

IN TRIBUTE TO LOURDES
CASTILLO-URIBE, PRINCIPAL OF
THE YEAR 2007

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a compassionate leader, an educator, and an advocate for children, Ms. Lourdes Castillo-Urbe. Ms. Castillo-Urbe has served as principal at Escuela Vieau School for 15 years. Vieau School serves Head Start through 8th grade children, 96 percent of whom are of Hispanic descent. Ms. Castillo-Urbe achieved a 95 percent attendance rate at Vieau School, even though 69 percent of the students are bussed. Vieau School is the only P-5 DPI program and bilingual school recognized as high achieving by the Milwaukee Public School district.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe prioritizes knowing the students, their families and their challenges such as lack of healthcare and food insecurity. For example, 95 percent of Vieau School students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Ms. Castillo-Urbe knows a positive early school experience strongly influences the future academic success of children in poverty. She sets high expectations for students and teachers and encourages creative thinking from teachers. She instituted the High Scope model for family involvement, providing daily opportunities for parental involvement in the academic and social lives of their children during school hours and after school in their Community Learning Center.

For her commitment to our children and for her many efforts and gifts, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators named Ms. Castillo-Urbe as Principal of the Year from the Milwaukee Public School system for 2007.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe's belief in ongoing professional development for teachers has led Vieau School to become a training and professional coaching school. Instructional Practice Inventory, IPI, is a new initiative focusing on both high expectations and best practices for teachers. All the classroom teachers at Vieau are guided and mentored by teachers who are trainers and coaches for IPI.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe has formed a number of private/public partnerships to provide programs for students. The partnerships include: the Helen Bader Foundation, Medical College of Wisconsin, Alverno College, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, United Migrant Opportunities Services, UMOs, Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, Mexican Fiesta, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and Wisconsin Hispanic Professional Association.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to M. Castillo-Urbe who has dedicated her life toward educating and improving the lives of the children in the Fourth Congressional District and is an outstanding recipient of the Principal of the Year award.

HONORING ALDEN WILSON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alden Wilson, who announced recently that he will be stepping down as Director of the Maine Arts Commission. Alden has been a fixture in Maine's cultural landscape for over three decades.

Under Alden's leadership, the Maine Arts Commission has become an example for similar commissions in other states to follow. One of the keys to the Commission's success has been Alden's ability to bring together artists, community members, and policy makers to focus on common goals.

The arts are a fundamental building block in our regional economies and are vital to our communities. Serving as director of the Maine Arts Commission for 33 years, Alden focused the group on the cultivation of Maine's creative economy. In large part because of Alden, Maine enjoys a vibrant arts landscape that spreads to every corner of the state.

Alden leaves an organization with a strong vision and a record of success. I have had the joy of working with Alden during my time in the Maine State Legislature, and now, while serving in Washington.

I wish Alden the very best in the future as he pursues new opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
CHARLES ELWOOD "CHUCK"
YEAGER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Charles Elwood "Chuck" Yeager and the 60th Anniversary of breaking the "Sound Barrier." Both the accomplishment and the man responsible for it serve as lessons in what we can achieve as a nation.

In 1947, when young Captain Yeager raced across the sky faster than the speed of sound, the United States was still new to its role as a world power. The sound barrier represented a principle of nature. By breaking it, Yeager showed the world America's endless potential for innovation.

Yeager's early life prepared him well to become a fighter pilot. Born in Boone County, West Virginia, he grew up hunting and working in his father's repair shop. These skills later served him well as a pilot. At the tender age of 18, Yeager enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

Yeager served as a pilot in England during World War II. On one mission, he was shot down over France. Showing remarkable resilience he evaded capture and returned to Britain to fly. Yeager was never shot down again. He finished the war as a Captain, totaling 12½ kills, including an impressive five in one day.

After the war, he became a test pilot in the Air Corps' Research and Development Program. On October 14, 1947 he was given a chance to break the sound barrier in an X-1 rocket powered jet.

Yeager's flight has grown into legend over the years due in large part to breaking his ribs just days before the flight. Hiding his injuries from his superiors, he needed a rigged broom handle just to close the plane's hatch. Despite the pain, Yeager flew into history, reaching March 1.6, a speed of 700 miles per hour.

It was 6 months before the public was informed of Yeager's achievement. He nonetheless became a hero and was labeled the "fastest man alive." It was a name he did his best to live up to, continuing to fly faster and higher than anyone. Over the course of his career Yeager rose through the ranks, commanding fighter bombing squadrons during the Korean and Vietnam wars and mentoring up and coming pilots at the Aerospace and Research Pilot School.

Chuck Yeager's life of service is a model for all Americans and by breaking the sound barrier he inspired the next generation of heroes to grand achievements of their own, including: the space program and the Moon landing.

Just as was the case in 1947, our Nation today continues to face unprecedented challenges, but we should find strength from this moment in history and from heroes like Chuck Yeager that our nation will continue to break new barriers and reach new heights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2007, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 983, 984, and 985. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 983, "yes" on rollcall 984, "yes" on rollcall 985. In addition, I want to express my strong support for H.R. 189, legislation introduced by Congressman BILL PASCRELL to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in Paterson, New Jersey. I regret having missed the opportunity to cast a vote in favor of the establishment of this park, which will provide all northern New Jersey residents as well as all Americans continued access to this historic landmark.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT RONALD
PHILLIP ALLEN, JR.

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LT Ronald Phillip Allen, Jr. of Tar Heel, North Carolina, for serving his community as a dedicated volunteer with the Tar Heel Fire Department. On the morning of September 22, 2006, Lieutenant Allen was tragically killed in an accident with an oncoming car while marking hydrant locations along North Carolina Highway 87.

The American scholar, William Arthur Ward, once said, "Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character." Lieutenant Allen led such a life.

As a Bible school teacher, Lieutenant Allen shared his faith and the goodness it instilled

within him with the members of his church community. As a firefighter, Lieutenant Allen showed humility through his willingness to sacrifice his safety and well-being for the protection of others. As a correctional officer, he served as a source of character inspiration and guidance for the inmates in his charge. And as the son of a former mayor of Tar Heel, Lieutenant Allen was born into a tradition of public service, a tradition that he would uphold and implement every day of his life.

The life of this remarkable hero was truly one dedicated to helping others and making his community a better place to live. Lieutenant Allen and 82 additional heroes who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty were honored by 5,000 people, including President George Bush and Members of Congress, during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on October 7, 2007.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of Lieutenant Allen. May God continue to bless his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLIE BALDWIN
HOWARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Sallie Baldwin Howard, a native and resident of Wilson, North Carolina. For many years, Mrs. Howard dedicated her life to educating and serving the people of Northeastern North Carolina. She was recently honored as the Wilson Human Relations Commission 2007 Paul Lee Stevens Humanitarian for outstanding service to her community.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Howard, who is affectionately known as "Bibi," dedicated much of her life as a teacher in the New York City Public School System during her early years, but for the past 15 years she has donated all of her time and energy to rallying youth in Wilson, challenging them to be exemplary citizens and great achievers.

Madam Speaker, high praise is due to Mrs. Howard for her success in overcoming the racial and gender prejudices of her time. Mrs. Bibi Howard was born in Wilson, North Carolina, to Narcissus and Marcellus Sims on March 23, 1916. She overcame countless challenges growing up in the Jim Crow South as the daughter of sharecroppers. Nevertheless, she was driven and focused and graduated as valedictorian from Charles H. Darden High School in 1938. Mrs. Howard attended Hunter College in New York City where she earned both her bachelor and masters degree in education.

She taught for nearly 30 years as a first grade teacher in New York. While there, she worked in the New York City American Negro Theater, which helped start the careers of Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and Esther Rolle. There she honed her acting, directing and writing talent, finding a voice through her art. Her Off Broadway play *The Passing of a Dinosaur* is still performed today in local schools.

Upon her retirement, Mrs. Howard returned to Wilson to lead the Christian Education Department of the St. John AME Zion Church. Her enthusiasm for education and the church inspired many of the youth of the community. Along with many other projects, Mrs. Howard founded the Youth Enrichment Program with Dr. JoAnne Woodard in 1989, and focused the program on lasting scholarship, a commitment to the cultural heritage of African Americans, and promoting the arts. Bibi Howard's tireless work to enrich the community inspired Dr. JoAnne Howard to create the one of the first public charter schools in the state, and the only public charter school in Wilson, the Sallie B. Howard School for the Arts & Education. The school, along with the Youth Enrichment Program, has been an invaluable asset to our community.

Madam Speaker, in honor and recognition of Mrs. Sallie Baldwin Howard's diligent service as an educator and leader, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great woman.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF
HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH
SCHOOL EAST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students of Half Hollow Hills High School East for their thoughtful letters on the war in Iraq. I appreciated hearing their views and reading their individual letters which contained their ideas and perspectives on our involvement in Iraq.

I want to applaud their interest in this critical topic and appreciate that they took the time to share their opinions with me.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN REED, LOIS
SUZUKI AND STEVE SMITH

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2005, emergency flight nurses Erin Reed, Lois Suzuki and pilot Steve Smith gave their lives when their helicopter lost control in inclement weather conditions after delivering a patient to a nearby hospital. This accident, like many of the increasing number of emergency medical service (EMS) fatal crashes, occurred under so-called "Part 91" regulations, which allow an EMS crew to fly in conditions which are more dangerous than what is permitted when a patient or an organ is on board.

Since her death, Erin's family has joined a coalition of friends and family members who have lost loved ones in a medical flight. Their efforts are devoted to making air medical transports safer for the flight crew and patients who take to the skies for emergency medical care. With the support of this coalition, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation today that will increase safety for all those on board an aircraft providing emergency medical services. This bill will eliminate the Part 91

regulations for certain flights and direct the Federal Aviation Administration to study and implement several other proposals to increase safety conditions for medical flights.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the many families who have responded to their losses with determination to help others. I would particularly like to thank Stacey Friedman, Erin's sister, for her tireless efforts in advocating for changes that would protect caregivers like her sister. By enacting this legislation, we will not only honor the remarkable sacrifices of those who gave their lives while trying to save others, but in their honor we will also prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

RECENTLY INTRODUCED HEALTH
CARE LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss three bills I recently introduced that are designed to reduce the number of Americans who do not have access to health insurance. These three bills are designated H.R. 3515, the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2007; H.R. 3516, the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act of 2007; and H.R. 3517, the Long-Term Care Tax Reduction Act of 2007.

In 2006, approximately 47 million Americans, or 15.8 percent of the population, did not have health insurance coverage for the entire year. When people lack health insurance, they often find themselves lacking real access to health care, thus unnecessarily incur illnesses, emotional and physical pain, and costs. This is particularly the case with preventable or chronic conditions. In addition, when patients cannot pay for health services, the facilities that provide those services suffer financial losses, which have been estimated to be as high as \$41 billion annually. As a result, some health care providers reduce or stop offering services while others may raise rates, thus reducing everyone's access to health care.

The average annual premium for self-only coverage in 2007 is \$4,479 with the average premium for a family of four at \$12,106. These premiums were 7.7 percent over the cost of the previous year's premiums and grew at a rate in excess of both wage gains and the growth in prices for goods and services. Nearly 60 percent of Americans receive health insurance through their employment, primarily because of the advantages available to employers and employees under our Nation's tax code.

To reduce the number of uninsured Americans, we need to help open doors for those who do not receive health insurance through their workplace and do not qualify for public programs. H.R. 3515, the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2007, and H.R. 3516, the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act are both designed to provide this assistance. Specifically, H.R. 3515 would allow eligible individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance and H.R. 3516 would permit individuals to take an above-the-line tax deduction, whether or not they itemize, for all health insurance premiums paid during a tax year.