A TRIBUTE TO DEACON JOHN HENRY WOOTEN, SR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to Deacon John Henry Wooten, Sr. of Goldsboro, North Carolina. Deacon Wooten, an icon in education and service for Eastern North Carolina and a man whom I greatly admired, passed away this week.

Madam Speaker, Deacon Wooten's lifelong commitment to education left an indelible mark on the people he served. He received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from North Carolina A&T State University, and went on to serve on their Board of Trustees from 1993–2001. His work as a science teacher and principal of Dillard High School in Goldsboro, and also as an administrator of Goldsboro City Schools, enriched the lives of countless young people from the County of Wayne. His commitment to service began much earlier, as he served bravely in the United States Army during World War II and as a reservist until 1949.

Deacon Wooten's dedication to community service extended well beyond education and the military. He served for 12 years on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners and was the first African-American chairman of that Board. He also served on the Goldsboro Redevelopment Commission, the Board of Directors for Wayne Memorial Hospital, the Wayne Health Corporation and on the Salvation Army Advisory Board. All of that aside, one of his greatest contributions was to the First African Missionary Baptist Church of Goldsboro, where he served as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, President of the Laymen's League and as a member of the chorus. Deacon Wooten's faithfulness to the church and his tireless work for our community spoke volumes of his unselfish character.

Madam Speaker, Deacon Wooten has often been recognized for the many accomplishments he achieved over his lifetime. The North Carolina A&T State University National Alumni Association recognized him for Outstanding Leadership as President in 1988. The Neuse River Council of Governments named him Outstanding Commissioner of the Year in 1993. A member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, he was twice named their Man of the Year and won many other honors throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, in honor and recognition of Deacon John Henry Wooten's diligent service as an educator, legislator and leader, I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying a final tribute to this great man.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, please find attached references which conclusively demonstrate the therapeutic benefits experienced by human patients who have undergone a variety of adult stem cell treatments. These references are available at www.stemcellresearch.org. Also, please find attached the text of a Wall Street Journal article on November 16, 2006, citing progress on amniotic stem cell research as referenced in my floor statement during the January 11 debate on H.R. 3.

PEER-REVIEWED REFERENCES SHOWING APPLICATIONS OF ADULT STEM CELLS THAT PRODUCE THERAPEUTIC BENEFIT FOR HUMAN PATIENTS

ADULT STEM CELLS—HEMATOPOIETIC REPLACEMENT

CANCERS

Brain Tumors—medulloblastoma and glioma. Dunkel, IJ; ''High-dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell rescue for malignant brain tumors''; Cancer Invest. 18,492–493; 2000.

Ovarian Cancer—Stiff PJ et al.; ''High-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem-cell transplantation for ovarian cancer: An autologous blood and marrow transplant registry report''; Ann. Intern. Med. 133, 504–515; Oct. 3, 2000. Schilder, RJ and Shea, TC; ''Multiple cycles of high-dose chemotherapy for ovarian cancer''; Semin. Oncol. 25, 349–355; June 1998.

Testicular Cancer—Bhatia S et al.; ''High-dose chemotherapy as initial salvage chemotherapy in patients with relapsed testicular cancer''; J. Clin. Oncol. 18, 3346–3351; Oct. 19, 2000.

Lymphoma—Josting, A; ''Treatment of Primary Progressive Hodgkin's and Aggressive Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: Is There a Chance for Cure?''; J Clin Oncol 18, 332–339; 2000. Koizumi M et al.; ''Successful treatment of intravascular malignant lymphomatosis with high-dose chemotherapy and autologous peripheral blood stem cell transplantation''; Bone Marrow Transplant 27, 1101–1103; May 2001.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia—Laughlin MJ et al.; ''Hematopoietic engraftment and survival in adult recipients of umbilical-cord blood from unrelated donors'', New England Journal of Medicine 344, 1815–1822; June 14, 2001.

Breast Cancer—Damon LE et al.; ''High-dose chemotherapy and hematopoietic stem cell rescue for breast cancer: experience in California''; Biol. Blood Marrow Transplant 6, 496–505; 2000.

ADULT STEM CELLS—IMMUNE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Systemic Lupus—Burt RK et al., Nonmyeloablative hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for systemic lupus erythematosus, Journal of the American Medical Association 295, 527–535, February 1, 2006.

Crohn's Disease—Burt RK et al., ''High-dose immune suppression and autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in refractory Crohn disease,'' Blood 101, 2064–2066, March 2003.

Juvenile Arthritis—IM de Kleer et al., Autologous stem cell transplantation for refractory juvenile idiopathic arthritis: analysis of clinical effects, mortality, and transplant related morbidity, Ann Rheum Dis 63, 1318–1326, 2004.

Multiple Sclerosis—Saccardi R et al., Autologous HSCT for severe progressive multiple sclerosis in a multicenter trial: impact on disease activity and quality of life, Blood 105, 2601–2607, 15 March 2005.

ANEMIAS AND OTHER BLOOD CONDITIONS

Sickle Cell Anemia—Klein A et al., Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for severe sickle cell disease, Rev Med Brux. 2005; 26 Spec no: Sp23–5.

Chronic Epstein-Barr Infection—Fujii N et al.; ''Allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplantation for the treatment of chronic active epstein-barr virus infection''; Bone Marrow Transplant 26, 805–808; Oct. 2000.

ADULT STEM CELLS—REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF SOLID TISSUES METABOLIC DISORDERS

Osteopetrosis—Tsuji Y et al., Successful nonmyeloablative cord blood transplantation for an infant with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, J Pediatr Hematol Oncol. 27, 495–498, Sept 2005.

OCULAR

Corneal Regeneration—Inatomi T et al., Midterm results on ocular surface reconstruction using cultivated autologous oral mucosal epithelial transplantation, American Journal of Ophthalmology 141, 267–275, February 2006.

WOUNDS & INJURIES

Limb Gangrene—Tateishi-Yuyama E et al., ''Therapeutic angiogenesis for patients with limb ischaemia by autologous transplantation of bone-marrow cells: a pilot study and a randomized controlled trial''; Lancet 360, 427–435; 10 August 2002.

HEART DAMAGE

Acute Heart Damage—Joseph J et al., Safety and effectiveness of granulocyte-colony stimulating factor in mobilizing stem cells and improving cytokine profile in advanced chronic heart failure, American Journal of Cardiology 97, 681–684, 1 March 2006.

Chronic Coronary Artery Disease—Strauer BE et al., Regeneration of human infarcted heart muscle by intracoronary autologous bone marrow cell transplantation in chronic coronary artery disease, Journal of the American College of Cardiology 46, 1651–1658, 1 November 2005.

NEURAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASES & INJURIES

Stroke—Shyu W-C et al., Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor for acute ischemic stroke: a randomized controlled trial, Canadian Medical Association Journal 174, 927–933, 28 March 2006.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Using Direct Stimulation of Patients' Endogenous Adult Neural Stem Cells—Love S et al., Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor induces neuronal sprouting in human brain, Nature Medicine 11, 703–704, July 2005.

Slevin JT et al., Improvement of bilateral motor functions in patients with Parkinson disease through the unilateral intraputaminal infusion of glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor, Journal of Neurosurgery 102, 216–222, February 2005.

Spinal Cord Injury—Lima C et al., Olfactory mucosa autografts in human spinal cord injury: A pilot clinical study, Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine 29, 191–203, July 2006.

LIVER DISEASE

Liver Cirrhosis—Terai S et al., Improved liver function in liver cirrhosis patients after autologous bone marrow cell fusion therapy, Stem Cells published online 15 June 2006; DOI: 10.1634/stemcells.2005–0542.

BLADDER DISEASE

End-Stage Bladder Disease—Atala A et al., Tissue-engineered autologous bladders for patients needing cytoplasty, The Lancet 367, 1241–1246, 15 April 2006.

SCIENTISTS GROW HEART VALVES EMPLOYING AMNIOTIC STEM CELLS

CHICAGO—Scientists for the first time have grown human heart valves using stem cells from the fluid that cushions babies in the womb—offering a revolutionary approach that may be used to repair defective hearts in the future.

The idea is to create new valves in the lab while the pregnancy progresses and have them ready to implant in a baby with heart defects after it is born.

The Swiss experiment follows recent success growing bladders and blood vessels and suggests people may one day be able to grow their own replacement heart parts—in some cases, before they're born.

It's one of several sci-fi tissue engineering advances that could lead to homegrown heart valves for infants and adults that are more durable and effective than artificial or cadaver valves.

''This may open a whole new therapy concept to the treatment of congenital heart defects,'' said Dr. Simon Hoerstrup, a University of Zurich scientist who led the work, which was presented yesterday at an American Heart Association conference.

Also at the meeting, Japanese researchers said they had grown new heart valves in rabbits using cells from the animals' own tissue. It is the first time replacement heart valves have been created in this manner, said lead author Dr. Kyoko Hayashida.

One percent of all newborns, or more than one million babies born world-wide each year, have heart problems. These kill more babies in the U.S. in the first year of life than any other birth defect, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Heart-valve defects can be detected with ultrasound tests at about 20 weeks of pregnancy. At least one-third of afflicted infants have problems that could be treated with replacement valves, Dr. Hoerstrup said.

Conventional procedures to fix faulty heart valves all have drawbacks. Artificial valves are prone to blood clots and patients must take anticlotting drugs for life. Valves from human cadavers or animals can deteriorate, requiring repeated open-heart surgeries to replace them, Dr. Hijazl said. That's especially true in children, because these valves don't grow along with the body. Valves made from the patient's own cells are living tissue and might be able to grow with the patient, said Dr. Hayashida, a scientist at the National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute in Osaka.

The Swiss procedure has another advantage: using cells the fetus sheds in amniotic fluid avoids controversy because it doesn't involve destroying embryos to get stem cells.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007, which is being introduced today by Senators AKAKA and INOUYE in the Senate and by Congressman ABERCROMBIE and me in the House.

The central purpose of the bill is to extend the federal policy of self-determination and self-governance provided to the other indigenous peoples of the United States—American Indians and Alaskan Natives—to Native Hawaiians. In addition, the bill establishes an office in the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues and establishes a federal interagency working group.

The United States Congress has a long history of treating Native Hawaiians as an indigenous people. The special relationship Native Hawaiians have with the Federal Government is evidenced by the more than 160 statutes Congress has passed over the years to address the needs of the Native Hawaiian people. Nonetheless, the Rice v. Cayetano Supreme Court decision highlighted the need to clarify the authority of Congress to deal with Hawaii's indigenous people on a government-to-government basis under the U.S. Constitution's Indian Commerce Clause.

I attended the Rice v. Cayetano hearing at the Supreme Court while I was serving as Hawaii's lieutenant governor. I wanted to hear first hand where the Justices were on the question of whether Hawaiians are indigenous people. Clearly, there was a lack of understanding on this point, which resulted in an unfavorable decision in the case.

It is important to note that the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, also known as the Akaka bill, enjoys wide support in the State of Hawaii. As demonstrated by the introduction of these bills, the entire Congressional delegation supports the bill. Hawaii's Republican governor also supports the bill, as do the majority of elected officials in the State.

Today is the 114th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. It is fitting that we come together on this day to pledge to restore to the Native Hawaiian people the inherent right of self-determination our Nation has granted to the other indigenous peoples of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN VANDERBURGH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, it is commonly said that public service is not the path to financial wealth. Perhaps that is true, but, as we know, it is an enriching experience in more valuable ways. The rewards for helping people can be found in successfully meeting challenges and in the gratitude of the people helped. Staying true to the demands of public service and remaining committed to the tasks at hand require a strong sense of duty and responsibility.

On January 19, 2007, a faithful public servant with such virtues will leave his post after 35 years. Mr. John Vanderburgh, the Social Security Administration's Disability Programs coordinator for the Guam Federal Disability Office, will retire. The decision to do so was not easy to make. ''My job is wonderful,'' he says. ''I get to work directly with the public in a most personal and meaningful way. I also have the privilege of working and negotiating with professional and high-level private and public agencies, and the medical community in general, to try to provide a level of service comparable to that found anywhere stateside.''

After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Mr. Vanderburgh launched his public service career with the Social Security Administration in 1974, starting as a claims representative in San Francisco and rising through the ranks to operations supervisor and district manager, with a stint in between as staff assistant for the Civic Center. In 1988, John moved to the San Francisco Regional Office's Disability Quality Branch, to focus on the disability program. In 1995, John came to Guam to head the Federal Disability Office.

The Guam Federal Disability Office, FDO, serves the Pacific territories—from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to American Samoa, an expansive and culturally and linguistically diversified area. Yet, during his tenure, John has maintained the FDO as a full-service Federal disability determination center, processing some 1,000 disability claims annually.

Although John will be missed, we join his staff in wishing him well. And on behalf of the people of Guam, we commend him for his service to our community, we congratulate him on his retirement, and we thank him for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to my leave of absence, I am submitting for the RECORD how I would have voted if I had been present earlier today, in addition to comments that I request also be entered into the record.

I would have voted as follows on today's recorded votes: rollcall No. 27—Yea—H. Con. Res. 31—Honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to increase equal employment opportunities in the military, rollcall No. 28—Yea—H.R. 434—Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration, rollcall No. 29—Nay—Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5, rollcall No. 30—Nay—Adoption of the Rule for H.R. 5, rollcall No. 31—Yea—Republican Motion to Recommit for H.R. 5, and rollcall No. 32—Nay—Final Passage of H.R. 5.

H.R. 5 which is being considered without regular order or Republican input, falls far short of their original proposal to cut all student loan interest rates in half, increase Pell grants and increase tax deductions for parents of college students. This legislation is not part of a comprehensive approach which provides accountability and transparency for escalating tuition costs. A temporary interest rate decrease for college graduates is only part of the solution. The reduced interest rate does not apply to PLUS loans, consolidation loans, or unsubsidized Stafford loans.

Rollcall No. 33—Yea—H. Res. 58—To Honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

HONORING THE MARE ISLAND ORIGINAL 21ERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 31, which honors the 21 African-American workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard