his death. He was also the President of the Kansas State CAP Council, the AFL-CIO Tri-County Labor Council, was a past member of the executive board of the Wyandotte County United Way and was involved in numerous charity organizations throughout the community. He formerly served as an executive board member of the Kansas AFL-CIO. Dave worked at the GM-Fairfax facility in Kansas City, Kansas, for 30 years, starting on the production line and then going

through an apprenticeship program to become a skilled tradesman.

Mr. Speaker, the details of his life do not paint the full picture of the personality and influence that Dave Peterson brought to bear in the Kansas City metropolitan area. As Kevin O'Neill, the publisher of the Labor Beacon said in his paper's obituary concerning Dave: "Whenever I thought of Dave Peterson, I thought of passion. The man was full of passion. That is what made him a great leader. That is what made him a great man." As Garry Kemp, Business Manager for the Greater Kansas City Building Trades said, in the same article, "All who knew him will acknowledge that he wasn't bashful whenever he spoke, publicly or privately, regarding the working people and their equal rights to obtain an economically fair and just livelihood from the services rendered." Dave Peterson was a friend, neighbor and advisor of mine. His enthusiasm, integrity and dedication to the public interest will be sorely missed by all of us in public service in the Kansas City metro area. I echo the sentiments expressed on the Kansas Democratic Party's Web site concerning the passing of Dave Peterson: "Dave was a well-reasoned and common sense advisor to government and business leaders across the state. He was an active, passionate and vocal Democrat who never hesitated to tell anyone how he felt, and that he was proud to be a Democrat. Dave's leadership and dedication will be missed."

While Dave and I did not agree on every policy issue that came before Congress, I respected his counsel and welcomed his advice. Our community is richer for his having been among us and we are poorer today because we have lost him. Mr. Speaker, I include with this statement the obituary regarding Dave Peterson that was published in the Kansas City Star:

DAVE PETERSON, PRESIDENT OF UAW LOCAL,  
DIES AT 54

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 23, 2006]

(By Randolph Heaster)

Dave Peterson, a prominent local union leader, died Monday. He was 54.

Peterson became president of United Auto Workers Local 31 in 2002 and served as its recording secretary before that. He was also president of the AFL-CIO Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas.

Peterson's activism on behalf of causes supported by organized labor was well known among community and civic leaders. He and Local 31, which represents workers at the General Motors Fairfax assembly plant, also were active in United Way fundraising in Wyandotte County.

He put Local 31 on the map in the political arena and in the labor movement in general, said Jeff Manning, Local 31 vice president. He touched a lot of people, and he was always involved in charitable causes.

Peterson was one of the principal organizers of last year's Labor Day parade, the first in Kansas City in 13 years. He thought such a tradition was sorely needed to reinvigorate a labor movement that was still recovering from the setbacks of the 2004 elections.

We're looking for something to rally around, he said at the time. If we don't come together and show some solidarity, we're all going to wind up losing.

Peterson regularly attended a monthly breakfast meeting between union officials and local media members. That was where Gordon Clark said he got to know Peterson

better and began working with him on various issues.

Dave was one of the best labor leaders that I've known, and I've looked up to him the last few years for guidance and leadership, said Clark, president of Transport Workers Union Local 530, which represents American Airlines workers. I was proud to know him. Clark said Peterson was quick to volunteer his time for training or teaching forums on matters affecting organized labor.

He always made the Local 31 union hall available for whoever needed a bigger space, Clark said.

Peterson worked at the Fairfax plant for 30 years. He survived a 21-month layoff when GM eliminated a second shift in the early 1980s. Peterson was president when GM decided to invest \$500 million in the Fairfax plant to build the new Chevrolet Malibu. With a new Saturn passenger car also expected to come on line this year, the Fairfax plant survived GM's decision last fall to close several plants in an effort to become profitable.

After years of suffering through temporary shutdowns from slow sales in the 1980s and 1990s, the Fairfax plant's 3,000 employees have had steady work and overtime since the Malibu's introduction three years ago. But Peterson continued to warn the public about the trend among U.S. corporations to eliminate high-paying domestic jobs and opening plants in countries with cheap labor.

He was definitely a working man's friend, Manning said. If you worked hard, he believed you should be rewarded for that. He will be greatly missed.

#### ACCELERATING THE CREATION OF TEACHERS OF INFLUENCE FOR OUR NATION (ACTION) ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Accelerating the Creation of Teachers of Influence for Our Nation (ACTION) Act, a bill that creates highly qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers for elementary and secondary classrooms across America.

The ACTION Act has two separate pieces. Through the scholarship portion we create teachers with a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degree with teacher certification to raise scientific literacy and teach critical thinking, two necessary skills for our citizenry in the 21st century. Each student receiving this scholarship would have a teaching service requirement and if it is not fulfilled the scholarship reverts to a student loan. Students can also obtain their Masters in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or education.

The competitive renewal university grants encourage universities or a consortium of universities to create these programs, thus augmenting the pool of potential institutions for these scholarship recipients to attend.

Recently Maine declared that they are retiring more science and mathematics teachers than are being produced by colleges and universities. The National Science Board Science and Engineering Indicators 2006 states that "out-of-field teaching (as measured by either lacking a certificate or a college major or minor in the assigned teaching) field is com-

mon. A maximum of twenty-eight percent of high school mathematics and science teachers lacked full certification in their teaching field in academic 2002."

As the global economy of the 21st century unfolds, scientific and engineering occupations are expected to continue to grow more rapidly than occupations in general. Our future workforce must be literate and fluent in both the technical and the scientific arenas. The decisions facing our Nation will also require these skills, as we move into uncharted waters with such topics as STEM cell research, nanotechnology, high-tech manufacturing, aerospace engineering, and biotechnology. Right now our 15-year-old students score below the international average on the Program for International Student Assessment which measures students' abilities to apply scientific and mathematical concepts and skills.

It is time to take action and make changes necessary for the future of our Nation, and move the ACTION Act forward.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. ROSE HOSPITAL-SAN MARTIN CAMPUS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Rose Hospital and their team of dedicated professionals who are committed to providing compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services. Moreover, St. Rose Hospital has a proud history of service to the communities of Nevada.

It is the principal goal of St. Rose Hospital to provide a health care ministry distinguished by excellent quality and committed to expanding access to medical care to deprived individuals. This mission is complemented by numerous community outreach programs, sponsored by the hospital, designed to assist those in need and improve the quality of life. Furthermore, St. Rose Hospital has a strong tradition of establishing programs to assist eligible uninsured patients gain access to government funded insurance programs, advancing their goal to help those individuals' access preventative and ongoing care beyond an emergency or acute health care need.

St. Rose Hospital is dedicated to promoting the wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the Dominican tradition of working with others to improve the health status of the community, and does so by providing premium health care services through team work and innovation. Their professional staff members reach out to patients, their families, and those in need outside of the hospitals, while their services focus on the healing concept of physical restoration of the body and the healing of the mind and soul.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize St. Rose Hospital on the floor of the House today. I commend them for their efforts to provide high-quality health care and improve the quality of life of the community, and I wish them the best in continuing their mission.