

position he held for over 40 years. As pastor, he was an advocate for human and civil rights and the less fortunate. He mentored and was a role model for other men in his parish, urging them to help those in need. Bishop Barnwell also led the effort to declare Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a State holiday. Even before this occurred, I remember Bishop Barnwell bringing us together to celebrate Dr. King's birthday at Phoenix's Patriot Square Park.

Bishop Barnwell continues to be an active member in many Phoenix community organizations. For example, he serves on the Boards of the Phoenix Opportunities Industrialization Center, OIC, and St. Mary's Food Bank. He is also a member of the Mayor's Human Relations Commission, the Maricopa County branch of the NAACP, and the Sheriffs Religious Advisory Committee of Maricopa County. Bishop Barnwell will add the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement award to a long list of local, state, and national recognitions, including Arizona Pastor of the Year, 1989, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Ageless Hero Award, and Honorary Citizen of Tucson, AZ.

Born and raised in Florida, Bishop Barnwell first arrived in Phoenix to attend Grand Canyon College and the Arizona College of the Bible. In 1954, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired after 20 years of service. Bishop Barnwell is the devoted husband of Sheila Yvonne Barnwell; he is a proud father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bishop Barnwell for this award and to thank him for his enduring commitment to improving the lives of Arizona's citizens.

HONORING TRO JUNG-BRANNEN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in the acknowledgement of the architectural and design firm TRO Jung-Brannen located in Shelby County, TN.

On October 19, 2006, TRO Jung-Brannen was awarded the Export Achievement Certificate given by the United States Department of Commerce in recognition of the firm's export excellence, increased export sales, and the opening of new international markets.

TRO Jung-Brannen is an architectural and design firm with 325 people on staff with billings in excess of 50 million. The Shelby County office has 13 architects and 38 additional employees. The firm specializes in designing healthcare, educational and commercial facilities. The firm was established in 1909 and has served over 500 clients with projects totaling more than six billion dollars.

Please join me in honoring TRO Jung-Brannen on their wonderful award and remarkable record of accomplishments.

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD my strong support for H.R. 61, in observation and celebration of the birthday, life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; his life of service in promoting peace and justice for all people of every nation, and the preservation of his legacy in our continued efforts to ensure peace and justice to every man, woman, and child.

In celebrating the birthday of Dr. King, we are reminded of his sacrifice and leadership in ensuring that this great nation live up to its highest potential by acknowledging and practicing the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

As we are engaged in a war that has taken the lives of thousands of American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives, we must revisit Dr. King's stance of nonviolence and his opposition to the Vietnam war; a war that oppressed the poor and voiceless, a war that obstructed the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dr. King would have us on the frontlines of the anti-war movement, questioning whether our actions in Iraq and around the world are doing more than just creating more chaos and violence. He would ask us to attack the root causes of poverty, building bridges between the private sector and non-profits to provide educational and work opportunities to everyone. He would challenge us to put the fate of our brothers and sisters ahead of property and profit, to invest in people and ideas, not guns and violence.

On April 4, 1967, a year to the date of his death, Dr. King addressed the Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City, condemning the Vietnam war and urging his fellow citizens to break their silence. His message echoes the plight that we face today in Iraq; his words, etched in history, serve as a guide that we must heed.

Dr. King stated that ". . . Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

One need only substitute the word Vietnam with Iraq to recognize the analogous gravity that our Nation is engaged in. We must embrace Dr. King's legacy to achieve equality for the poor and to promote peace.

The invasion of Iraq has led the poor in our country to bear the brunt of military responsibility, while the children of government officials

and the wealthy make no sacrifice. Dr. King's remarks serve as a mirror to this country's unwillingness for all to make a sacrifice in engaging in war. He said "perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem."

We must take this day to get our national priorities back in order. We must recognize our obligation to the citizens of this country, and our responsibility to promote peace around the world.

Now is the time to grab a comfortable pair of shoes for a new journey of activism. If we truly want to honor our king, we must renew our commitment to the world congregation that he loved. To follow footsteps as large as his is definitely difficult, but not beyond our hearts and minds. The task may well prove to be easier if more of us can take them together.

I want to especially thank the Baptist Ministers Conference, the National Action Network, and the 16th Council District's Annual MLK Memorial for allowing me to honor the life of Dr. King with them, and to follow in his footsteps.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for our Nation's seniors. In 2003 this body passed historic legislation that provided America's senior citizens with a true prescription drug benefit under Medicare Part D. I was pleased to vote for this bill. Since enactment, this program has been extremely successful. More than 38 million Medicare beneficiaries now have drug coverage, either through Medicare or another source. This represents about 90 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries.

We have been able to provide seniors with low cost, life saving medicines. In fact, the program has been so successful in encouraging private sectors to compete for enrollment, that the cost to seniors is much lower than anticipated. In fact, seniors are saving, on average, \$1,200 a year on prescription drugs. And the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) reports that prices are continuing to decrease, due to this competition in the private sector. The 'bids' by the prescription drug plans are 10 percent lower, on average, in 2007 than 2006. At the same time, Part D recipients saw a 13 percent increase in the number of medications available.

I strongly support the Republican motion to recommit which will ensure that the progress of the past several years continues. I will vote for the proposal to assure continued access to covered Part D drugs and pharmacy networks,

and to protect against increasing drug prices for veterans.

I cannot support H.R. 4 for one important reason: it will limit access to prescription drugs for senior citizens. The Washington Post shares these concerns, "A switch to government purchasing of Medicare drugs would choke off this experiment before it had a chance to play out, and it would usher in its own problems."

The Democrats want you to believe that this legislation will not limit the number of drugs available on a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan's formulary. They point to programs like the Veterans Administration and Medicaid to assure the public that access to drugs won't be limited. But the truth is that both the VA and Medicaid programs restrict patients' choice of drugs. Veterans have access to less than one-third of the prescription drugs available under Medicare Part D plans. State Medicaid programs also routinely limit the number and types of drugs that patients can receive.

In addition, and of particular concern to my constituents, the VA distributes 70 percent of its medications by mail. Seniors deserve the right to speak to their local pharmacist about their prescriptions, and not having that opportunity is a potential health risk. In contrast, the current Part D plan uses mail for less than 2 percent of its medications. We should not alter this important program.

As Leslie Norwalk, the Acting Administrator for CMS said, "The bottom line from the news today is that beneficiaries are paying less in premiums and taxpayers are seeing billions of dollars in lower costs, without the need for government to interfere and reduce access or convenience for beneficiaries." As in many areas, the best thing the government can do is to step back and allow the current trend to work. Government interference would risk the value of this important benefit to our seniors. I encourage my colleagues to join me in standing up for low cost and full access to prescription drugs for senior citizens and vote against H.R. 4.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Advancement Act of 2007.

In California, we have devoted State funds, nearly \$300 million a year, to pursuing research on embryonic stem cells, and it has helped make California a destination for researchers on the cutting edge of biotechnology. But the promise of stem cell therapies will not benefit just the people of California, but all Americans, and indeed the entire world. Shutting the National Institute of Health out of this research is misguided, and turns our back on the many millions who may benefit from the cures it may provide.

More than five years after the Administration instituted restrictions on Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, the promise of this potential line of treatment is greater than ever.

There are those who suggest that research on adult stem cells is equally promising and has produced new therapies—and I welcome further research in that area. But we, as legislators, should not prejudge which avenues are most promising. We should leave the science to the scientists.

Embryonic stem cells have the potential to transform the way we treat diseases that afflict millions of Americans. There is not a person in America who doesn't know someone who suffers from diabetes or Alzheimer's or cancer or heart disease, and embryonic stem cell research hold tremendous promise for the treatment of each of those, along with many other potential therapies.

Medical and biological ethics are a serious issue and we can have differences of opinion, but I believe that a commitment to lifesaving medical research that holds the potential to cure diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's is consistent with a commitment to the sanctity of human life.

Last year, I voted to override the President's veto of this important legislation. I hope the President will reconsider his opposition, and it will not be necessary to vote on an override again.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON
SCHIRMER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Don Schirmer and his many years of service to the community of Maple Heights as a high school varsity football referee. Don's five decades of tireless dedication to the game of football is a testament to his heartfelt love of sports and the Maple Heights community.

Don began his tenure as a referee in 1954 in Maple Heights, where his knowledge of sports translated into a position as a varsity official. Over the years, the students playing the game changed, but their referee, Don Schirmer, remained a staple of the community. Through all the victories, losses, and dramatic twists of the sport, one man has stood behind it all.

More than just a referee, Don served as a pillar of his community by volunteering, often cooking for the homeless. It is this spirit of giving, sharing, and brotherly love that Don Schirmer has contributed to the community of Maple Heights. A modest man of many accomplishments, Don can count being an umpire in Major League Baseball, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and the Captain of the Maple Heights Fire Department all as notches in his all-American belt of experience.

Even at the ripe age of 79, Don's energy, passion, and love of life are at an all-time high. An avid hunter, Don is giving up his striped referee uniform for an orange vest. Though nearly an octogenarian, his zesty vigor keeps him active in the outdoors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Don Schirmer as a true American sportsman. His undying presence on the field has been a joy, honor, and privilege to the students of Maple Heights for over 50 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT
FINANCIAL READINESS ACT OF
2007

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a very important piece of legislation that will provide additional relief for families as they plan for the financial cost of their children's education.

The cost of college tuition continues to rise in the United States. In fact, over the past 5 years, the cost of obtaining a college education has increased by 35 percent. The higher cost of college should not prevent individuals from receiving an advanced education.

That is why I am introducing the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2007, which will increase the annual tax-free contribution a family or an individual may contribute to a student's elementary, secondary, or college expenses.

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts allow families to make an annual tax-free contribution of \$2,000 to assist each of their children with their education. The money can be spent on both K-12 education and college. By allowing families to make tax-free contributions to education savings accounts, we promote ownership of education. Families that save for their children's education are empowering their children. However, the current \$2,000 annual limit needs to be adjusted with the increasing tuition rates. The Student Financial Readiness Act of 2007 would permit a contribution level of \$5,000 annually and index the contribution amount by the cost-of-living adjustment.

We must give families the option to provide the very best education possible for their children. Our Nation's future depends on educating our children and they must be given every chance to receive the highest education. Our children deserve a competitive advantage in our Nation's job market.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation that will ensure the future success of our Nation's children.

CONGRATULATING MR. CALVIN C.
GOODE ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly bring to your attention the 80th birthday of a fellow Arizonan who is one of the most respected leaders in my home State and city—Mr. Calvin C. Goode. Calvin Goode is celebrating his 80th birthday this month and, therefore, it is the perfect time to pay tribute to this well-revered public servant who is best known for dedicating 22 years of his life as a Phoenix City Councilman. He has been equally dedicated to the promotion of education and the advancement of civil rights and continues to stand up to injustice, even in his retirement.

Goode's family came to Arizona to work in the agricultural fields when he was an infant,