

HONORING THE COMMUNITY
HEALTH CLINIC OLE**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Community Health Clinic Ole for its efforts to bring healthcare to the underserved communities of Napa County. By providing the highest quality medical and dental services, Clinic Ole has become an essential part of the health and well-being of Napa County residents.

In the early 1970s, 13 percent of Napa County's population was Mexican American but few had health insurance or access to adequate medical care. At a meeting of Napa Valley Latinos, a farmworker named Plácido Garcia asked, "Why don't we have a health clinic in Napa?" Inspired by this question, a committed group of community members began working together and, just a few months later, Clinic Ole opened its doors for the first time on September 17, 1972, in a small building in Rutherford. It was the first clinic in the county to provide healthcare to the local and migrant agricultural workers of the Napa Valley community.

The clinic has since grown by leaps and bounds. It began with only a few volunteer staff and physicians, but today has over 115 employees providing the highest quality medical and dental care to over 20,000 patients annually in the Napa Valley. They remain committed to their original goal of providing affordable healthcare and, although 70 percent of their patients earn incomes below the Federal poverty level, they are proud to say that no one is denied care at the clinic because of an inability to pay.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we thank the Community Health Clinic Ole for their tireless efforts to ensure that high quality healthcare is accessible to all members of our community. Its growth from a small clinic to a pillar of the Latino community is a testament to the talents and dedication of the staff and volunteers, and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive for many years to come.

HONORING NATIONAL
GRANDPARENTS DAY**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Grandparents Day, which was celebrated on September 9, 2007. Grandparents Day, although a relatively recent holi-

day, is a day that truly deserves more recognition. As influential anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Nobody has ever before asked the nuclear family to live all by itself in a box the way we do. With no relatives, no support, we've put them in an impossible situation." As we observe the 29th anniversary of Congress' proclamation of a National Grandparents Day, it is crucial that we recognize this as a day to first and foremost honor grandparents. National Grandparents Day gives us an opportunity to recognize the countless ways grandparents show love for their children's children, and it helps children become aware of the strength, information, and guidance older people can offer. After all, grandparents are the backbone of every family support system. Grandparents, especially, dedicate numerous hours to the upbringing of their grandchildren, often times receiving little compensation in return.

This is why I, along with my colleague TIM JOHNSON, sponsored The Kinship Caregiver Support Act (RR. 2188). Recent statistics indicate that, as of the year 2000, more than six million children, that is 1 in 12 children, live in households headed by grandparents or other relatives, and this number is steadily rising. In addition, almost one-fifth of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren live in poverty. Currently, Federal financial assistance is available only to foster and adoptive families, with only a few States receiving a waiver to provide subsidized guardianship, with these guidelines sometimes creating financial disincentives to guardianship. Unfortunately, the waiver expired in 2006. This means that if you're from one of the 15 States with existing waivers—that is if you're from Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia or Wisconsin—your State risks losing considerable Federal support in the very near future when your existing waivers expire unless legislative action is taken. If you're from one of the other 35 States or DC, you cannot benefit from the program at all unless new legislation is passed.

The Kinship Caregiver Support Act amends part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to authorize all States to opt to enter agreements to provide kinship guardianship assistance payments on behalf of children to grandparents and other relatives who have assumed legal guardianship of children for whom they have committed to care for on a permanent basis. A recent report by the GAO specifically identified subsidized guardianship as a way to address the disproportionate percentage of African-American children in foster care. The GAO found that African-American children also stay in foster care longer because of difficulties in recruiting adoptive parents and a greater reliance on relatives to provide foster care who may be unwilling to terminate the parental rights of the child's parent as

required by adoption. As an alternative to adoption, subsidized guardianship is considered particularly promising for helping African-American children exit from foster care. The Kinship Caregiver bill also supplies grants to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out kinship navigator programs.

I urge the recognition of grandparents not just on this day but every day, and I also urge Congress to take action to provide kinship caregivers, oftentimes grandparents, with the necessary resources to address their children's needs. Consequently, The Kinship Caregiver Support Act deserves your support because it is distinctly crafted to address and minimize the unique challenges these kinship caregivers face. The ultimate goal of this legislation is to assist in the reunification of these families.

RECOGNIZING THE 709TH U.S.
ARMY BATTALION**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a gathering this fall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania acknowledging the dedication of an outstanding group of men. This group of brave individuals served in the 709th United States Army Battalion during World War II. Their courageous efforts helped defend and preserve our country's ideals of freedom and liberty during a complex time in history.

The efforts and accomplishments of these heroic individuals are numerous. They fought along side their brothers in arms at Utah Beach on D-Day, July 11th, 1944 to help liberate Europe from the suffering brought on by tyranny and oppression. The Battalion was distinguished for participating in all five European campaigns in addition, it was given the honor of a Presidential Unit Citation within the army for their services conducted in the Hurtgen Forest in November, 1944.

Special recognition is also needed for the 100 comrades of the Battalion whose lives were lost during combat. Collectively, the Battalion has received numerous distinguishing honors which include Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, the Distinguished Service Cross, the British Military Cross, and the Croix de Guerre.

The Battalion has courageously defended our country and helped promote the ideals and foundations of our government. I commend these men on their fearlessness and efforts and greatly acknowledge the honors they have received.

Thank you Madam Speaker.