

as the First Ecclesiastical District of West Simsbury. The community officially separated from the Town of Simsbury on May 20, 1806, taking the name Canton, which means "division of territory."

Many generations of hard-working people have lived and worked in Canton throughout its 200 years. When David and Samuel Collins and their cousin William Wells sought natural waterways for factory power, they settled in Canton in 1826. Through their industriousness, they developed the world's first factory devoted to making axes, which eventually became the world's largest manufacturer of edged tools. The Collins Company also gained recognition as one of the world's most innovative manufacturers, after Samuel Collins developed the utilization of anthracite coal for factory operation—a significant step in igniting our country's Industrial Revolution.

Of course, the Collins Company would not have realized this impressive and historical success were it not for the hard-working citizens who helped establish a very solid industrial base in the region. Many generations of Canton residents have stood out and have had important roles in shaping the town's history for the past 200 years. One of Canton's most famous citizens, William Edgar Symonds, earned the Medal of Honor for bravery while fighting with the Union Army in the Civil War. After the war, Mr. Symonds became a well-known patent attorney and political figure, rising to the position of Speaker of the House in the State Legislature. Later, as a U.S. Congressman, he helped pass legislation to protect patents on an international level, and was awarded the French Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Canton, Connecticut, upon achieving its 200th Anniversary. I applaud the generations of Canton citizens who have helped this town grow since its founding in 1806, and I commend today's Canton residents for everything they do to make sure that this great town will enjoy a prosperous and productive future.

#### CHRONIC HEPATITIS B NEEDS PRIORITIZATION AS A SERIOUS HEALTH CONCERN

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for sending so many staff members to today's "AIM for the B" briefing designed to elevate awareness of chronic hepatitis B, a serious health issue in the United States. This briefing emphasized the importance of increasing diagnosis, screening, and treatment, particularly for Asian Pacific Islander Americans who are disproportionately affected with the disease.

I joined my colleague, Rep. CHARLIE DENT of Pennsylvania, and representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), patient advocacy organizations, physicians, and patients to convey the potential consequences of chronic hepatitis B and to layout actions needed to increase awareness and address the continued progression of this infectious disease.

Rep. DENT and I have introduced H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act, which

would authorize additional resources to more effectively research, track, diagnose, treat and manage chronic hepatitis B. I urge my colleagues to recognize chronic hepatitis B as a potentially life-threatening disease and to help us enact this bill in the 109th Congress. Together, we can make a difference in addressing this national and global public health issue.

We are extremely fortunate to have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better chance at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that remains to be done. We need to increase public education about chronic hepatitis B and its relation to liver disease, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, and work to increase the length and quality of life for patients chronically infected with chronic hepatitis B. Unfortunately, vaccination rates remain low and the hepatitis B virus continues to be one of the most commonly reported vaccine preventable diseases in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned about the tremendous impact that chronic hepatitis B has on the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans have chronic hepatitis B.

Today's "AIM for the B" briefing and next week's National Hepatitis B Awareness Week events in California and New York are encouraging steps in the right direction. We have the ability to stop the spread and progression of this disease and it is the responsibility to help our constituents affected by chronic hepatitis B.

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT HIGH GAS PRICES

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2006, the House of Representatives voted on legislation, H.R. 5253, to federally prohibit price gouging in the sale of gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, and biofuels. While I am committed to working with my colleagues to enact energy policies that will lower gas prices and help out American families, I do not believe that this legislation will help.

I voted against this legislation because I believe it irresponsible to criminalize an action without defining exactly what we would be criminalizing. As my constituents in East Texas would say, this legislation simply does not pass the smell test. Not only does this legislation criminalize an action without defining the crime, but it passes off that responsibility to unelected bureaucrats at the Federal Trade Commission. Thus, this legislation could effectively criminalize profit making by companies according to some artificial and arbitrary definition determined by bureaucrats in Washington—and that's not the American way.

Additionally, at a November 9, 2005, joint hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Fed-

eral Trade Commissioner Deborah Platt Majoras testified that federal price gouging laws would unnecessarily hurt consumers, instead emphasizing that enforcement of our current antitrust laws is the best method by which to protect American consumers. I find it interesting that not even the Federal Trade Commission believes that federal price gouging laws are an effective protection for consumers.

While I believe that price gouging may exist in limited circumstances, such as the immediate aftermath of a hurricane where market forces have broken down, I have seen no evidence that we are experiencing high gas prices because of price gouging. Instead, I believe that the following factors are responsible for high gasoline prices: (1) A huge increase in worldwide demand, especially in China and India; (2) Supply uncertainty and political instability from large producers like Iran, Venezuela and Nigeria; (3) Over-reliance on the Gulf Coast region; (4) Environmental concerns limiting domestic production and refining; (5) Failure of new technologies to yet mature. Only through increasing our domestic production and reducing excessive federal regulations will we create conditions for lower gasoline prices in the future.

In the face of high gas prices, Congress must not pass knee-jerk reaction legislation that will only worsen the problem in the future. We owe it to our constituents to pass solid, sensible legislation that will promote American energy independence in the future and address this issue in the long term. Ultimately, I did not believe this bill would do anything to lower gas prices for my constituents.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF THE MILWAUKEE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, MYSO. MYSO was started in 1956, with assistance from the Junior League Children's Arts Program, the Milwaukee Art Center and later the Rotary Club. It has since grown into a valued community institution and the largest youth orchestra program in the Nation.

MYSO provides valuable education and character development for all of its young participants. Through participation in MYSO programs, young musicians develop discipline and creative problem-solving skills, and learn to work as part of a team. MYSO provides young artists with exposure to professional musicians and master teachers. Since its inception, the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra has become one of the most respected youth orchestras in the United States, serving almost 800 young musicians in a range of programs that include several large orchestras in addition to smaller and more specialized ensemble groups. MYSO alumni have gone on to distinguished careers as professional musicians, and have become accomplished and dedicated supporters of arts in the community.

MYSO has also made a significant commitment to bringing arts into the community. As

budget cuts trim funding for arts and music education in the Milwaukee Public Schools, MYSO has created new programs that ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn about and appreciate music. Programs like Progressions and MYSO Jazz Studies bring instrumental instruction and ensemble performance to students who might otherwise never have the opportunity to play an instrument or learn to read music. Together with several other youth arts organizations, MYSO collaborated to develop the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, creating a dedicated space for youth arts that fosters excellence and honors the creative talents of Milwaukee-area youth. This project has contributed to the revitalization of a key central city neighborhood.

For all of these good works, I am honored to commend the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. I thank them for 50 years of exemplary leadership and teaching, and look forward to their continued efforts to provide Milwaukee's youth with outstanding arts education.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE ROSE MYERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly exemplary student and constituent as she prepares to graduate from C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy on May 23, 2006. Not only is Katherine Rose Myers valedictorian of her high school, she is a student leader among leaders and an outstanding example for all young people.

Katherine is the daughter of Kenneth Myers, Sr. and Emma McGraw Myers of Columbia, South Carolina. She has grown up in the same home where her mother was raised. However, she made a different choice than her mother regarding her high school education. Katherine's mother helped integrate a nearby high school during the early days of desegregation. Although Katherine could have chosen to attend any high school in her school district, she chose to go to C.A. Johnson, the neighborhood school. She felt very strongly about her choice, telling the local newspaper "It's my community and it's a nurturing environment."

It is certainly an environment in which Katherine thrived. Academically, she earned a 4.93 grade point average and has been recognized as a National Achievement Finalist, Palmetto Fellow Scholar and an Academic All-Star. Outside the classroom, Katherine has been a student leader as well. Her peers elected her to serve as Student Body President, and she is on the leadership team of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a varsity member of the Lady Hornets Basketball team and the track team. During the summer of 2005, Katherine was chosen to attend the prestigious Palmetto Girls State where she was chosen by her peers to serve as Governor. To honor this significant accomplishment Columbia City Council proclaimed October 5, 2005 Katherine Myers Day and awarded her the key to the city.

Despite all of these accomplishments, Katherine still finds the time to contribute to her

community. She is the former state vice president of the L.M. Atkinson Federated Youth Club Ladies of Essence and a Senior Cadette in the Girl Scouts Council of the Congaree Area. She also sings in the W.H. Neal Youth Choir at First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia.

This fall, Katherine will attend Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina as the recipient of the Herman W. Lay Scholarship, and will study political science. Prior to beginning her college experience, Katherine has already been selected to be one of ten Furman incoming freshmen to study in China for three weeks in July.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in commending Katherine Rose Myers as a leader of tomorrow. She has demonstrated that she will be a young person to watch in the coming years, and I will certainly be following her progress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT OF 2006"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy, DOE, recently announced that it will no longer reimburse its contractors for the cost of providing defined benefit pensions for new employees. Beginning in March 2007, contractors will only be reimbursed for defined contribution, 401(k)-type plans. Furthermore, DOE will only reimburse for a "market-based medical benefit plan," thus encouraging contractors who provide comprehensive medical coverage for their employees to drop or reduce that coverage. In short, the DOE's action is a direct threat to workers' retirement and health care security.

That is why I rise today to introduce legislation to put an immediate halt to this policy. At a time when even well-funded companies are choosing to terminate their pension plans and Congress is struggling to find ways to encourage employers to provide meaningful health and retirement benefits to workers, penalizing federal contractors for offering guaranteed retirement benefits and quality health insurance is hypocritical and counterproductive. This bill, "the Department of Energy Contractor Employee Equitable Treatment Act of 2006," will simply prevent DOE from using its funds to implement this wrong-headed proposal.

According to a Department press release, the purpose of the new policy is "based on sound business practices and market-based benchmarks for cost management." However, at a speech at the National Press Club in January of last year, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao claimed that "President Bush has made retirement security one of the highest priorities of his second term. A critical component of his agenda is ensuring that the defined benefit pension system is viable and that the promises made to the workers enrolled in these plans are kept." This new DOE policy, particularly after the President's effort to privatize Social Security, contradicts that statement and reveals a true agenda of undermining guaranteed retirement benefits.

The DOE rationale—that defined benefit pension plans are too volatile—is particularly ironic given the pressure the Bush Administration is pushing for a House-Senate pension conference bill to change pension law in ways that will make the cost of a pension plan higher and less predictable.

Moreover, by tying reimbursement to a "market based medical benefit plan," the DOE encourages contractors who provide comprehensive medical coverage to reduce such coverage and to further shift health care cost burdens onto employees, rather than addressing rising health care costs. The DOE directive requires all contractors to make clear that they can "unilaterally change, suspend, or terminate any medical plan, coverage or contribution at any time." It further limits the conditions under which retirees may receive retiree health benefit coverage. Encouraging the loss or reduction of health benefits of any workers or retirees, including workers and retirees serving our country at nuclear facilities, is just plain wrong.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

IN HONOR OF DR. DANIEL R. MISHELL, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Daniel R. Mishell, Jr., an outstanding physician and pioneer in the field of women's health. This Saturday, May 13, 2006, family, friends and admirers will gather to celebrate Dr. Mishell's 75th birthday—which occurred on May 7—and salute his many achievements as husband, father and consummate professional.

Daniel Mishell, Jr., earned his BA with great distinction in 1952 and his medical degree in 1955 from Stanford University. As a faculty member at the University of California, Los Angeles in the 1960s, Dr. Mishell's breakthrough research resulted in the first pregnancy tests in the United States not involving animals. In 1969, he joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. As the Lyle G. McNeile Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and as its chairman from 1978 to 2005, Dr. Mishell has left an indelible hand print upon this nationally recognized institution of women's health.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mishell has held several prominent national posts and consulted internationally throughout the years in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Since 1970, he has served as editor-in-chief of *Contraception*, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' official journal. He served as president of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1986 to 1990 and then as its chairman from 1990 to 1994. In 2003, he was elected as a fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Great Britain. Respected as an international trailblazer in his field, Dr. Mishell led the World Health Organization's only clinical research and training center for