

Act, H.R. 4836. As some of my colleagues who have worked on issues relating to diabetes may be aware, the Federal Government spends over \$80 billion per year treating diabetes and its complications.

Since 1980, the number of Americans suffering from diabetes has doubled to more than 20 million, and that number is projected to double again by 2025.

The serious complications stemming from diabetes—including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, blindness, amputation and renal disease—are well documented and even more importantly, they are largely preventable with proper management and treatment.

To that end, H.R. 4836 would establish a National Diabetes Coordinator to coordinate research and prevention activities throughout the federal government, including agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

We need this kind of comprehensive approach to get our hands around what is rapidly becoming an all-encompassing epidemic. A recent study found that one out of every eight Federal health care dollars is spent treating people with diabetes. The total amount of money spent on diabetes is nearly equal to the entire budget for the U.S. Department of Education, roughly \$80 billion.

While we expend vast resources on this effort, of that \$80 billion, less than 1 percent is spent on direct diabetes prevention. When you also consider that 18 of 21 Federal agencies spend money on diabetes, there is a clear need for a National Coordinator to establish a strategy to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications.

We have seen evidence that this approach can work. A recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, study demonstrated that Medicare and Medicaid could save \$2.5 billion a year by presenting diabetes and its complications with appropriate primary care. The city of Asheville, North Carolina saved \$2,000 per employee with an innovative diabetes management program. The NIH-sponsored Diabetes Prevention Project proved that we can prevent and delay diabetes and its complications by 58 percent.

A National Diabetes Coordinator will provide the Federal leadership necessary to maximize the funds the Federal Government is currently spending to save money and lives. Further, a National Diabetes Coordinator with specific responsibilities to work across agencies to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications will be a model for how the U.S. can deal with other chronic diseases such as heart disease.

As we consider how to move forward in the fight against diabetes, I encourage my colleagues to think of these statistics: one in three kids born today will get diabetes, and that figure rises to one in two in minorities. Further, 32 percent of the Medicare program is spent on the 18 percent of beneficiaries with diabetes. We need Federal leadership provided in H.R. 4836 to help reverse these trends and make a difference for future generations.

## MOURNING THE DEATH OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA MAY CARSON

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA MAY CARSON, a committed and valued voice for justice, who passed away on December 15, 2007. Congresswoman CARSON was born on July 8, 1938 in Louisville, Kentucky. She grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana where she would lead a remarkable life committed to justice for all. Congresswoman CARSON was loved by many for her effervescent personality and fighting spirit. She served her constituents of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana for 6 terms in the United States House of Representatives. She was the first African-American and woman elected to serve Indianapolis in Congress.

In her youth, Ms. CARSON overcame obstacles created by race, gender and poverty as the child of a single teenage mother. She attended and graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1955, a deeply segregated school in Indianapolis. However, her battles with injustice motivated her to pursue degrees in higher education at Martin University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her career in public service began in 1965, when she was hired as a staff assistant and aide to Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr., her mentor and predecessor in the 7th District of Indiana. She worked diligently on casework and other important legislative matters until 1972, when she ran and won a seat in the Indiana State House of Representatives. She served in the Indiana State House from 1972–1976 and in the Indiana State Senate from 1976–1990. In 1990, she was elected as a trustee for Center Township in downtown Indianapolis. As trustee, she was a just leader and a voice for reform. Her thoroughness and fiscal responsibility helped her manage the welfare rolls by providing assistance to those that needed it and removing those that did not. As a result, she transformed the office's \$20 million debt into a \$6 million surplus. She served as trustee for 6 years prior to her election to Congress.

In 1996, after a competitive campaign, Congresswoman CARSON replaced her mentor and predecessor Andrew Jacobs, Jr., as the representative for Indiana's 7th District. On January 3, 1997, she missed her congressional inauguration due to health problems. Her congressional tenure was replete with obstacles from failing health to closely competitive campaigns, but her tenacity and love for her district would not let anything impede her sincere dedication to her constituents. She never stopped caring for her district and she never lost a race. One of her most notable achievements in the House was passing a measure awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Another milestone accomplishment was a bill she cosponsored with Senator RICHARD LUGAR to remove blocks on child health insurance created by government agencies. She always sponsored legislation that helped the poor and homeless, veterans, and faithful American taxpayers. She served on

the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Her 10 years in the House were a testament of perseverance, devotion and inexhaustible compassion.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commend the life and mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA CARSON.

## A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEARY E. BONNETT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett. Reverend Bonnett, a native of Guyana, completed the General Certificate of Education and high school examinations through the University of London before migrating to the United States.

Reverend Bonnett earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Queens College of the City University of New York. He went on to pursue a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri as well as a Master of Divinity Degree from New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Bonnett is currently completing work towards a Doctor of Ministry Degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, specializing in spirituality and leadership for the 21st century.

Reverend Bonnett enlisted in the U.S. Army after college in order to fulfill a deferred draft commitment granted to full-time students during the Vietnam War. He attended Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. After 13 years of distinguished military service, he separated from active duty with rank of Major. His military decorations include the U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal; the U.S. Army Achievement Medal; and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

Reverend Bonnett is the former Executive Director of a parochial day school in the Rockaway section of Queens. While there he streamlined the curriculum to meet New York State standards. In addition, Reverend Bonnett served with the Salvation Army providing therapeutic crisis intervention to at-risk youths. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, he joined a team of family support specialists with the American Red Cross to providing benefits and support to family members who lost loved ones or were injured in the terrorist attack.

Reverend Bonnett is currently the Director of Christian Education at the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Silence The Guns, an educational organization dedicated to eliminating handgun usage among America's children. He is also the author of two books; *Failure is Not the Problem*; and *Joy Cometh in the Morning*.

Reverend Bonnett resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Dr. Terry Jan Blackett-Bonnet. He has three children, Kimbia, Amilcar and Haron.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Bonnett's selfless contributions and his works as a mentor to the children of Brooklyn.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett.

RECOGNIZING KERN RIVER OIL  
FIELD'S TWO BILLIONTH BAR-  
REL OF OIL PRODUCED

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone achieved in oil production in my district as the Kern River Oil Field recently produced its two billionth barrel of oil.

Over 100 years ago in 1899, "black gold" was discovered at Kern River when a father-son team hand-dug a 45 foot deep discovery well. This oil discovery set off a boom in Kern County leading to population growth and the discovery of more and more oil fields in the region. In 1903, Kern River, in addition to other oil fields discovered at the turn of the region, made California the top oil-producing state in the Union. In fact, in 1904, Kern River produced more than 17.2 million barrels of oil, which, at that time, was more oil produced than in the entire State of Texas.

In the early 1900's, oil production peaked at nearly 50,000 barrels per day, and then decreased to an average of about 10,000 barrels per day. However, due to human ingenuity, hard work, the advent of the steam injection (or "steamflooding") oil production process in the early 1960's, and cogeneration in the 1980's, today, Kern River produces approximately 82,000 barrels of oil per day.

With its production of the two billionth barrel of oil, Kern River joins only two other fields in a select, elite class of oil fields in California that have produced over two billion barrels of oil. Just to put this into perspective, two billion barrels of oil, once refined, on average, yields more than 43 billion gallons of gasoline. Subsequently, the Kern River Oil Field is the fourth largest field in the lower United States, the third largest field in California, and the second largest field in Kern County.

Today, Chevron North America Exploration and Production owns and produces nearly all of the oil at Kern River. A vital economic backbone of Kern County, Chevron at Kern River employs more than 345 individuals and has upwards of 800 contractors working at the field, and creates countless secondary and tertiary oil and non-oil related jobs in the community. In addition, Chevron at Kern River contributes more than \$24 million in property taxes to the County of Kern on an annual basis, and is a community leader in supporting various education and charitable causes.

Kern River is a heavy crude oil field, meaning the oil is a thick, viscous liquid that needs to be heated and pumped out of the ground. Generally, primary heavy oil recovery extracts between 5–10 percent of the oil from the ground, while hot waterflood recovery processes increase that recovery rate to between 15–25 percent. Yet, the steamflood recovery process can increase recovery rates to 50–80 percent. With the steamflood technological recovery advances of Chevron at Kern River, Chevron has been able to maximize production of the vast oil reserves of this field and has extended the life of this field for decades.

As a leader in heavy oil production, Chevron has established an International Heavy Oil Center at Kern River in order to collaboratively develop and deploy heavy oil production technologies worldwide, as well as to become a hub for heavy oil development. These technological advances developed at Kern River, as well as at other fields, will increase the ability of the industry to maximize the Earth's oil reserves' potential and help satisfy our energy demands.

What started out in 1899 as one hand-dug well, Kern River has developed into one of the largest oil fields in the United States with more than 9,000 producing oil wells. Again, I rise today to recognize the importance of Kern River producing its two billionth barrel of oil and to join with Chevron in celebrating this milestone. I look forward to continued production at this field for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO FULTON-MIDDLETON  
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the Fulton-Middleton High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Eight State Championship Game. It was the team's first finals appearance since winning the 1998 State championship.

The Fulton-Middleton Pirates lost a hard-fought final game to Crystal Falls Forrest Park High School. In the defensive battle, they pulled within one score of the Crystal Falls Trojans late in the fourth quarter, but were unable to get back the ball to attempt a game-tying drive. It was the Pirates only loss of the season. On the road to the final game, the Pirates defeated Fowler, New Lothrop, Our Lady of the Lakes, and Climax-Scotts in the playoffs.

The Pirates accomplishments pay testament to the years of hard work and dedication of these student athletes. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Fulton-Middleton High School football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FORT DODGE, IOWA  
CITY COUNCILWOMAN JANE  
BURLESON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Dodge, Iowa City councilwoman, Jane Burleson, for her 24 years of distinguished public service to the people of Fort Dodge.

In 1982, the citizens of Fort Dodge elected Jane as the first woman and first African American to serve on the council. Jane overcame many barriers to serve and contributed

a fresh and different perspective. Her dedication and commitment to improving the city is a true measurement of her leadership and care for her community. Jane's guiding presence on the council will certainly be missed, but the legacy she leaves will inspire many to dream big reach high and achieve great accomplishments.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Jane Burleson for her leadership and service to Fort Dodge, Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Jane in Congress and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING LT. THOMAS CHRISTENSEN  
AND FIREFIGHTER JEREMY  
BROWN OF THE WAUKEGAN FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Thomas Christensen and Firefighter Jeremy Brown of the Waukegan Fire Department.

As Hazardous Device Technicians, Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown were the driving force behind the City of Waukegan's effort to secure a grant from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force for an Andros F6A Robot and transport vehicle to better respond to hazardous device incidents.

Currently there are only 12 bomb squads in Illinois. The Waukegan squad services Lake and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. Last year, the squad responded to more than 40 bomb calls. The most notable was a bank robbery where the suspect claimed to have an explosive device which he left on the teller counter after fleeing the crime scene.

With the F6A Robot and transport vehicle, the Waukegan Fire Department is better equipped to respond to bomb related calls. This equipment would not be possible without the diligence of Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown. The two men conceived the idea, developed the justifications and specifications and oversaw the construction.

Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown represent an outstanding division that was first formed in 1971. The team consists of several certified bomb squad members who put their lives on the line on a daily basis for northeastern Illinois.

I am proud of the achievements of these fine first responders.

TRIBUTE TO BERNIE FECHTEL

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the work of