

In 1973, when Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned, President Richard Nixon nominated then Congressman Ford to assume the vice presidency. President Ford's nomination was quickly approved by both the House and the Senate. However, his time as Vice President was brief and the attention of the country was focused on the looming Watergate scandal. On August 9, 1974, President Nixon stepped down and President Ford assumed the position of Commander-in-Chief.

As our nation's president, Ford was faced with the critical task of regaining the trust of a country that had lost confidence in its top leadership. In order to begin to restore transparency and integrity to the office of the President, he traveled around the country listening and talking to the people of this country. President Ford felt the way in which he could help the country to begin to move beyond the wounds of Watergate was to grant a full and unconditional pardon to President Nixon. President Gerald Ford put the needs of our nation before his own vulnerability to political fallout, and that is the mark of a great leader.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to Mrs. Betty Ford, her children and all of the family and friends of President Ford. President Gerald Ford was a loving husband and father and a devoted public servant. He will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of President Gerald Ford.

HONORING THE CITY OF AKRON
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
DAY OF SERVICE

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Akron and the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture which will be held at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Eta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc.

Ozell Sutton will deliver the annual lecture. Civil rights and human rights are Sutton's passions. He served as an escort for the Little Rock Nine when they entered Central High School in Arizona in 1957. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington in 1963 and in Selma, Alabama, in 1965. He was in Memphis when King was killed in 1968. Mr. Sutton has been cited four times by Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential African-American Leaders."

All Americans know of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s stature as a national hero and we all look up to Dr. King's ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity. From his celebrated "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to his organization of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King demonstrated that eloquent words followed with significant action could affect social change without resorting to violence. His "I Have a Dream" speech movingly spelled out his dream of racial equality and propelled the issue to the forefront of national consciousness.

The City of Akron, which has a very rich history, is the seat of Summit County in the State of Ohio. The city is located between Cleveland to the north and Canton to the south. It was founded in 1825 near the Ohio & Erie Canal and became a manufacturing center owing to its location at a staircase of locks. The locks were needed due to the higher elevation of the area, which gave rise to the name Summit County as well as Akron, which is a rough translation of "summit" into Greek.

The city is home to the University of Akron, the Akron Aeros "AA" affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, and the Firestone Country Club, at which the PGA Tour's Bridgestone Invitational is annually played. Akron is often referred to as "The Rubber City," being the home of both Goodyear and Firestone. The city is also home to the All-American Soap Box Derby which has been held at Akron's Derby Downs race track since 1935.

In closing, I once again pay tribute to the City of Akron and the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR
ANDREW YOUNG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ambassador Andrew Young, a man who has given his life to the Civil Rights movement and other important social causes. Truly, he is a man who consistently puts the interests of others above himself.

Ambassador Young, who was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1932 to a dentist father and schoolteacher mother, grew up in the segregated South. After beginning his college education at Dillard University in New Orleans, he transferred to Howard University in Washington, DC.

In 1951 Ambassador Young graduated from Howard with a degree in pre-medicine. Instead of medical school, however, he heeded a call to the ministry and began his studies in theology at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

Graduating in 1955, Ambassador Young became the pastor at several small churches in the South, including one in Thomasville, Ga., in my own district. He also served as pastor at a church in Marion, Alabama. As part of his work there, while encouraging young people to vote, he first came in contact with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The relationship would last for the rest of Ambassador Young's life, carrying over into civil rights activities all over the South, including the Albany Movement in 1961-62. At that time, the small town of 56,000 people had gained a reputation as not just resistant to social activists, but impenetrable to change. White leadership in the town refused to have conversations with local leaders seeking to implement the decision of *Boynton v. Virginia*, which mandated the integration of bus and rail terminals.

Albany, as it turned out, was also one of the first places Ambassador Young made a difference. In late 1961, Dr. King, Reverend Ralph Abernathy and some 2,000 other demonstrators had already been jailed for their in-

tegration efforts. Nevertheless, Ambassador Young saw fit to go to Albany to help recruit and train people for citizen education workshops, with the aim of keeping the fire burning in Albany. The environment was dangerous, tenuous, and hostile, but Ambassador Young found a way to inspire and contribute.

Forty-five years later, we not only honor him, but also reflect on how the courage exhibited by him then led to the great accomplishments he is known for today: Georgia's first African American Congressman since Reconstruction, U.N. Ambassador, Mayor of Atlanta, among others. Ambassador Young has led a full and meaningful life, exhibiting a sense of public service and commitment to community the whole time.

Today, we thank and honor Ambassador Young for his contributions and the example he set for others.

IN SUPPORT OF MEANINGFUL, AFFORDABLE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of prescription drug coverage for our nation's seniors. While I believe that the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 was flawed in many ways, I am glad that we have recognized the need for prescription drug coverage for Medicare recipients. Too many families have been unable to afford life sustaining medications, and it is encouraging that the Congress has seen fit to begin to address this grave problem.

While there have been many legitimate concerns about the implementation of the MMA, I am encouraged that in this Congress, we will have the opportunity to improve on that original legislation. It is extremely important that seniors receive affordable prescription coverage. In addition to problems of affordability, we have heard many seniors report that the enrollment process is needlessly difficult to navigate. Along with the problems negotiating the paperwork, many seniors are faced with penalties for failing to meet specified deadlines. We must work to ensure that this process is as "user friendly" as possible, and that all eligible seniors are receiving the coverage they need.

Madam Speaker, I call for the enrollment process to be streamlined so that it is easier for beneficiaries to enroll without the confusion seniors experienced in 2006. The Bush Administration should do a better job informing seniors in clear terms about which plans are available to which enrollees.

I urge my colleagues to eliminate the current penalty for not signing up for a Part D plan the first time a person is eligible. Due to the confusion during the 2006 sign up process, some seniors were not able to enroll in a Part D plan and now will face this penalty.

Pharmaceutical companies such as GlaxoSmithKline dedicate extensive resources to discovering lifesaving cures for devastating illnesses. I look forward to work with them, patient advocacy organizations, healthcare professionals and my fellow Members of Congress to ensure that every senior has access

to the medications they need to stay healthy. It is my hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will work with me to make changes to Part D that improve and strengthen it for our seniors and help forge a prescription drug benefit that is meaningful, affordable and straightforward. The new leadership in Congress cares a great deal about our seniors, and it is time that we fulfill our promise to ensure that Part D serves seniors in the best way possible.

IRAQ ESCALATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, President Bush—after using false information to sell a war to the American people and Congress, after invading Iraq without a plan to win the peace, after time and time again maintaining a failed “stay the course” policy—is now trying to sell an escalation of the war in Iraq as “a new way forward.” I am not buying it.

As the sister of a Vietnam veteran, I still remember vividly our escalation of that failed war and the thousands of additional lives that it cost. I remember vividly the worry I had for my brother and the feeling that our troops would be better served if they were returned home rather than fighting in another country's civil war. Those are the same feelings I have today about our troops who are serving bravely in today's failed war, the Iraq War.

I have long stated my desire for the President to begin a withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. I am a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and I have strongly supported my colleague JOHN MURTHA's plan to redeploy our troops from Iraq. The American people made it crystal clear at the ballot box in November that staying the course in Iraq is not an option. Yet, President Bush has once again turned his back on calls to end the war, he has turned his back on the will of the electorate, and he is going in the opposite direction with a plan for escalation.

I applaud the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate and its plan for a phased redeployment of American troops beginning in months and for more intense diplomatic outreach. This plan is more sensible and would prove ultimately more successful than digging ourselves deeper in the quicksand that Iraq has become.

Furthermore, I will support any proposal that comes before Congress that would block funding for the implementation of escalation. I will support the effort by Senator KENNEDY and my colleague ED MARKEY to require the authorization of Congress before the President escalates this war.

As the daughter of a soldier and the sister of a soldier, I will always support our troops. It has become clear to just about everyone but the President that the best way now to support the troops is not to send more into the Iraqi Civil War—the best way to support them is to bring them home.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they host the New York Metropolitan Area Founders Day Celebration on January 13, 2007. The Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter has been outstanding in its service of the Brooklyn community for over 50 years and I am privileged to have such a dedicated group of individuals in my district.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913 by 22 collegiate women at Howard University. These students wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to persons in need. The first public act performed by the Delta Founders was in 1913 at the Women's Suffrage March in Washington D.C.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose goal is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college educated women, the Sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea. The major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Thrust of: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement.

The theme of this special event is “Keeping our History: Past, Present and Future.” This is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the life and achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this coming week.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize the impressive achievements of Bernadette Walker, President of the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter as well as the co-chairs of Founders Day, Valerie White and Natalia S. Young, for their commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful group of Americans and the great things they stand for.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CURES CAN BE FOUND ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cures Can Be Found Act. This legislation promotes medical research by providing a tax credit for investments and donations to promote adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, and provides a \$2,000 tax credit to new parents for the donation of umbilical cord blood that can be used to extract stem cells.

Madam Speaker, stem cell research has the potential to revolutionize medicine. Stem cells could hold the keys to curing many diseases afflicting millions of Americans, such as diabetes and Alzheimer's. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have already been used to treat 67 diseases, including sickle cell disease, leukemia, and osteoporosis. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have also proven useful in treating spinal cord injuries and certain neurological disorders. Adult stem cells have shown promise in treating a wide variety of diseases ranging from brain, breast, testicular, and other types of cancers to multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, heart damage, and rheumatoid arthritis. Just this week, the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times ran major stories on the progress made in obtaining stem cells from amniotic fluid, which is easily obtainable from a pregnant woman during routine pre-natal tests.

By providing tax incentives for adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, the Cures Can Be Found Act will ensure greater resources are devoted to this valuable research. The tax credit for donations of umbilical cord blood will ensure that medical science has a continuous supply of stem cells. Thus, this bill will help scientists discover new cures using stem cells and, hopefully, make routine the use of stem cells to treat formally incurable diseases.

By encouraging private medical research, the Cures Can Be Found Act enhances a tradition of private medical research that is responsible for many medical breakthroughs. For example, Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine, did not receive one dollar from the federal government for his efforts. I urge my colleagues to help the American people support the efforts of future Jonas Salks by cosponsoring the Cures Can Be Found Act.

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pleasure that the House has passed H.R. 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007. Nearly nine out of ten Americans believe that it is time to increase the minimum wage, and I could not agree more.

An increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. The minimum wage has not been increased in almost 10 years. This is the longest Americans have had to wait for an increase in the minimum wage since the original law was enacted in 1938.

While Americans have been waiting for an increase in the minimum wage, the cost of most necessities has risen. The fact is, the real value of the current minimum wage is the lowest it has been in over 50 years. Meanwhile, the costs of health care, gasoline and a college education are rising, and families in my District are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

An increase in the minimum wage will have a particularly beneficial impact on women, especially single mothers. The majority of minimum wage earners are women and common