

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARNOLD  
SHENOFSKY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Arnold Shenofsky of Toledo, Ohio. Arnie passed from this life at the age of 92 on March 31, 2007, leaving a legacy of love and friendship to many and rejoining his wife Jessica.

Coming to Toledo as a toddler, Arnie was a lifelong resident. He went to work at the former Willys Overland Jeep plant during World War II, and went on to the United Auto Workers International Union staff in 1951. Of note, he never missed a union convention beginning in 1941.

More than a labor leader, Arnie was an accomplished accordion player and performed in various events throughout the United States and Canada, including each of those UAW conventions. His music was appreciated, but children knew him best as Uncle Arnie the clown. He willingly gave of his talents as both accordionist and clown to all sorts of charitable causes, putting a smile on the face of everyone he met. A family man and friend of the neighborhood at heart, it is the measure of the man that all who knew him were fond of him.

He was beloved by his family and thousands in our community. The festive mood set by his joyous music, tens of thousands of balloon animals lovingly given to children, endless gifts given to strangers and friends alike, demonstrated an extraordinarily kind heart that shone through his sparkling eyes and effervescent smile. His spirit lifted every occasion and he gave and gave and gave. Arnie Shenofsky helped define Toledo as a caring community. It was my privilege to know him and witness firsthand how his presence lent splendor to every event, large and small. Many times, he chose not to speak but to let you know what he was feeling through his music. How fortunate we have been that he shared his gifts of the heart with us for nine decades.

Through the decades of his life Arnold Shenofsky sought to always be a helper, a healer, a friend to young and old alike. He was the same person with both notables and neighbors, and was truly beloved by his family. His sisters, brothers, and children and their families have mourned their loss even as they celebrate a life well lived. They carry his flame in their hearts, always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, in reviewing the formal record of rollcall 209, the vote on the Kilpatrick substitute to H. Con. Res. 99, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2008, I find I am recorded as having voted "yes." However, I had intended to vote "no," and my recollection is that I did vote "no."

TRIBUTE TO JERRY BERRY

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Jerry Berry of Success, Arkansas, a fine businessman, farmer, friend and devoted family member who spent his entire life serving his community and making others happy.

Jerry was born November 29, 1939, in Success, AR, and lived there his entire life. In 1969, he opened Success Grain Inc., and it has been a family owned business its entire time in operation. In addition to running the family business, Jerry served as mayor of Success, AR, for 12 years. Some of his biggest accomplishments during his time include building a new playground and fire department, installing a new sewer system and paving all of the roads in the city.

Jerry was a man of true character. He was the type of friend that would rush to help you regardless of the time of day or circumstance because he genuinely cared about people. Jerry never had a bad day—he was always upbeat and would put the needs of others before himself because he was truly devoted to helping people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jerry Berry and celebrating his lifetime of achievements. Jerry was a loyal friend to me and although I am saddened by this loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship we shared together. He will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a genuine friend and a great American.

HONORING DR. MURIEL PETIONI

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the great accomplishments of one of this Nation's most accomplished community activists and physicians, Dr. Muriel Marjorie Petioni.

Dr. Petioni has been a role model for all women and is especially beloved in my Congressional District. Born on January 1, 1914, in Trinidad, young Petioni immigrated to the U.S. in 1919, settling with her family in New York City, where her father soon became a prominent Harlem physician and activists in the Caribbean nationalist movement. She followed her father and other relatives into the medical field, working locally at Harlem Hospital after she graduated from Howard University's School of Medicine in 1937.

Her community and its residents have never been far from Dr. Petioni's mind. After a short break during the 1940s to get married and start a family, she returned to the medical profession in 1950, setting up her practice in the same office that her father had decades earlier. She maintained that practice for over 40 years, working diligently to ensure that hard-working residents and their families received the proper attention they deserved. When Harlem Hospital stumbled on financial difficulties in the 1980s, she founded the Friends of Har-

lem Hospital Center to raise private funding for the institution.

Dr. Petioni has also been a tireless educator, working hard to open up the doors of college and medical school to all underrepresented groups, especially women and African Americans. In 1974, she founded the Susan Smith McKinney Steward Medical Society for Women, a professional association of black women physicians. Named after the first African American female doctor, the organization provides institutional support for students and its members. Dr. Petioni has also worked with the Coalition of 100 Black Women to develop mentorship programs to encourage and guide young black women into the medical field.

Dr. Petioni's efforts have also led to her involvement with local government officials to ensure equal access to healthcare. She served for 30 years as a school physician for Central Harlem for the New York City Department of Health and as supervising physician for East and Central Harlem from 1980–1984. Today, Petioni is on the board of a number of non-profit institutions and government agencies, including the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, the Columbia School of Social Work, the Harlem Council of Elders, and the New York and Harlem branches of the American Cancer Society.

Numerous organizations and institutions have deservedly showered Dr. Petioni with awards and other honors. The venerable National Medical Association, which has named their annual Women in Medicine Luncheon after her. This May, New York's Barnard College is bestowing her with The Barnard Medal of Distinction, the school's highest award, for her "service to the Harlem community as a physician, community activist and philanthropist for over 70 years."

It is great to see such a good friend receive the accolades she so rightly deserves for the years of service that she has given to our community and Nation. Going strong at 93 years of age, she continues to be a trailblazer and an inspiration, a New Year's Day gift to us all that has touched the lives of countless children and families.

TAIWAN'S BID TO JOIN THE  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I spoke recently in support of Taiwan's bid to join the World Health Organization.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that Taiwan has a world-class health care system and is willing and able to make meaningful contributions to the WHO's efforts, Chinese pressure to block Taiwan's efforts once again triumphed over fairness and common sense.

President Chen recently penned an editorial that was printed in the Washington Post that I would like to commend to my colleagues. In the piece, President Chen makes an eloquent and indisputable case for why Taiwan deserves membership in this and other international organizations.

I hope my colleagues will take the time to read the editorial, and to support Taiwan's future endeavors to contribute to international organizations like the WHO.

[From the Washington Post, May 11, 2007]  
THE SHUNNING OF A STATE

(By Chen Shui-bian)

In recent years the outbreak and spread of avian flu has brought illness, death and economic peril to countries in Asia and elsewhere. Memories of the fear, pain and suffering that accompanied the 2003 SARS outbreak—after failed coverups by the Chinese government—are still vivid in many places. While disease heeds no national borders, Taiwan has had to fight pandemics without help from the World Health Organization—a humanitarian agency that is supposed to serve all humankind.

Taiwan is not a member of the WHO, nor is it an observer at the World Health Assembly (WHA)—unlike the Palestinian Authority or the Malta Order of Chivalry. But under mounting international pressure prompted by fear of an avian flu pandemic, China was persuaded in 2005 to consent, in principle, to Taiwan's meaningful participation in WHO conferences focusing on that threat. China conceded after demanding that the WHO secretariat sign a secret memorandum of understanding. As a result, Taiwan's participation in the WHO is subject to China's approval, even for technical meetings. Such participation is minimal rather than meaningful.

It is improper and unprecedented for an international humanitarian organization to enter into a secret pact with one of its member states, especially an authoritarian one. More important, the memorandum has been used to obstruct Taiwan's participation in WHO activities. Our representatives were unable to attend the majority of conferences they sought admission to last year. The WHO secretariat has effectively jeopardized the health of people in Taiwan and other countries.

For a decade, we have striven relentlessly to participate in the WHO, to no avail. Even our humble pursuit of "meaningful participation" has yielded little success. With 95 percent of the Taiwanese people supporting full WHO membership, I must act upon the will of my people as a democratically elected president.

On April 11, I sent a letter to the WHO formally requesting our nation's application for membership under the name "Taiwan." The secretariat responded on April 25, claiming that Taiwan is not a sovereign state and therefore is not eligible for WHO membership. This is legally and morally deplorable.

Article 3 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization stipulates: "Membership in the Organization shall be open to all States," while Article 6 provides that states such as Taiwan that are not members of the United Nations "may apply to become Members and shall be admitted as Members when their application has been approved by a simple majority vote of the Health Assembly." Rule 115 of the WHA Rules of Procedure stipulates that "Applications made by a State for admission to membership . . . shall . . . be addressed to the Director-General and shall be transmitted immediately" to WHO members.

Clearly, the authority to determine whether Taiwan is eligible for admission to the WHO belongs to its members, many of which have diplomatic relations with Taiwan and cannot be co-opted by any individual or administrative office.

When East Germany applied for WHO membership in 1968, many questioned its sovereignty and the legitimacy of its government. But East Germany's application was circulated, and although it was voted down that year, it was approved in 1973.

Taiwan, formally known as the Republic of China, is indisputably a sovereign state, satisfying all of the criteria cited in Article 1 of

the Montevideo Convention on the Duties and Obligations of States: It has a permanent population, a defined territory, a functional government and the capacity to conduct relations with other states. It also has its own internationally traded currency and issues its own passport, honored by virtually all other nations.

Another broadly affirmed criterion for recognizing the legitimacy of a state is the principle, enunciated in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that the sovereignty a state exercises should be based on the will of the people. A truly "sovereign" state, in other words, is free and democratic. We find no better words to describe Taiwan.

Ultimately, the question of Taiwan's participation in the WHO is a moral one. The systematic shunning of Taiwan is unconscionable not only because it compromises the health of our 23 million people but also because it denies the world the benefit of our abundant public health and technical resources. Taiwan's public and private sectors have donated more than \$450 million in medical and humanitarian aid to more than 90 countries over the past 10 years.

We in Taiwan are grateful that many governments and legislative bodies such as the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament have supported our bid for observer status in the WHA. As humankind seeks to control global pandemics, victory will require collaboration that is not restricted by political obfuscation or subject to discriminatory picking and choosing of participants. We must not allow an all-but-one scenario to undermine our common mission—health for all.

H.R. 2922, THE PAY VETERANS  
FIRST ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Pay Veterans First Act (H.R. 2922), introduced by my colleague from New York, Mr. HALL.

When most people think of a "bonus," they think of a financial incentive given to reward exceptional work done above and beyond the call of duty. It is typically recognition of the long and countless hours of hard work put in to get the job done. It is something you earn, not something you receive in return for lackluster performance.

Yet, recently the Associated Press reported that top officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs received a total of \$3.8 million in bonuses, with some individuals receiving as much as \$33,000, or 20 percent of their annual salary. While these officials received these performance based rewards, the VA was facing a nearly \$1 billion budgetary shortfall and the national backlog for veterans' claims is about 177 days on average. There are very few veterans in eastern Connecticut or across the country who would agree that this data demonstrates "exceptional work" on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

It is appalling that the failing performance of top VA officials would be rewarded so handsomely while the quality of care for our Nation's veterans suffers. The veterans of eastern Connecticut and those throughout the Nation deserve an explanation for this apparent error in judgment and disgraceful lack of leadership within the Department of Veterans Af-

fairs. I recently wrote to Secretary Jim Nicholson asking him to provide an explanation for this imbalance and look forward to his response.

There are, without a doubt, many people in veterans' health care facilities across the country working tirelessly to care for our veterans without the resources they need, let alone discretionary bonuses. The VA is strained to care for the patients they have now, and face daunting challenges to care for those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pay Veterans First Act is an important step to ensuring that the priorities and resources of the VA remain focused on where they rightfully belong: the needs of those who have served our country in uniform, and not the bureaucrats in Washington.

I applaud Mr. HALL of New York for leading this important effort and urge my colleagues to support this bill on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD L. BRIGHAM

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero who proudly served our country in World War II. Howard L. Brigham was born in 1925 in Denver, Colorado, the oldest of eight children. After serving our country in the war, Howard served Colorado for 37 years as an educator and administrator.

In December of 1942, one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Howard joined the United States Navy at the young age of 17. He was unable to be present for his own high school graduation. Howard manned a 20 millimeter gun and served as a deck boss's mate on the Seaplane Tender, USS *Matagorda*. Howard served primarily in the Atlantic theater, but he also spent time in the South Pacific. He was briefly in port in Iceland, England, Wales, North Africa, and Brazil. He was away from his family the entire 4 years of the war and spent most of that time at sea. Howard's father passed away during this time and he was unable to leave his duties to attend the funeral. Seaman 2nd Class Brigham was awarded the American Theater Medal, the European Theater Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Following his heroic service, Mr. Brigham attended the University of Denver earning both a bachelors and a masters degree in education. For the next 37 years he served as a teacher, counselor, and principal in the Denver Public School system and the Poudre School System in Fort Collins. He and his wife Jeanie will celebrate 60 years of marriage in June of this year. Together they raised three children, Jerry Brigham of Broomfield, and Randy Brigham and Kay Rich of Sterling.

We are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country whose citizens willingly volunteer to put themselves in harm's way to defend and protect our great Nation.

I am proud to honor Mr. Brigham for his dedicated service to our Nation. Howard is an