

Further, this budget cuts or under-funds all of the programs—from aging programs, social service grants, and nursing programs, to SAMHSA, newborn screening programs, maternal and child health programs, state and local capacity building and training for doctors, nurses and other health providers—that are not only integral, but essential to the elimination of health disparities. Further, the cuts in that budget to Veterans programs will also impact their services and undermine their health.

And, as though to add insult to injury, even though NIH gets a slight increase in this budget, the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH instead gets a cut!

Madam Speaker, the nation's leading economists often talk about "good" debt as investment debt that creates or improves value and "bad" debt, which creates no value. It's time that we champion a budget that creates good debt!

By making an increased investment in the health and health care of all Americans who have unmet health and health care needs, we would be making an investment that will, in fact, create value by bolstering the health and well being of not only individuals and communities, but of the workforce, our defense and ultimately our nation and our nation's security.

Unfortunately, this budget does little more than continue to create the "bad" debt that has accumulated during the last 6 years and from which most Americans have not benefited at all. In fact, despite the very high levels of spending in those years, most find themselves worse off economically, educationally and with respect to their health.

Now that the prior bad debt has been created and used for tax cuts and squandered on a war that yet leaves our soldiers under-protected and under-equipped, the poor and people of color who have been further marginalized are told they will have to continue to suffer because there is no money and now at our expense, the budget must be balanced.

This is patently unfair and unjust. This budget does not put access to healthcare within the reach of the millions of hard working, low income Americans and their families. All it does is continue to ensure the huge tax breaks for million and billionaires. The president's budget continues the misguided health priorities of the Republican Party, wealthy corporations and their conservative base.

We have a great challenge before us in this budget with the unprecedented deficit and the huge debt this administration has put us in to countries like China.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, far too many of the people we represent have waited patiently for far too long and in that time hundreds of thousand have died because of the unhealthy communities they live in and because they could not get the healthcare they needed.

Despite the fire fiscal circumstances left for us to deal with, and for us to correct, we cannot delay healthcare justice for them, for justice further delayed is justice further denied.

We must reject the president's budget and replace it with a new one that responds to the needs of the people who are depending on us and is in keeping with the ideals this nation was founded on.

The time to do more is now; this is our moment to answer the call of millions of Americans who have the desire for a healthier today

and a healthier tomorrow for themselves and their families. This is the time to redefine our Country through realigning its priorities.

This budget is our opportunity to set a new direction for our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "SECRET SANTA," MR. LARRY STEWART

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Larry Stewart, more affectionately known as "Secret Santa." He passed away January 12 of this year of complications from cancer of the esophagus. For 27 years during the Christmas season, he anonymously gave away more than 1.3 million dollars in cash to those that needed it most. Although he was a resident of Lee's Summit, Missouri in my Fifth Congressional district and was known as "Secret Santa" in the Kansas City area, he distributed his "gifts" from east coast to west coast and many areas of the country in between.

He went to New York during the holiday season of 2001. He distributed \$25,000 in \$100 bills to the people of New York City who were still feeling the devastation of September 11. In 2002, he distributed cash "gifts" in the Virginia area which was reeling from sniper attacks. In 2003, he visited the San Diego area which was being damaged by fires. And in 2004, he went to Florida where Larry gave nearly \$30,000 to those who had suffered damage from the hurricane. As can be seen, this man's generosity touched many of my colleagues' Congressional Districts. He also traveled to the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Mississippi, the state of his birth.

Following the gifts in New York City, he appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show where he wore a Santa Claus costume to protect his identity. Only his family, and a handful of local law enforcement and fire officials knew his real identity, hence the name "Secret Santa." Even though I was the Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri for 8 years during his gift giving escapades, I did not know who he was, and there was quite a bit of talk of who really was Secret Santa. As I said before, his "gifts" were of cash to the less fortunate. They were gifts from his heart and were never taken as a tax deduction. Much of the money he gave away was to people he saw on the street, at pool halls, pawn shops, and Laundromats—he went where the people were.

This last holiday season, Larry came forward to reveal his real identity. For 26 years he was known only as "Secret Santa," but he received word that the tabloids were about to announce who he really was. His final holiday season, he was able to give away \$100,000 in memory of his late friend, the legendary "Buck" O'Neil, who had passed away in October 2006. This amount was increased by an additional \$75,000 from "elves" who had come forward to carry on his program.

Larry was a member of the Crime Commission Board, the Foundation Board for the St. Luke's Hospital, the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E., and the Eastern Jackson County Youth Court.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to his adult children, sons Joe, John, and Mark Stewart, as well as daughter Kimberly Stewart, and his many relatives and friends. He was a shining example of humanity and kindness. He gave of himself and asked nothing in return. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family for sharing this great man with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. He was an inspiration to us all.

HONORING ROSS AND JUDY PARADIS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a husband and wife who have been tireless advocates for many of the disadvantaged in rural northern Maine. Ross and Judy Paradis are from Frenchville, a small town along the St. Lawrence River overlooking our neighbor to the north, Canada.

Through a range of professional positions, Ross and Judy Paradis have worked day and night to help make the lives of the residents of the St. John Valley better and more prosperous.

They were both teachers, then state representatives in the Maine Legislature. Judy was also a state senator. Even today, with no direct ties to public office, the Paradis have championed the causes of their neighbors. They continue to work as advocates on education, housing, health and human services, and many other issues that affect the day-to-day lives of those around them. They champion Maine's children, Maine's rural communities and Maine's way of life. They have also helped to preserve the stories and culture of Maine's Acadian heritage.

Ross and Judy have always stepped up when faced with a challenge. As a result, they have gained the respect of their colleagues from all over the state and beyond. Their concern has always been the needs of their constituents in the Saint John Valley and the people of Maine.

The citizens of the State of Maine are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful advocates and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BRITT "MAX" MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER'S TROPICAL PREDICTION CENTER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 72, which honors Dr. Britt "Max" Mayfield upon his retirement from his position as the Director of the National Hurricane Center. This resolution recognizes his leadership at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Tropical Prediction Center.

Although we continue to mourn the loss of the thousands of victims who perished in Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, because of Max Mayfield's cool head and steady hand the lives of the countless thousands were saved since they were able to heed Dr. Mayfield's warnings and evacuate the area. His accurate forecasts and persistent warnings have hundreds of thousands of lives over the last three decades and it is fitting that we honor him today.

Dr. Mayfield began working at the National Hurricane Center 34 years ago as an intern. Through hard work and demonstrated performance, Max Mayfield was promoted through the ranks of the National Hurricane Center: forecaster, senior forecaster, deputy director, and finally, director.

His extensive work in the field of meteorology has earned him numerous awards. In 1996, the American Meteorological Society honored him for his outstanding performance as coordinator of the National Hurricane Center's hurricane preparedness training. In 2000, he received an Outstanding Achievement Award for his work in the development and expansion of educational opportunities for state and local emergency management officials. Dr. Mayfield has also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce with Gold and Silver Medals for his work during some of this nation's most destructive hurricanes.

Dr. Mayfield retired one month ago, and we will surely miss his outstanding service and leadership at the National Hurricane Center. I thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Mahoney, for introducing this legislation to honor Dr. Max Mayfield for his dedication to meteorology and his 34 year career of distinguished service to NOAA and our nation. For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 72 and urge all members to do likewise.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN RIVERA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Jonathan Rivera of Bronx, NY. I wish to recognize Mr. Rivera for being named a semi-finalist in The New York Times College Scholarship Program. Currently a senior at Monsignor Scanlan High School, Jonathan has demonstrated both a commitment to academic excellence and to serving the community through his involvement in the Campus Ministry, making him a deserving recipient of this honor.

The New York Times awards four-year scholarships and mentoring opportunities to only 20 students each year attending New York City public schools. Recipients are selected for attaining high levels of scholastic achievement in the face of adversity.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Mr. Rivera best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS TIGUE AS HE RETIRES FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pennsylvania State Rep. Thomas M. Tigue, who retired this year after serving 26 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Mr. Tigue represented the 118th Legislative District which includes Pittston City, Bear Creek, Buck and Jenkins Townships and Avoca, Bear Creek Village, Dupont, Duryea, Hughestown and Laflin Boroughs in Luzerne County and Chestnuthill, Eldred, Polk, Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Townships in Monroe County.

Mr. Tigue was a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1971. He served in the Vietnam War and earned the Silver Star. He was later elected to the Pittston Area School Board before being elected to the state House in 1980.

During his tenure as an elected state lawmaker, Mr. Tigue's accomplishments included sponsoring the PACE preservation law, securing funds to replace the dam at Brady's Lake, working to bring about property tax reform and addressing numerous education issues. Mr. Tigue was meticulous about being responsive to matters of concern and interest to his constituents.

He frequently advised his younger colleagues in the House to listen to voters. He would admonish them to be flexible, put aside partisan politics and be willing to compromise to get things done. Mr. Tigue believed that voters expect their elected officials to make tough decisions.

Mr. Tigue was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania, to Michael and the late Joan Walsh Tigue. He graduated from St. John's High School, Pittston and earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from King's College in Wilkes-Barre. He was a Legislative Fellow at East Stroudsburg University.

While serving in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Mr. Tigue served as the Democratic chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

Mr. Tigue was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Marine Corps League, Knights of Columbus, Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

He is married to the former Dianne Walsh and the couple has four children: Thomas, Tracy Ashby, Kristin Lazevnick and Colleen. They also have seven grandchildren.

On a personal note, let me add that it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Tom on countless occasions through the years. I could always count on him to be thoroughly informed and willing to do the hard work necessary to solve what sometimes appeared to be intractable problems. Always a straight shooter, Tom never hesitated to tell the hard truth, not always what our constituents wanted to hear. His candor is all too un-

common, and his retirement is a great loss to the Legislature and to Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Tigue on a very successful career in public service. His commitment to community service contributed greatly to improving the quality of life throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHIEF JUDGE STEPHEN C. COOPER ON THIS RETIREMENT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Chief Judge Stephen C. Cooper, who is retiring from the bench of the 46th District Court. Judge Cooper brings closure to a distinguished 33-year career in public service. In addition to his service to the 46th District Court, Judge Cooper also served as City Council President Pro-Tem for the Southfield City Council.

Chief Judge Cooper was elected to the 46th District Court in 1986 and re-elected in 1992, 1998 and 2004. His re-election was unanimously endorsed by both the Democratic and Republican Parties, both defense and plaintiffs lawyers, business and labor and every prominent elected official and community leader in his District. The Bar Association rated his performance "outstanding."

Judge Cooper was elected and served as president of the Michigan District Judges Association and currently in his second term as Michigan Governor of the American Judges Association (AJA). Judge Cooper was recognized by Optimist International as "triple distinguished president" of the Southfield-Lathrup Optimist Club.

Judge Cooper has received numerous awards including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award which is given to a local citizen whose life exemplifies the ideals espoused by Dr. King. He was selected as the Honoree-of-the-year of the Women's Bar Association, the Governor's Award for Volunteer Service, and the Southfield Schools' Alumnus of the Year Award.

Judge Stephen Cooper was elected President of the Michigan District Judges Association, the Southfield Bar Association and the B'Nai Brith Association and was Vice President of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce. He also served on numerous boards including the Salvation Army, League of Women Voters, Anti-Defamation League, Southfield-Lathrup PTA Council, MLK Taskforce and the Easter Seals Society.

Upon retirement, Judge Cooper will direct his professional talents to the field of mediation and teaching. He will also have more time for his hobbies, including kayaking, ceramics, welding, roller-blading and, above all, enjoying life with Caroline, his wife of more than 36 years and being a grandparent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this fine individual and thanking him for his dedication to our community. I extend my heartiest congratulations and warmest wishes as he starts this new chapter in his life.