

coverage for every child in Napa County, either directly or by working with families to obtain coverage through other programs they might qualify for. Often families qualify for health insurance but are intimidated by the paperwork or relatively minor costs associated with many insurance programs. A twin approach of helping families make those enrollments where qualified while providing a comprehensive health insurance program to those who do not have been the foundation of this program's success.

Since the start of programmatic work in December 2005, Children's Health Initiative has gained health insurance for 2,100 children in Napa County. Approximately 30 percent of these were through the initiative's own Healthy Kids insurance, while the remainder have successfully enrolled in the partnership programs MediCal, Healthy Families, and Kaiser Permanente's Child Health Plan. The program has done very well, reaching into communities that have traditionally lacked information about health care resources. Around 95 percent of the children served by the initiative's own Healthy Kids insurance program are Spanish speaking by birth, and many live in households with incomes not far above the federal poverty line.

It is extraordinarily important that children in any community be given access to a comprehensive health care. Not only is it good for the individual child's health and development, but it also has numerous positive effects throughout the community. By ensuring regular access to preventative care and examinations, as well as immunizations, children are healthier and pose less risk of transmitting diseases to others, and require fewer expensive visits to the emergency room. Parents benefit as well, as they take fewer sick days and so are more stable in their jobs.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank the Children's Health Initiative of Napa County for the remarkable strides this program has taken in just 2 years. Only through the hard work and generous contributions of countless members of our community has this program gotten such a strong start, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

HONORING THE PAUL WELLSTONE LEGACY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to speak in support of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007. I want to thank both Congressman KENNEDY and Congressman RAMSTAD for their dedication to ending insurance discrimination and ensuring all Americans have access to mental health and addiction services. I also want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Majority Whip CLYBURN for their leadership in championing this bill and mental health access issues.

As a Minnesotan, I'm struck by the emotion of this day because the late Senator Wellstone's tireless efforts to ensure mental health parity might finally be realized. Paul Wellstone knew it was wrong for health insurers to place

discriminatory restrictions on treatments and I'm honored to be a part of this effort to finally guarantee that the millions of Americans who need mental health and addiction services can obtain the treatment they deserve.

The urgent need for the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007 is surely best expressed by those who have seen a loved one in need denied coverage. I think immediately of Kitty Westin, whose daughter Anna suffered from anorexia, a deadly disease that affects approximately 8 million Americans and ultimately claimed Anna's life. During her daughter's battle with anorexia, Kitty took Anna to the hospital. Anna was refused care by their insurance company because it did not consider access to mental health treatment important enough to cover.

Kitty knows this is completely unacceptable and has been fighting selflessly to make sure no other family experiences the same frustration and pain. I commend her for carrying on Anna's legacy so impressively through her advocacy efforts and community work. For Kitty and all of the others who have encountered insurance discrimination, I carry Paul Wellstone's message that mental health care is an imperative part of all health care. My hope is that this bill in his name will finally pass, guaranteeing that all Americans have access to mental health and addiction services.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN JOHN BURGESS, UNITED STATES MARINE, LANCE CORPORAL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the events of the last few years have reminded us that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The United States stands as a beacon of hope and liberty for the world because of the eternal vigilance of the men and women who have served and are serving in the United States military.

Marine Lance Corporal Ryan John Burgess was one such soldier. A patriot through and through, Ryan did not hesitate to answer the call to duty when his country went to war. Never an easy decision, and one that causes great concern amongst parents, Ryan enlisted and excelled as a marine. His leadership was often recognized by his superiors in the form of being granted additional responsibilities.

Today, I want to recognize on the floor of the United States House of Representatives the life and service of Ryan John Burgess—a life given in full so that our freedom may be preserved. Ryan's bravery serves as a stark reminder of the responsibility we have as stewards of this great country—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

So, as we salute heroes like Ryan John Burgess, we remember them with undying gratitude. And we resolve, though we cannot repay the debt we owe them, to live our lives in such a way as to be worthy of their sacrifice.

May God keep Ryan; may God watch and comfort his family; and, may God continue to grant this Nation with the courage to defend life and liberty.

HONORING THE CAREER OF STEPHEN MCKENNEY STECK

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen McKenney Steck for his 40 years of service to the WMFE public broadcasting stations that serve the greater Orlando area.

An Orlando native, Steve began his only career in 1959 at WFTV (then WLOF) as a television director and later as senior producer/director for news and public affairs programs.

Steve started a 40-year run at WMFE in 1967 as production manager and was appointed operations manager in 1970. In 1972, Steve was elected President of WMFE and held that position with distinction for 34 years.

Steve's major accomplishments during his tenure include moving WMFE's physical plant to a multi-million dollar broadcast center in East Orlando, the activation of public radio station 90.7 WMFE-FM, expanding both station's programming to a full 24-hour per day schedule, overseeing a program schedule viewed each week by more than 485,000 Central Florida households and a radio schedule listened to each week by more than 194,000 Central Florida residents.

Steve concluded a \$4 million expansion of the Public Broadcasting Center in 1992, a \$2 million reexpansion in 2003, and a \$10 million Campaign for Program Excellence in 2002 generating funds directed to local programming that connected the community in a manner not duplicated by local electronic media.

Steve recently concluded WMFE's \$7 million Campaign for Digital Television that activated WMFE-DT/Channel 23 in 2003. He has launched the creation of a new \$2.4 million program vision for these stations. A transition to digital radio broadcasting rests in the short-term future. Under his leadership, WMFE's annual budget has grown from \$250,000 to more than \$8 million.

At age 63, Steve attained a 10-year goal: starting in and finishing a marathon in all of the 50 states and the District of Columbia and on all 7 continents—including Antarctica! Steve is married to Desta L. Homer, a former teacher at Winter Springs High School in Seminole County. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Steve for his years of service and dedication to his Orlando community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Steve on his retirement and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF REPAIRING YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the bipartisan Repairing Young Women's Lives Around the World Act, a bill

vital to saving the lives of women and their children around the world. This bill funds UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) strictly for the prevention, treatment, and repair of obstetric fistula.

More than two million women worldwide have obstetric fistula, which results from prolonged labor without medical attention. During delivery, the infant's head presses against the woman's pelvis for so long that the tissue dies and a hole develops between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving the woman without control of her bladder or bowels and often resulting in the death of the infant. In addition, many women who have the condition are abandoned by their husbands and families because they are considered "unclean" and the women are often forced to beg or turn to prostitution to survive. The condition was once common throughout the world, but over the last century has been eradicated in Europe and North America through improved medical care. For example, New York's hospital for fistula patients, now the site of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, closed in 1895 because of diminishing cases.

Fortunately, UNFPA is working with partners on a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula, with the goal of making the condition as rare in Africa and Asia as it is in the developed world. In fact, UNFPA works in 56 countries, more than the U.S. currently does, countries with the severest of problems. Many of the nations where there is no USAID presence suffer under political turmoil and poor living conditions and serve as breeding grounds for terrorists.

I believe that this legislation would help to provide a concrete way to show that the U.S.

cares about women and children around the world. Now is the time to allow the U.S. to recommit to the maternal health of women and children around the world.

APPLAUDING THE TEXAS STATE
LEGISLATURE

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Texas State legislature for passing House Bill 1098, which prevents mandatory human-papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for middle school girls in the State of Texas until at least 2011.

This legislation was a necessary response to the ill-advised executive order signed by Governor Perry in February of this year, which requires every girl in the state of Texas to receive a vaccine against HPV. I stand tonight to encourage the Governor of Texas to quickly sign H.B. 1098 into law and return important healthcare choices to parents and physicians—not the state or Federal government.

Madam Speaker, HPV is a sexually transmitted disease of which two strains, types 16 and 18, are associated with about 70 percent of cervical cancers. In June of 2006, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first vaccine that protects against 4 types of HPV. As an OB/GYN physician, I applaud this achievement in modern medicine. However, I am greatly concerned with the trend in many states to introduce legislation or sign executive

orders mandating young girls—6th graders—receive the HPV vaccine in order to attend school.

States have historically established and enforced their own vaccine and immunization practices that dictate their school admittance policies.

Requiring school-aged children to receive certain vaccines in order to attend school started as a public health concern so as to avoid widespread outbreaks of communicable diseases. However, Madam Speaker, since HPV can only be spread through sexual contact, mandating this vaccine is unprecedented, and I believe it is an egregious intrusion by government into what should be a parent-physician-patient decision.

Accordingly, I have introduced legislation, the Parental Right to Decide Protection Act, which would prohibit federal funds from being used to implement any type of mandatory HPV vaccine program. We need to stand up against this government interference into the lives of our children, which side-steps parental rights and responsibilities.

This is why I am so encouraged by the action of the Texas State legislature to stand up for the rights of our children, protect the role of parents and preserve the physician-patient relationship.

Madam Speaker, our government should not insert itself into this conversation—and I want to join the many medical groups, patient groups and parental rights groups—to call on the Governor of Texas to sign this very important piece of legislation.