

management plan and stream bank instability study by the Board of Trustees; a \$250,000 wetlands remediation project; and the establishment of a community parking district.

Burke Centre was also honored with the 2007 Best of Braddock Award for Neighborhood Enhancement and Beautification.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I commend and congratulate the Burke Centre Conservancy on 30 years of excellence. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the Conservancy on its continued growth and success for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA GRAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Gray for her unwavering dedication and service as Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Nevada.

Patricia has recently retired from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court after dutifully serving it for over 36 years. Patricia came to Las Vegas in 1968, moving with her family from her birthplace of Carlsbad, New Mexico. She graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1969.

In September of 1970, Patricia was appointed as a deputy clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Her immense talents and indomitable work ethic were recognized and she rose quickly through the ranks, becoming the Chief Deputy Clerk in 1974. In 1979, Patricia was appointed as the Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court under the Bankruptcy Code for the District of Nevada.

During her 36 years with the court system, Patricia has actively served the judicial branch, serving on many committees in both the 9th Circuit and Administrative Office of U.S. Courts. She has served on the Local Rules Subcommittee for Bankruptcy Rules and as Chair of the 9th Circuit Bankruptcy Liaison Committee. Patricia is also a notable member of the Las Vegas community for her service as a member of the Board of Directors for the Clark County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Patricia's enduring legacy is recognized by her peers in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, where they describe her as being a great leader who has shown dedication and compassion for both the members of the court and for the public. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Patricia Gray. I wish her the greatest happiness in her retirement and I offer my sincere thanks for her many years of service.

IN HONOR OF SOUTH BAY STAND DOWN FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and support for South Bay Stand Down For Homeless Veterans. From September 8th through September 10, 2007, the United States Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to homeless military veterans living in the South San Francisco Bay region.

Held in Santa Cruz County, South Bay Stand Down aims to reduce the many barriers faced by homeless veterans and to assist them with a wide variety of services. For three days, veterans will be able to access clothing, food, water, and shelter, and can interface with a wide variety of government and public service organizations. Veterans will have the ability to learn about benefits that they may be entitled to, and even access free legal assistance and health services.

I am truly inspired to see that the South Bay Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is a community effort. A diverse array of organizations have come together to ensure that the problem of homelessness among military veterans is properly addressed. Notable participants include the Veterans Transition Center, the County of Santa Cruz Veterans Services Office, Capitola Vet Center, Shelter Network, Not This Time Vets, Easter Seals, and the Red Cross.

Homeless veterans face incredible hurdles in areas of life that many people simply take for granted. Access to shelter, food, and employment are immeasurably more difficult to attain. With as many as 50,000 homeless veterans living in the state of California alone, it is imperative that the government and local communities reach out to assist those who have served our nation. The South Bay Stand Down accomplishes just that. I commend the participating veterans and organizations for their willingness to better the lives of our community members.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my gratitude to the organizers of South Bay Stand Down and to all of the participating organizations. To the veterans who attend, I offer my most sincere appreciation for your service in the armed forces of our nation. I can think of no other group more deserving of community support and recognition than the men and women who served in the United States military.

HONORING THE 1966 TEXAS WESTERN NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the Texas Western Miners, the 1966 NCAA championship basketball team that is being inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today. Texas Western College is now known as the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and is in the district that I am honored to represent. The victory of the 1966 Texas Western team made a groundbreaking impact on diversity in sports and civil rights in America, and this team is only one of six to be enshrined forever as a legend of the basketball world.

Texas Western was coached by Don Haskins, "the Bear," who has become an El Paso icon and legend and who was himself in-

ducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997 as a coach.

The Texas Western team, a tight-knit group of blacks, whites, and one Hispanic, finished the 1965–66 regular season with a 23–1 record. The Miners then played their way to the NCAA championship game. On the night of March 19, 1966, in College Park, MD, history was made when Haskins started, for the first time ever, an all-black lineup in the final NCAA championship game against Adolph Rupp's No. 1-ranked Kentucky Wildcats, an all-white team. The Texas Western team won the national title with a 72–65 victory. More important than the basketball victory was the profound statement that was made that night regarding an issue that was causing great national controversy and strife—civil rights.

The win soon became a symbol for the breakthrough of black athletes into college sports and is an event defined by many as the "Brown v. Board of Education of athletics". After the '66 championship, college teams throughout the South began aggressively recruiting black athletes, ending years of shameful segregation. You may recall that the 2006 film "Glory Road" is based on the story of the 1966 Texas Western team. Years later, when recounting his coaching successes and historic contribution to civil rights, Haskins said, "I just played my best guys, like any coach would do."

This team will be remembered forever. This is a great day for El Paso and for basketball enthusiasts all over the world; a great day to remember the civil rights struggle and some of the strides that have been made; and a great day to recognize and honor the contributions of the 1966 Texas Western NCAA championship basketball team as they are inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

I am proud of this team—Bobby Joe Hill (Detroit, Michigan), Orsten Artis (Gary, Indiana), Togo Railey (El Paso, Texas), Willie Worsley (New York, New York), David Palacio (El Paso, Texas), Dick Myers (Peabody, Kansas), Harry Flournoy (Gary, Indiana), Louis Baudoin (Albuquerque, New Mexico), Nevil Shed (New York, New York), Jerry Armstrong (Eagleville, Missouri), Willie Cager (New York, New York), David 'Big Daddy' Lattin (Houston, Texas) and their legendary coach, Don "the Bear" Haskins, and congratulate them on this slam dunk!

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF LIFE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a new record for the State of Florida; our first set of sextuplets, born this weekend to new parents Karoline and Ben Byler of Wesley Chapel in my district.

As someone who raised three wonderful girls, I know the joys of motherhood, albeit one at a time. The Bylers, who already have a 4-year-old at home, now get six times the challenge of raising young children, welcoming five little boys and one girl into their home.

The boys were named Brady Christopher, Eli Benjamin, Ryan Patrick, Jackson Robert

and Charlie Craig. The girl is MacKenzie Margaret.

Madam Speaker, the residents of my district are like so many others around the Nation; good, caring and generous American citizens. Since the babies were born this weekend, the parents have been showered with gifts and support, including clothing, diapers, baby wipes, baby formula and gift cards.

While every child is a precious gift, to be blessed with six babies at one time is truly an accomplishment. In fact, this is the first time in Florida history, and only the fourteenth time in the United States that sextuplets have been born. My thoughts, prayers and best wishes go out to Karoline and Ben Byler as they begin an amazing journey as parents to six new children while ensuring that the older sister feels just as loved.

H.R. 3162, THE CHILDREN'S
HEALTH AND MEDICARE PRO-
TECTION ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection, CHAMP, Act to help ensure that the 68,000 children in Minnesota without health insurance, and the more than 9 million children around the country that are uninsured and underinsured, have access to the critical health care services they need.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, in our state, MinnesotaCare, plays an important role in providing health care coverage for millions of lower-income children around the country. It is available for children whose families do not have health insurance, but who do not qualify for Medicaid. Unfortunately, without action from Congress, the law authorizing funding for this important program will expire at the end of September.

The CHAMP Act reauthorizes SCHIP and improves the program by providing health care for an additional 5 million uninsured children in our nation who are eligible, but not currently enrolled in SCHIP. This bill also grants states the option to expand SCHIP coverage of pregnant women, as well as allowing states to offer health care coverage for older children up to age 21.

In order to be healthy, children need access to comprehensive health care. For this reason, I joined several of my colleagues to send a letter to Chairman DINGELL urging him to include a dental benefit in SCHIP. I strongly support that under this legislation, children enrolled in SCHIP will receive a guaranteed dental benefit.

Further, because at least 1 in 5 American children and adolescents have a mental health disorder, it is critical that H.R. 3162 requires parity for mental health coverage.

Not only does this legislation strengthen health care for our kids, it also helps our nation's seniors. The CHAMP Act preserves seniors' access to physicians by preventing a scheduled 10 percent payment cut from going into affect, and actually increasing payments to Medicare physicians by 0.5 percent for the next 2 years.

H.R. 3162 also includes several provisions to improve the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit. It caps out-of-pocket spending under Part D to 5 percent of annual income and eliminates late enrollment penalties for the lowest income Medicare beneficiaries. Additionally, this legislation expedites the process to qualify for low-income assistance and allows any beneficiary to change plans if a plan changes the formulary in a way that results in reduced access to a prescription for the individual.

Further, because there are many concerns about rapidly increasing health care costs, this legislation stops overpayments to private Medicare Advantage plans, which will save the 82 percent of Minnesota beneficiaries enrolled in traditional Medicare plans \$10.2 million in Part 8 premiums. This bill gradually implements the payment changes, which will allow Medicare beneficiaries to choose the plan that best meets their needs. H.R. 3162 also raises the asset limits to \$17,000 for individuals and \$34,000 for couples, making it easier for seniors to qualify for assistance with Medicare Part 8 and D costs.

H.R. 3162 is endorsed by numerous organizations including the AARP, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, Families USA, and the National Rural Health Association. I have included for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a list of organizations that have sent letters in support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, it is essential that all Americans have access to comprehensive, quality, and appropriate health care. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

CHAMP LETTERS OF SUPPORT

AARP, July 26, 2007; Acute Long Term Hospital Association, July 25, 2007; AFL-CIO, July 26, 2007; AFSCME, July 25, 2007; Alliance for Better Health Care, July 26, 2007; Alliance for Retired Americans, July 25, 2007; American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, July 26, 2007; American Academy of Family Physicians, July 25, 2007; American Academy of HIV Medicine, July 26, 2007; American Academy of Ophthalmology, July 25, 2007; American Academy of Pediatrics, July 25, 2007; American Association of Neurological Surgeons, July 25, 2007; American Clinical Laboratory Association, College of American Pathologists, Genzyme Corporation, Federation of American Hospitals, National Rural Health Association, July 26, 2007; American College of Physicians, June 24, 2007; American Counseling Association & American Mental Health Counselors Association, July 25, 2007; American Diabetes Association, July 26, 2007; American Federation of Teachers, July 25, 2007; American Gastroenterological Association, July 25, 2007; American Hospital Association, July 26, 2007; American Psychological Association, July 25, 2007;

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, July 24, 2007; Child Welfare League of America, July 26, 2007; Children's Dental Health Project, July 25, 2007; Coalition of Full Service Community Hospitals, July 25, 2007; Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation, July 26, 2007; Disability Policy Collaboration, July 26, 2007; Easter Seals, July 26, 2007; Families USA, July 25, 2007; Federation of American Hospitals, July 25, 2007; First Focus, July 26, 2007; Friends of NQF, July 25, 2007; Generic Pharmaceutical Association, July 25, 2007; HIV Medicaid/Medicare Working Group, July 25, 2007; National Alliance on Mental Illness, July 25, 2007; Na-

tional Association of Insurance Commissioners, July 25, 2007; National Council on Aging, July 26, 2007; National Rural Health Association, July 26, 2007; Illinois Governor Blagojevich, July 26, 2007; Incenter Strategies, July 23, 2007; Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, July 25, 2007; March of Dimes, July 25, 2007; NAACP, July 26, 2007;

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, July 25, 2007; National Hispanic Medical Association, July 25, 2007; National Medical Association, July 26, 2007; Premier, July 26, 2007; The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy, July 26, 2007; The Medicare Cost Contractors Alliance, July 25, 2007; The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, July 26, 2007; Three State of New York Healthcare Organizations, July 25, 2007; Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, July 25, 2007.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRENT
EUGENE TYLER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brent Eugene Tyler for a lifetime of community and business service in Nevada.

Brent was born in 1928 in Thatcher, Arizona. After graduating from high school, he went on to serve his country in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1948. Brent moved to Nevada in 1950 with his wife, Anne. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1953 with a degree in Business Accounting. Brent and Anne had three children, Joe, Brent, and Stephanie.

Brent found his professional calling in the blossoming neon sign business in Reno. He spent more than two decades as the top local salesman for the Young Electric Sign Company, becoming a respected businessman with many friends in Nevada that he maintained throughout his life.

In 1967, Brent made a bid for Reno City Council; while he did not win the office, it did not diminish his contribution to public service, as he went on to assist countless northern Nevadans achieve local and state offices.

Mr. Tyler was admired by his community for his strong dedication to volunteerism. For several years he served as a full time VISTA volunteer with the Washoe County Senior Law Project, and he served as the volunteer chairman of the state sanctioned Renter's Hotline. Brent also worked with the National Association for the Mentally Ill of Northern Nevada along with his son, Joe. He spearheaded the effort to establish Yori Park because of his concerns for low income families not having a safe place to play. Additionally, with the help of his son Bret, he helped to create a low income, non-profit mobile home park in Lockwood.

Brent's lifelong commitment to the business and volunteer communities in Nevada serves as an inspiration to us all. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Brent Eugene Tyler for a lifetime of public service. The legacy he leaves behind will long be remembered by his community.