

values that were exceptionally great, and that he was always willing to help everybody any time, any way that he could." This sentiment was not only found around Highland Baptist Church.

Charles Hendrix was a charter member of the Molino Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief, assistant fire chief, and secretary of the department's board of directors. Former fire chief Harry Nowlin was inspired by Charles: "I've never met a finer gentleman in all my life."

Mr. Hendrix was also a member of the Cantonment Rotary Club for 44 years. He served one term as president and was an active member of the Club Service Committee. He was presented the prestigious Paul Harris Award, and in 2003, he received the club's "Gator Estes Service Above Self Award."

Mr. Hendrix went to be with the Lord last October at the early age of 75. Madam Speaker, I, along with the residents of Northwest Florida, can think of no better way to honor this highly respected, admirable man than to dedicate the Cantonment Post Office in his name.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 9, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 32 and H.R. 400.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 949 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor killings," and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and honorable society, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 950 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. GUILLERMO LINARES, PhD

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor the outstanding achievements of the 35 million Hispanic Americans in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

One of those 35 million Hispanic Americans is Dr. Guillermo Linares, whom I am honored to acknowledge for all his wonderful contributions and remarkable leadership in public service. Dr. Linares, who brings a long record of distinguished public service, has blazed an inspiring path so that future generations of Hispanic Americans can grasp the same opportunities to develop into tomorrow's leaders.

Dr. Guillermo Linares has the historic distinction of being the first Dominican elected to

public office in the United States. He served from 1991 to 2001 in the New York City Council, where he advocated for quality education, vital health services, and affordable housing.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Linares has remained committed to improving public education and championing immigrant issues. His advocacy started in Washington Heights, where he worked as a school teacher. Witnessing the need for active involvement, he ran for membership of the local school board and served there for three terms. In the 1980s, Dr. Linares and others were responsible for the building of desperately needed public schools for the growing immigrant community in Washington Heights.

Dr. Linares' work has garnered him city-wide and national respect. In 1998, the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus of the NYC Council elected then-Council Member Linares as its copresident. Dr. Linares was tapped in 1995 to serve in a national capacity as a member of the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. President William Clinton appointed him in 1999 as chair of this initiative.

He was also a part of a movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s to establish key institutions that continue to serve Dominican and Latino populations. With other activists and leaders, Dr. Linares helped to establish the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Puerto Rican/Latino Education Round Table and the Parents Coalition for Education in New York City. Dr. Linares was instrumental in the founding of the Dominican Studies Institute at City College, the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. He also served for six years as a board member of the National Council of "La Raza." He currently is the co-chair of "Encuentro 2000 and Beyond" a national Latino leadership group.

In his current role as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs for the City of New York, Dr. Linares works to strengthen bridges between city government and immigrant communities. He—who grew up dirt poor in a dirt-floored hut in the Dominican Republic—shares the experiences and aspirations of immigrant New Yorkers. Having left his native Dominican Republic to arrive to the City of New York at age 15 in 1966, knowing not a word of English, drove a taxi for long hours to support his family. At the same time, he pursued a higher education so that he could advance.

Dr. Linares received a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degree from City College and a professional diploma in administration and supervision from Fordham University. He recently achieved his doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Linares' wife, Evelyn, is a dedicated public school principal. They are proud parents of two children, Guillermo Linares Jr. and Mayra Linares, who currently serves as the Democratic District Leader of Part A of the 72nd District of the New York State Assembly. His family has been critical to his accomplishments as a community activist, an elected official and an academic.

At a time when so many question the role and value of immigrants in today's society, it is essential to remember the achievements of remarkable public servants such as Dr. Guillermo Linares. Let us all remember that immi-

grant dreams and values—Hispanic dreams and values—are no different than the dreams and values that we all wish for our families and our Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we live in the Information Age, but health care, one of the most information-intensive segments of our economy remains mired in a pen-and-paper past. We can buy airline tickets online, we can check our bank accounts from anywhere in the world, and we send pictures of new babies and grandchildren to friends and family via e-mail or instant messages. The health care industry, however, remains dangerously disconnected. Patients' medical histories are largely disaggregated among the various physicians who have treated them, and are often inaccessible to a new doctor or even to the patients themselves.

Such an inefficient health care information system creates unnecessary risks and costs. It's time to look at health care in a new way, focusing on overall health and not simply disease. We need to move toward a model of integrated care by providing ways for a patient's physicians to coordinate their care, and promote the modernization of our nation's health care system.

Health information technology (HIT) promises to revolutionize the health care delivery system and have a powerful effect on enhancing patient safety, reducing medical errors, improving the quality of care, and reducing health care costs. The deployment of HIT and the adoption of important patient tools such as electronic health records (EHRs) have been slow and have not kept pace with the advances of technology in nearly every other aspect of our lives.

To accelerate the adoption of HIT and create market conditions and incentives which will encourage investment in this critical technology, I'm introducing today the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act. This legislation builds on the excellent work of Senators KENNEDY and ENZI and will promote HIT in the federal government and throughout the health care sector.

Any meaningful HIT legislation must establish a process for the rapid formulation and implementation of standards to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health data and create incentives to ensure that these technologies are actually adopted. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act establishes a streamlined process for the adoption of HIT interoperability standards and requires the federal government to abide by the standards it sets.

The legislation establishes a permanent position within HHS with broad responsibility to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health information and coordination of the government's own health IT activities and procurement. It also creates a permanent public-private advisory body to recommend or endorse appropriate HIT interoperability standards with

definitive timeframes for adoption and updates. Broadly accepted interoperability standards are vital to the development of IT systems that can communicate and share information.

Under my legislation all federal HIT procurement must comply with the standards endorsed by the interoperability standards body. In addition, all agencies that collect health data electronically for purposes of quality reporting, health surveillance and other purposes must comply with endorsed standards. For HIT to gain a foothold in the health care marketplace, it is essential for the federal government to utilize its purchasing power in healthcare to ensure the United States is rapidly adopting these innovative technologies.

The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act also provides important protections for patients and their sensitive medical information. The bill establishes an ongoing system for certification of Electronic Health Records products by third-party entities and guarantees that individuals will have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of their EHRs and amend any inaccurate or fraudulent information. It also clarifies that operators of health information electronic databases like Google Health, Revolution Health, and WebMD are deemed to be covered entities under HIPAA. The use of non-identifiable health data for public health and research purposes is permitted with appropriate patient approval.

The bill establishes a process for the development of reports by "Health Quality Organizations" on federal healthcare data to advance healthcare research, enhance consumer education and awareness, and provide the public with reports on national, regional, and provider- and supplier-specific performance.

Finally, to provide resources for the adoption of HIT nationwide the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act authorizes funding for grant programs to assist state and local governments adopt HIT and promote adoption within their states. It also establishes a grant program for regional health information exchanges and a competitive grant program for private sector healthcare providers, with a preference for providers that use the "Medical Home" patient care model, which allows patients to have a single point of care and a medical provider to coordinate care through the use of HIT. The legislation also provides incentives for utilizing broadband to deliver HIT in underserved areas and funding of academic curricula to train qualified Health IT professionals.

Madam Speaker, the power of HIT to transform American health care is clear, but without aggressive action by the Congress to promote and adopt HIT, we will not see the benefits of these innovative technologies for years to come. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act will ensure that the federal government foster the development and implementation of advanced Health IT networks and technologies in our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to inclement weather I missed the following votes

on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. I would have voted as follows:

(1) "Yea" on H. Res. 32—Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.

(2) "Yea" on H.R. 400—War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Religious Society of Friends upon the 100th anniversary of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends in Pasadena, California.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends was founded in 1907 by a group of twenty Eastern Quakers who had moved to Pasadena. Quakers have played leading roles in working for peace and an end to war, promoting racial and gender equality, and supporting environmental and other social justice causes. After World War I, the Meeting members supported the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which engaged in post war relief efforts in Western Europe and Russia, and also helped establish AFSC's Pacific Coast branch.

During World War II, the Meeting house served as a hostel for Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, and aid was sent to those already interned. The Meeting members provided hospitality and financial support to area conscientious objectors and their families, and after the end of the war, hosted families displaced by the war and its aftermath.

Meeting members have frequently led the way in civil rights and social justice movements. Meeting members took part in efforts to desegregate the Pasadena school system, participated in freedom rides in the South and attended the Selma, Alabama protests.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends founded educational institutions that provide a nurturing educational environment for children. Pacific Ackworth Friends School (1942) and Pacific Oaks School (1945) were established by Meeting parents. In 1961, Mara Moser, an Orange Grove Friends member, established Mothers' Club to support families of men in prison. Mothers' Club later evolved into a child development and family center serving low-income families.

Members of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends are active participants in the community. Meeting members routinely provide dinner for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena, participate in many prison visitation programs and allow the Meeting house to be used by local groups for activities such as a tutoring program for elementary school children.

It is my pleasure to honor the Orange Grove Friends Meeting of Pasadena on its 100th an-

niversary of dedicated service to the community. I ask all Members to join me in commending their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, today I offer my best wishes and congratulations to the people of Taiwan in recognition of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Taiwan witnessed a peaceful transition of political power to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law. I commend the people of Taiwan for building a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous island.

For over 50 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship, which has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage. I believe that the United States should remain committed to enhancing stability, security, and prosperity in Taiwan and across the Taiwan Strait.

In celebration of this Double Tenth National Day, it is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can maintain dialogue and work together to promote enduring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, because my airline flight was delayed I was not able to be present for two votes on October 9th. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 949—passage of H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 950—passage of H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007—I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING COBB COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I am able to recognize and honor a number of dedicated and selfless public servants from Cobb County, Georgia