

Dr. Irwin Redlener, the director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Mailman and co-founder of the Children's Health Fund.

The households included in the study were randomly selected from lists provided by FEMA. They included families living in Louisiana in hotels, trailer parks managed by the disaster agency and regular trailer parks with some FEMA units. A random sample of children in the surveyed households was selected for more in-depth questioning.

For comparison, the study used a 2003 survey of urban Louisiana families conducted by the National Survey of Children's Health.

David Abramson, the study's principal investigator, said it was designed to measure the social and environmental factors that help children stay healthy: consistent access to health care and mental health treatment, engagement in school, and strong family support.

In the Gulf Coast region, where child health indicators like infant mortality and poverty rates were already among the highest in the country, Dr. Abramson said, "all of their safety net systems seem to have either been stretched or completely dissipated."

The study's authors raise the prospect of irreversible damage if children miss out now on normal development fostered by stable schools and neighborhoods.

One couple told interviewers their three children had been enrolled in five schools since the hurricane, in which one child's nebulizer and breathing machine were lost. The equipment has not been replaced because the family lost its insurance when the mother lost her job, they said, and the child has since been hospitalized with asthma.

In another household, a woman caring for seven school-age grandchildren, none of whom were enrolled in school at the time of the survey, said she was battling high blood pressure, diabetes and leukemia.

That woman, Elouise Kenney, agreed to be interviewed by a reporter, but at the appointed hour was on her way to the hospital, where she was later admitted, "I've been in pain since January, and I'm going to see what's wrong," she said. "It's become unbearable."

One woman who participated in the survey, Danielle Taylor, said in an interview that she had not been able to find psychiatric care for herself—she is bipolar—or her 6-year-old daughter, who not only went through the hurricane but had also, two years before, been alone with Ms. Taylor's fiancé when he died.

The public clinic Ms. Taylor used to visit has closed since the storm, she said, and the last person to prescribe her medication was a psychiatrist who visited the shelter she was in four months ago. No doctors visit the trailer park in Slidell, La., where she has been staying, she said.

Ms. Taylor said that her daughter, Ariana Rose, needed a referral to see a psychiatrist, but that her primary care physician had moved to Puerto Rico. "She has horrible rages over nothing," Ms. Taylor said. "She needs help, she needs to talk to somebody."

The survey found that of the children who had primary doctors before the storm, about half no longer did, the parents reported. Of those who said their children still had doctors, many said they had not yet tried to contact them.

The study's authors recommended expanding Medicaid to provide universal disaster relief and emergency mental health services, as well as sending doctors and counselors from the federal Public Health Service to the region.

The Children's Health Fund, a health care provider and advocacy group, is not the only

organization to raise the alarm about mental health care for traumatized children after Hurricane Katrina. A report issued earlier this month by the Children's Defense Fund said youngsters were being "denied the chance to share their bad memories and clear their psyches battered by loss of family members, friends, homes, schools and neighborhoods."

Anthony Speier, the director of disaster mental health for Louisiana, said that while there were 500 crisis counselors in the field, the federal money that paid for them could not be used for treatment of mental or behavioral disorders like depression or substance abuse. Instead, he said, much of their effort goes into short one-on-one sessions and teaching self-help strategies in group settings.

"The struggle for our mental health system is that our resources are designed for people with serious mental illnesses and behavior disorders," Dr. Speier said. "But now the vast population needs these forms of assistance."

Dr. Speier continued, "What we really, from my vantage point, could benefit from is a source of treatment dollars."

According to the study's authors, the post-storm environment differs significantly from other crises because of its uncertain resolution.

"This circumstance is being widely misinterpreted as an acute crisis, somehow implying that it will be over in the near term, which is categorically wrong," Dr. Redlener said. "This is an acute crisis on top of a pre-existing condition. It's now a persistent crisis with an uncertain outcome, over an uncertain timetable."

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SHARON B. WRIGHT, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE NURSE CORPS, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great American and a true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 26 years in the Air Force Nurse Corps: Colonel Sharon B. Wright. Colonel Wright has a long history with the Air Force. She was born at Travis Air Force Base, CA and graduated from Hillcrest High School, Sumter, South Carolina when her father, Chief Master Sergeant Edward J. Wright, was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. Colonel Wright followed the career path of her father, a 30-year Air Force Chief, and her mother, a Licensed Practical Nurse, both natives and current residents of Charleston, South Carolina. In 1980, she was commissioned through ROTC, and she was then assigned to Mather Air Force Base, California. Experienced and desiring to make a difference, she next served at Kunsan Air Base, Korea and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, where she deployed to Honduras with the U.S. Army.

In each assignment she excelled and was rewarded with greater responsibilities and opportunities. In 1988, she became the Chief, Nurse Recruiting Branch, at Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama. A proven leader, she was the Top Recruiter in 1988 and 1991, and she received the Recruiting Standard of Excellence

award in 1990. In 1991, she assumed duties as the Coordinator of Maternal Health Services at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. In 1994, Colonel Wright was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as a Nurse Utilization Officer. During her tenure she completed over 2000 assignments, managed five commands, and maintained staff levels at an unprecedented 95-plus percent.

In 1998 Colonel Wright assumed her first command at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. As the Squadron Commander, she also assumed the roles as the Chief Nurse Executive and Deputy Group Commander. Incirlik presented significant challenges. Three weeks after arrival, a devastating 6.3 earthquake hit. Colonel Wright took charge as the on-scene Medical Group Commander. After her stellar performance at Incirlik, she went on to her second assignment as Squadron Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas in 1999. Her astute leadership led to her appointment as Deputy Program Executive Officer at the Joint Medical Information Systems Office and Force Development Program Manager at the Office of the Surgeon General, at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC.

Colonel Wright's last assignment brought her back to Texas as the Chief, Nurse Utilization and Education Branch, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In this position, she was responsible for managing assignments, career progression, and sponsored educational opportunities for 3,700 Air Force Nurses. Colonel Wright is a meritorious leader, administrator, clinician, educator, and mentor. Throughout her career, she has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Air Force Medical Service. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of a grateful nation for her over 26 years of dedicated military service. Congratulations, Colonel Sharon B. Wright. I wish you Godspeed.

#### RECOGNIZING MRS. BLANCHE FELIX

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the contributions of an outstanding member of my community, Mrs. Blanche Felix. Mrs. Felix was born in Globe, Arizona, and has lived most of her life in Southern California. In 1946, Mrs. Felix moved to the San Gabriel Valley with her husband, where they have resided ever since, initially in South El Monte and later in El Monte.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Felix has sought to improve her community and the lives of those around her. Her dedication to her community has been continuous and prodigious. Mrs. Felix has served as an active member, officer, and often president of numerous organizations including Youth Employment Services, Coordinating Council, Soroptimist International, El Monte Women's Club, Lions Club, El Monte Republican Women's Club, and the Parent and Teachers Association. She was a leader in the successful effort to incorporate the City of South El Monte, as well as a leader in the

successful campaign to establish El Monte as the true end to the Santa Fe Trail.

During the past 25 years, Mrs. Felix has served as a member of the El Monte City Parks and Recreation Commission, Property Maintenance Commission, and Personnel Commission. She has also advocated on behalf of small businesses to protect them from damages from groundwater contamination, securing relief for many small businesses.

Mrs. Felix's commendable commitment to serving others has been expressed throughout her life not only through her work in the community, but also through her equally strong dedication to her family and friends.

As a resident of El Monte myself, I wish to express my sincere respect and appreciation for Mrs. Felix's contributions to our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO EILEEN TOY

### HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and mourn the passing of Eileen Toy, born August 28, 1928.

For more than four decades, Eileen worked to improve the Michigan communities in which she lived. With her husband, Glen Toy of the Livonia Police Department, Eileen moved to Livonia, Michigan, during the 1950's. After graduating with honors from the University of Michigan with a Bachelors degree in Education, Eileen earned a Masters in Education Management degree from Eastern Michigan University. She went on to serve in the Wayne-Westland Community schools as a teacher and an administrator.

Eileen is remembered as a confidant to her friends, an inspiration to her students, and caregiver to her children, Laura, Glen, Carol, and Bruce. Her biting sense of humor, brilliance, and quick-wit will sorely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, during her 77 years, Eileen Toy has enriched the lives of people around her. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and remembering her contributions to our community and our country.

#### TRIBUTE TO LEO GREENBLUM

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leo Greenblum for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Leo Greenblum was born in 1923 in Augustow, Poland, and moved with his family to Tampico, Mexico, in 1926 in search of a better life. His family later moved to Nuevo Laredo, where his brother, Irving Greenblum, was born. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a chemical engineering degree in 1946 after his military service in World War II.

Mr. Greenblum has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social,

educational, and governmental organizations such as Tesoro Savings and Loan, Mercy Hospital, and the Nuevo Laredo Chamber of Commerce. He also operated Mueblerias Mexico, the largest retail furniture and accessory business in Nuevo Laredo, for 65 years, before closing the business in 2002 to enjoy retirement with his wife, Sue, and his three children and four grandchildren.

For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction as a laureate into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Leo Greenblum, and I thank you for this time.

#### SALUTE TO SYBYL ATWOOD

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Sybyl Atwood. For the past 40 years Sybyl has been the linchpin of the social services community in my hometown, Flint Michigan. On May 11 she will be honored for her selfless work on behalf of the less fortunate at a dinner hosted by the Resource Center in Flint.

Relocating to the Flint area after earning her Baccalaureate Degree in Community Development from Central Michigan University, she gathered together a group of volunteers on February 14, 1966 and founded the Volunteer Bureau. Serving as the chief executive officer of the Bureau for more than 20 years, Sybyl defined its direction as an organization promoting volunteerism, grassroots community involvement and expanded delivery of social services in the Flint area. The Bureau evolved into the Voluntary Action Center in 1989 and Sybyl continued at its helm. After merging with United Way, the Voluntary Action Center became part of the Resource Center. Sybyl continues to head the Volunteer Services at the Resource Center.

Thousands of volunteers have benefited from her training and guidance. She compiled the Genesee County Community Sourcebook, a reference book listing over 400 service agencies in Genesee County. Sybyl is also responsible for assembling the information and the publishing of the Emergency Assistance Directory, the Youth Volunteer Opportunities Directory, and the Reduced Income Planning Guide. She also coordinates the weekly Volunteer Here column in the Flint Journal and runs the Information and Referral Program. This program receives about 350 calls per month from persons seeking emergency assistance.

For her service to the community Sybyl has received the American Society of Training and Development Chapter Award for Service, City of Flint Human Relations Commission People's Award, Genesee County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award, Toastmaster International Regional Communication and Leadership Award, the YWCA of Greater Flint Nina Mills Women of Achievement Award, the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award, Citizen of the Year Award from the National Association of Social

Workers, and earlier this week Michigan State University named her the 2006 Outstanding Field Educator for the Flint Program.

In addition to her work with Volunteer Services, Sybyl is also a founding member of the Emergency Services Council, the Genesee County Service Learning Coalition, the local Americorps collaborative, and has found time to work toward a master's degree in Public Administration. As a member of the Committee Concerned with Housing, she is currently studying the gaps in service in the emergency housing sector. Sybyl works within her neighborhood promoting the historic Carriage Town area and the propagation of Michigan's indigenous plants and grasses.

Mr. Speaker, Sybyl Atwood embodies the sentiments in her favorite quotation, "While there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free." She is a champion of the poor, the helpless, and the innocent. I am proud of my association with her, grateful for the good that she does, and treasure her inspiration, commitment and wisdom. The Flint community is a more humane place because of Sybyl Atwood. I ask the House of Representatives to rise today and join me in honoring this exceptional woman.

#### NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the National War College on 60 years of excellence in national security policy and strategic thinking education. On April 5, 2006, I had the privilege to address the Commandant's dinner in celebration of this anniversary and I am proud to share that speech with the Members of the House:

#### NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE 60TH ANNIVERSARY THE NEXT 60 YEARS

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you. I am honored that you asked me to be your speaker. And thank you, General Peterson for that generous introduction.

First, I have to say Congratulations. What you have built here is truly a *national treasure*. You can be proud, as the entire nation should be, of this school and your product—because your product literally is the strength of this nation as we anticipate and respond to world events. Among your students and your faculty, you have educated some of the finest strategists this country has ever produced.

I was going to give a short speech. But then I thought about the critical time we live in and got excited all over again about National War College. I don't want to take too much time with serious thoughts, but it is important to reflect on our past in order to respond to the challenges ahead.

Sixty years ago, it was a novel idea—to create a college that would focus on grand strategy and bring together a diverse student body and faculty—senior officers from all the services and senior officials from the state department and, later, other agencies.

This was a place where students were presented with strategic dilemmas, with a curriculum that "focused on the interrelationship of military and non-military means in the promulgation of national policy."