

annuitization." However, regulations issued by the IRS in 2002 prohibited the practice of self-annuitization, although they allowed it for church retirement plans organized under section 403(b)(9). Instead, the IRS stated that plans must purchase annuities from commercial insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, there is no good policy reason for why the two types of church plans should be treated differently regarding self-annuitization. Furthermore, the Department of the Treasury has indicated they would not oppose a legislative change on this issue. Churches should have the right to invest for retirement in the ways they see fit, and commercial insurance companies cannot and do not manage their investments according to these high standards. Moreover, the ability to offer annuities is necessary to prevent the possibility of beneficiaries outliving their retirement funds under an alternative installment payment system. In order to prevent this unfairness, my bill would use a "grandfather" approach to grant the ability to self-annuitize only to those 401(a) plans that were in existence on the date the final IRS regulations were issued in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that the Mennonites can continue to offer annuities invested in the way they see fit.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, I was diagnosed with an inner ear infection and was unable to fly to Washington, D.C. ahead of all votes. As a result, I missed several votes on this day and ask that my statement be placed in the appropriate part of the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following roll call votes, had I been present.

Wednesday, May 17, 2006:

Ray: On agreeing to the Rahall (WV) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 189-236 (Roll no. 147). Strikes section 103 of H.R. 4200, regarding expedited procedures and certain exceptions to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Ray: On agreeing to the DeFazio (OR) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 184-240. (Roll no. 148). Strikes section 104 of H.R. 4200, regarding "availability and use of pre-approved management practices" and replaces it with a new section 104.

Ray: On agreeing to the Inslee (WA) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 191-231 (Roll no. 149). Adds a new section to H.R. 200, stating that the Act shall not apply to any inventoried roadless area within the National Forest System.

Ray: On agreeing to the Udall (NM) amendment Failed by recorded vote: 197-228 (Roll no. 150). Adds a new section to H.R. 4200, which would require the Secretary concerned (when implementing any pre-approved management practice or catastrophic event recovery project as described in the bill) to "consider the effect of the practice of project fire risk and forest regeneration," and prohibits implementing the project unless the Secretary certifies that the practice or project will not increase fire-risk or decrease forest regeneration.

Aye: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 243-182 (Roll no. 151). H.R. 4200, Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act.

#### HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LARRY KIRK

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Rutherford County's Larry Kirk, who will retire on June 30, 2006, from the Murfreesboro Electric Department after 24 years of outstanding service.

Larry has been in the electricity business for 40 years and started working for Murfreesboro Electric Department in 1982. He transferred to Murfreesboro after working in Chattanooga for 13 years and working for Mississippi Power & Light for three years.

Under his leadership, Murfreesboro Electric Department has grown from 15,000 to 45,000 customers as the population of the city has doubled.

Active in his trade, Larry has served as the President of the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and currently serves on the Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association Board of Directors.

Larry has served his country, as well as his community. During the Vietnam era, he served in the U.S. Army Special Forces and the Special Forces National Guard. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties, where he was once chairman and president. He has served on the Board of Directors of Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross, and he has donated an astounding 14 gallons of blood over the years.

Upon retirement, Larry plans to devote more of his time to his love of Middle Tennessee State University athletics. Although Larry is a graduate of Ole Miss and Delta State, MTSU is his adopted university. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the MTSU Development Foundation and is an active member of the Blue Raider Athletic Association, where he once served as president.

I commend Larry Kirk on his numerous accomplishments and his involvement within the Murfreesboro community. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

#### A WELL DESERVED TRIBUTE TO BENNETT CAREER INSTITUTE'S BRIGHTEST SHINING STAR, MS. BRENDA C. ARNOLD

#### HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Brenda C. Arnold, one of Bennett Career Institute's most dedicated, compassionate and qualified instructors. I applaud Ms. Arnold for all that she has done over the years to nurture, motivate, and

instill confidence in the students who have crossed her path. In her own special way she touches the lives of so many daily.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Arnold is indeed the human catalyst at Bennett Career Institute who stimulates the cosmetology students in a very unique and special way. While encouraging the students to maximize their greatest potential, Ms. Arnold lets them know that she expects nothing but the best that they have to offer. Because of Mr. Chett Bennett, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Arnold, Freshman Instructor, and other qualified and dedicated instructors, the Bennett Career Institute has grown over the years in leaps and bounds. The opportunities and exposure that this Institute provides to its students is unsurpassed.

Mr. Speaker, I have learned that Bennett Graduates who have taken instruction under Ms. Arnold, in past years eagerly return to Bennett Career Institute to pay tribute to her and to express their gratitude for the positive ways that she touched their lives. They return frequently to Bennett Career Institute to say "thanks" to Ms. Arnold for her role in enhancing their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the experience at Bennett Career Institute, Ms. Arnold has provided instruction and held management positions at various other Institutions in the District of Columbia. She has worked as a Manager at Jazzmin's Hair Gallery; a Sales Representative with Barry Fletcher Products; as an Instructor with Parvane Institute of Esthetics; as an Instructor with the District of Columbia Beauty Academy; as a Freelance Stylist and Consultant with Added Attraction; as an Educational Therapy Assistant with the District of Columbia Public Schools—Central Diagnostic Placement Center; and as a Director and Instructor with Image Makers Beauty Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my Congressional Colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to help me pay tribute to this bright star, Ms. Brenda C. Arnold, for rekindling the life of so many of our young citizens who, but for her, may have gotten distracted and gone astray joining the ranks of far too many others who are still searching for direction and their station in life.

Mr. Speaker, I wish God's continued blessings upon Ms. Brenda C. Arnold, Mr. Chett Bennett, other members of the Faculty, Administrative Staff and the student body of Bennett Career Institute.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEN BORELLI

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in gratitude to recognize the social services and social work practices of Mr. Ken Borelli so valued by the residents of Santa Clara County today. Mr. Borelli has worked with the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency for 36 years. I first met Ken over 25 years ago when I was a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors which had responsibility for funding the Department of Social Services and providing oversight for the Department. Ken was a standout then and he has remained so to this day. He began his career as a Social Work

Supervisor in the Food Stamps Unit and moved throughout the Social Services system to include: the Multicultural Child Welfare Unit, Basic Services, Adult Protective Services, Immigration, Social Work Coordinator, Voluntary Foster Home Intake and Coordinator of Special Projects.

Mr. Borelli developed the first Immigration Services Unit for Santa Clara County in 1974, where he worked closely with neighborhood youth groups. In fact, Ken is an expert and leader in the field of Immigration Services and has exhibited his accomplishments in many ways. He not only provided professional development training in the field of immigration, but also significantly contributed to the development of the 1990 Federal legislation which established "Special Immigrant Juvenile Status" laws to help immigrant children in the Child Welfare System across the country. Ken also was responsible for the development of an invaluable "Immigration Resource and Practice Guide" which helped so many families. Ken accomplished other written work in the field of Social work practice including topics such as: Child Welfare, International Social Services, and Domestic Violence. Mr. Borelli continues to remain involved in all levels of social service issues, including: child welfare abuse issues, dependency court investigations, AIDS research and fund-raising, immigration, and development and enhancement of our library systems. His participation in Committees and Advisory Boards included: the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Committee of the Child Abuse Council of Santa Clara County (20 years), the Alum Rock Library Committee, the County Library Commission, the Advisory Board of the Eastside Athletic Club, and the Board of Catholic Charities Immigration Services.

Mr. Borelli is a prominent leader in the community and continues to demonstrate his innovative contributions. He was a founding member and Chair for 20 years of the Social Service Agency's AIDS Services Committee. He is a supporter of the Opera San Jose and is being honored as "2006 Volunteer of the Year" by the Italian American Foundation. I hereby honor Ken Borelli, on the closure of this chapter of his life, but know he will continue to have a tremendous impact on social services in the county.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DAMU AMIRI IMARA SMITH

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Damu Amiri Imara Smith, a prolific fighter for justice and peace who succumbed to colon cancer on May 5th of this year. In keeping with his long and distinguished career of activism, Damu continued his fight until the very end. Helped along the way by his "Army of Angels" and inspired by his enduring love for his daughter Asha, Damu outlived all the doctors' predictions. Not letting his terminal diagnosis dampen his spirit, he turned his personal health crisis into a fight for better health care services for black and poor people.

Just as Damu's resolve to speak truth to power was not constrained by his illness, nei-

ther did his sense of justice know any limit. Damu's concerns and actions ranged from the local to the global. He started out fighting for the Martin Luther King holiday and against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Later, his concerns expanded to include environmental justice; he monitored corporate pollution on Louisiana's Gulf Coast as national associate director for Greenpeace USA. He sought to unite the civil rights and environmental movements by founding the National Black Environmental Justice Campaign, which led the nationwide fight against contaminated water and waste dumps in poor and black communities.

Damu furthered his concern for peace and nonviolence at home and abroad as the associate director of the American Friends Service Committee's Washington Bureau. He confronted police brutality and worked to end gun violence in the District of Columbia while advocating for an international freeze on nuclear weapons. He saw health disparities and the lack of adequate health care as another form of violence, and added his efforts to the campaign for universal health care. After September 11th, Damu founded Black Voices for Peace. Continuing in his fearless tradition of speaking truth to power, Damu took on the Bush administration for spending billions of dollars on the Iraq war, money that could have been used for health care, education and basic services here at home.

Damu's voice is something that we'll all dearly remember. I was privileged to be a guest on his WPFW radio show, "Spirit in Action," a number of times and I will remember Damu Smith not only for being a tireless advocate for peace and justice, but for the generosity of his spirit. He could spend his entire program excoriating Condoleezza Rice or Colin Powell, and then end by saying, "But you know I love you." He was able to rise above all of the injustices he spent his life fighting to recognize his opponents' humanity. That kind of bigheartedness is sorely lacking in America's public discourse today. We Members of Congress could stand to learn a thing or two from Damu Smith, and though he is no longer with us in body, but his spirit will live on, as always, in action.

#### HONORING DR. ROBIN LOWITZ

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robin Lowitz on the occasion of her receipt of the prestigious Tikkun Olam Award from the Jewish Community Center of Sonoma County (formerly the Jewish Community Agency). The "Healing the World" Award is bestowed upon an individual who demonstrates this Jewish Value and Obligation of dedication, perseverance, creativity plus giving time, energy, talents and resources to make an important social justice impact on the quality of life in a community.

Robin Lowitz saw a great need in Sonoma County and preceded to fill it by envisioning and implementing The Jewish Community Free Clinic, a medical clinic specifically for the uninsured—"the working poor, barely able to make ends meet who fall through the cracks."

A Berkeley, California, native, Dr. Lowitz had volunteered for several faith-based free

medical clinics in the Bay Area in the 1990's. Upon arriving in Sonoma County and witnessing the need first-hand, she garnered volunteers and financial support from the Jewish Community, synagogues, and other groups and individuals. In October, 2001, she opened the Jewish Community Free Clinic in a space donated by the Lions Club of Petaluma.

That first night there were 6 patients and 15 volunteers. The Clinic now provides 2,500 free medical care visits to over 1,000 uninsured patients annually, offering free medical care for anyone in need, without regard to ethnicity, race or religion. The vast majority of patients are uninsured Latino immigrant men, women, and children (many of whom need immunizations and physicals in order to attend school). They also serve uninsured single parents, students, the elderly, homeless, and temporary/unskilled workers.

The medical equipment at the Clinic is donated, and its 100+ volunteers come from all sectors of the community—including the communities it serves. Fifteen volunteer physicians, with as many nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants rotate each week, supplemented by a large referral network of volunteer physician specialists. Volunteers also offer social work, growth and development monitoring, safety awareness in Spanish and English, Spanish language interpreting and community resource referrals.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Dr. Robin Lowitz. She had the commitment, passion, and energy to make the Jewish Community Free Clinic a reality for the people of Sonoma County and truly exemplifies the spirit of Tikkun Olam, Healing the World.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORP. NEIL W. REID, POST 2358

#### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Corp. Neil W. Reid Post 2358 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, created in 1936, and named after Neil W. Reid, the first casualty of World War I from Macomb County.

The Post was formed in 1936 by members of the Post in Mount Clemens who sought to establish a separate post in the Village of Roseville. At its foundation, the Corp. Neil W. Reid was operating out of the old township hall and had 24 members. Shortly after, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Post was chartered, made up of 20 former servicewomen and wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of veterans.

In 1939, members of the Post received a charter from the Military Order of the Cooties, formed to better the metal attitude of bed-ridden soldiers through hospital visitation and fundraising activities.

By the end of World War II the membership of the Post had grown to 175. This growth was recognized in 1950 when the National Commander of the VFW visited the Post's Home, an honor that few Posts throughout the nation have received.

In 1958, Mildred Mueth, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Post, was elected