

vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, and participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of children's bravery and determination in their struggle against cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 11,000 of our Nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

CHOOSE GENEROSITY, NOT
EXCLUSION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, somewhere in Minneapolis or Jackson or Baltimore, somewhere in America today, there is a young couple that is feeling vulnerable. Maybe one has been laid off due to outsourcing, and maybe, the other is working for something close to a minimum wage. They probably have no medical benefits. Today real income is lower for the typical family than in 2000, while the incomes of the wealthiest families have grown significantly. Things are tough for working people, but in America, we often turn to our faith in tough times.

When our couple shows up for worship service, probably on a Sunday, there is no doubt that the preacher will tell them of God's unyielding love. "God loves you." But the next thing the preacher tells them is crucial—not only to the young couple, but to us all. The next message from the preacher may help to shape, not only the next election results, but the political landscape of the Nation.

Will the preacher tell our young couple, "God loves you—but only you and people like you?" Or will the preacher say "God loves you and you must love your neighbors of all colors, cultures, or faiths as yourselves"? One message will lead to a stinginess of spirit, an exclusion of the "undeserving," and the other will lead to a generosity of spirit and inclusion of all.

In America today, we are encouraged to believe in the myth of scarcity—that there just isn't enough—of anything. But in the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, Jesus, who the Muslims called Isa, found himself preaching to 5,000—not including the women by the way—at dinner time, and there didn't appear to be enough food. The disciples said that there were only five barley loaves and two

fish. We just have to send them away hungry. We simply don't have enough. But Jesus took the loaves and the fish and started sharing food. There was enough for everyone. There was more than enough. What was perceived as scarcity was illusory as long as there was sharing, and not hoarding.

The idea here is not that there is a boundless supply of everything. Such an idea leads to waste and dispensability of everything. But the idea is that there is enough.

If scarcity is a myth, then poverty is not necessary. America need not have 37 million Americans living below the poverty line. It is a choice. Hunger is a choice. Exclusion of the stranger, the immigrant, or the darker other is a choice.

We can choose generosity. In America today, we spend more on health care than any other industrialized Nation, yet 46 million people have none. Canada spends half of what we spend and covers everyone. Perfectly? Of, course not. But adequately. That's more than what a lot of people have right now.

We live in a society which says that there is enough for a tax break for the wealthy but not enough for an increase in the minimum wage for national health care. There is enough for subsidies to oil and coal companies but not for families who are struggling to afford child care or a college education. But it doesn't have to be this way.

We need a politics of generosity based on the reality of abundance as opposed to a politics of not enough. The richest 1 percent of the Nation, on average, owns 190 times as much as a typical household. The child poverty rate in the United States is the highest of 16 other industrialized nations. Employers are shifting health insurance costs onto workers. Not only are fewer employees receiving health insurance through their employers, but those who still do are paying more for it.

Recently, I have become the focus of some criticism for my use of the Qu'ran for my ceremonial swearing in. Let me be clear: I am going to be sworn into office like all Members of Congress. I am going to swear to uphold the United States Constitution. We seem to have lost the political vision of our founding document—a vision of inclusion, tolerance and generosity.

I do not blame my critics for subscribing to a politics of scarcity and intolerance. However, I believe we all must project a new politics of generosity and inclusion. This is the vision of the diverse coalition in my congressional district. My constituents in Minnesota elected me to fight for a new politics in which a loving Nation guarantees health care for all of its people; a new politics in which executive pay may not skyrocket while workers do not have enough to care for their families. I was elected to articulate a new politics in which no one is cut out of the American dream, not immigrants, not gays, not poor people, not even a Muslim committed to serve his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week.

The Nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 28 through February 3. Catholic schools have made many significant contributions to the education of our Nation's children.

Catholic schools have a longstanding and proud tradition in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The percentage of Catholic families who choose Catholic schools for their children here is among the highest in the country. There are about 51,000 students enrolled in our Catholic elementary and high schools. Catholic schools foster an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students learn to value God, themselves, and others.

Today I would also like to recognize and commend our Catholic educators who are committed to a living faith community founded on the Catholic tradition of academic excellence and enriching the lives of the children they teach spiritually, academically and socially.

I strongly support the goals of Catholic Schools Week 2007 and laud their efforts to produce students dedicated to their faith, families, and values.

CELEBRATING BETTY NIXON'S
PIONEERING CAREER OF SERVICE
TO HER COMMUNITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Tennessee delegation, in particular Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. TANNER, to pay tribute to a lifelong activist and community servant, Betty C. Nixon, upon the occasion of her retirement from Vanderbilt University. Betty's last 17 years have been spent building bridges between Vanderbilt and the Nashville community, firmly connecting this institution to the city she loves, and yet this work represents only a small sliver of her service to her fellow citizens.

Betty's ties to Nashville run deep. She grew up there, graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1954 and heading to Texas, where she would graduate from Southern Methodist University in 1958. Most people would rest or retire after teaching high school in Alabama for the decade of the 1960s, but not Betty. By 1975, she had been elected to her first of three terms in the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County and was serving as deputy press secretary for Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. It was only the beginning of her public service.

In 1982, the same year she graduated from the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, Betty became the first woman to chair the Metro Council Budget Committee. Two years later, she managed the statewide political campaign for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro, and four years after that, she managed James R. Sasser's successful bid for the U.S. Senate. Along the way, Betty ran for mayor in 1987 and 1991, and once again she blazed a trail: Betty was the first woman to run for mayor in Nashville's history.

Like many civic-minded individuals, Betty moved to Washington, but after a year of professional service to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations,

she returned to the community that she loved. From 1990 until 2007, Vanderbilt has benefited from her steady service, and the University knows it. In many ways, Betty defined both her role at the school and the school's role in the community; she retires as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations and leaves as her legacy an institution that fully and conscientiously participates in its community. And Vanderbilt has immortalized her by dedicating the Betty C. Nixon Center for Community Connections in her honor.

Betty's ceaseless service to Nashville government and nonprofit organizations belies the limited number of hours in a day. Oasis Center, Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee State University Business Incubation Center, Bill Wilkerson Hearing and Speech Center, Davidson County Election Commission, Nashville Women's Breakfast Club, United Way, Project PENCIL, West End United Methodist Church, Citizen's Bank, Youth Encouragement Services, Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, YMCA Black Achievers, Rochelle Center, League for the Hard of Hearing, Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee, WIN—these groups and many others have all benefited from Betty's skill, charm, and grace. She has been honored as a YWCA Woman of Achievement and has received the prestigious Athena Award.

Madam Speaker, Nashville is a stronger, more vibrant community because of Betty Nixon's commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Today I rise to pay tribute to her legacy, express our Nation's gratitude for her service, and wish her many more years of contented engagement with a city that has been forever changed by her efforts.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE: CELEBRATING JOE HARDY ON HIS 84TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an American success story, an inspirational Pennsylvanian and a great American, Joe Hardy, III. Joe Hardy is the embodiment of the idea that, as Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get and we make a life by what we give." This month marks Joe Hardy's 84th birthday and it is only right that his achievements in business and his contributions to society be celebrated in this, the people's House.

Joe Hardy is perhaps best known as the founder of 84 Lumber, the largest privately owned building materials supplier to professional contractors in America. But he is much more than this. He is a self-made man, a civic leader and a great philanthropist. He is the embodiment of the American Dream and his story continues to encourage those around him.

With 84 Lumber, Joe Hardy reached a level in business that thousands of smaller entrepreneurs aspire to reach for themselves. And like many Americans just starting out in the world of business, Joe Hardy did not inherit his success; he built it from the ground up. His is a true American success story, a story that is alive and well today.

When Joe Hardy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in engineering he joined his family's jewelry company. He demonstrated his business acumen early, and quickly became the company's best salesman. But Joe Hardy wanted to make his own name in the business world, so in 1952, with his own savings and the help of some friends, he opened a cash-and-carry lumber yard for contractors in the town of Eighty-Four, Pennsylvania. In 1956 he changed his company's name from Green Hills Lumber to 84 Lumber and the rest, as they say, is history.

84 Lumber grew quickly, reaching \$84 million in sales in 1971 and \$1 billion in sales in 1996. As his company and his fortune grew, Joe Hardy began to give back to the communities that had given him the chance to succeed. In 1987, he bought the Nemaocolin Resort in a bankruptcy sale and turned it into a major economic draw and tourist destination for Western Pennsylvania.

He brought a PGA tournament to the world class Nemaocolin Resort that not only drew attention to the area, but raised money for worthy causes. The list of philanthropic achievements in this area is long, but a few examples stand out.

Over the past 15 years, Joe Hardy's 84 Lumber Golf Tournaments have raised over \$1 million for the Westmoreland-Fayette Boy Scout Council. He organized a PGA Tour event from 2003 to 2006 that raised more than \$6 million for local charities and \$1.3 million for Hurricane Katrina relief. Additionally, through his long collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, Joe Hardy enabled the funding and construction of 50 homes along the hurricane ravaged Gulf Coast.

But his philanthropy does not end there. In 1990, Joe Hardy gave a grant to Washington and Jefferson College to start an Entrepreneurial Spirit Studies Program as well as a scholarship fund its participation. This celebrated program continues to train tomorrow's business leaders today.

In addition to philanthropy, Joe Hardy is also civically engaged. He continues to serve as a County Commissioner for Fayette County Pennsylvania and personally invested his own money into the revitalization of Uniontown, the hometown of General George C. Marshall.

The list of Joe Hardy's accomplishments is simply too long to cover here. However, to the people of Fayette County, the contributions he has made to their lives are evident everyday. Whether you walk down the streets of a revitalized Uniontown, enjoy a jump in business due to the Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, or build your new house with 84 Lumber products, Joe Hardy's impact is there.

I want to wish Joe Hardy a happy 84th birthday and thank him for all he has done throughout his life. With his achievements and outlook on life, I am sure we will see many more successes in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BILL SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the banking ca-

reer of Bill Smith, who, as he puts it, started out as an errand runner and left as chairman of the board.

Bill began working for the Bank of Commerce in Woodbury, Tennessee, in 1950. At the time, there were five other employees working at the bank on the west side of the Cannon County Square. He began as a runner and went on to fill many other positions at the bank, including using a pen and ledger to keep the balance of the entire bank.

In 1954, the bank moved to its current location on the north side of the square, and Bill continued moving up. In 1964, an addition was added to the bank, and Bill earned the title of vice president.

In 1967, the Bank of Commerce was sold to Third National Bank, and Bill became president. Another addition to the Woodbury branch was added in 1982. Under Bill's leadership, the Bank of Commerce sponsored the Cannon County Good Ole Days for 25 years and started the annual Red Apple Days in Auburntown. Bank branches were built and obtained in the Edgefield community and in Auburntown.

When the bank sold in the early 1980s, it had grown to about 50 full-time and 20 part-time employees. The bank sold again in 1991 to Regions, and Bill's son, Steve, who had begun working for the bank while attending Middle Tennessee State University, became president. Bill became chairman of the board until he retired from the banking industry on August 31, 2005.

In his so-called retirement, Bill has been helping his son, Mike, with their family business, Smith Funeral Home, and managing his family farm. He is an active member of the Church of Christ.

Christine Dillon, who has worked with Bill since 1951, both at the bank and the funeral home, says Bill is described by friends as kind, friendly, a good Christian and a great marketing person. He is much loved by his friends and former banking colleagues. I congratulate Bill on his retirement, and I wish him many years of happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAITIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Haitian Protection Act of 2007.

This important piece of legislation would designate Haitian nationals as eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

The creation of TPS was intended to serve as the statutory embodiment of safe haven for those who are fleeing—or reluctant to return to—a potentially dangerous situation in their country of origin.

According to section 244A of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, TPS may be granted when: there is ongoing armed conflict posing a serious threat to personal safety; it is requested by a foreign state that temporarily cannot handle the return of nationals due to environmental disaster; or extraordinary and temporary conditions in a foreign state exist which prevent aliens from returning.