

of health disparities far greater than other nations in the industrialized world. We know statistically that racial and ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately from poor health and die prematurely. More than 30 years after the national embarrassment of Tuskegee Syphilis Experience, our people are still being denied access to the best medical system in the world.

This trend recently played out in my home State in Maryland in an incident that I still find difficult to comprehend. In February, a 12-year-old African American boy named Deamonte Driver died when an untreated tooth infection spread to his brain. A routine dental checkup costing about \$40 might have saved his life. But Deamonte was poor and homeless, and he did not have access to a dentist.

Deamonte's case was rare and extreme, but he is by no means alone in his suffering. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that dental disease is the single-most chronic childhood disease in this country. It chills the conscience to think of how one young boy's life was cut short by the failure of our health care system, and millions of others continue to suffer.

We have a moral obligation in the memory of Deamonte to fix this problem now. This is why I have consistently advocated for a strong SCHIP bill that expands coverage to 6 million of our Nation's poorest children and guarantees them dental coverage.

I was discouraged to see that the first version of the bill from the Senate Finance Committee included only \$35 million in additional funding and did not include mandatory dental benefit. As a Washington Post editorial board recently noted, memories are sometimes short here in Washington. I realize the current budgetary constraints make this process all the more contentious; however, these are times that require decisive leadership. I am hopeful that in the House we will be able to find funding to expand the program by \$50 million while working with our Senate colleagues to negotiate a strong bill.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this vitally important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### COMMIT TO FULLY FUND RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address the continuing tragedy of racial and ethnic disparities in America. I want to commend my colleague, the gentlelady from Ohio, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and my colleague, our great Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, for tonight calling us all together later in a Special Order.

I would like to talk just very briefly in support of the efforts of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to highlight health care as a central and important policy issue in the 110th Congress and to call for an end to racial and ethnic health disparities.

We must no longer turn a blind eye to the continuing pattern of racial bias in the delivery of health care in America. The fact is that if you are a person of color, are poor or speak a different language and walk into a hospital in need of care, you are less likely to be diagnosed correctly, less likely to receive the accepted standard of care and less likely to walk out. It is a death sentence for millions of Americans.

It is appalling that our Nation cannot commit the resources necessary to eliminate once and for all the devastating impact of unequal health care delivery in America. We must root out the causes of the continuing discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities in our health care system.

We must increase the diversity in the professional health care provider workforce. Health care must be delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way without having to turn to intermediaries or family members to relay private information, health information. Funding research into the reasons for the different rates of disease incidence and minority populations must be a national priority.

While Latinos and African Americans make up over 25 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than 67 percent of newly reported AIDS cases. Diseases that primarily impact communities of color continue to be neglected. We must commit to providing access to comprehensive preventive care, educational outreach, health screenings and follow-up consultation for at-risk populations.

Our health care system is broken. Health care should be a right, not a privilege. We spend more money on health care than any other Nation in

the world; yet the United States ranks 23rd, 23rd in infant mortality among industrialized nations. We ranked 67th in immunization rates overall, right behind Botswana. We were first in life expectancy in 1945, and now we rank 20th behind nations like Canada, Britain, France and Cuba.

In the 1960s, I lived in Great Britain, and I was exposed to the assurance that the British public had in their access to quality health care with the British national health service. We in America can do better. We must do better. We can ensure that every person in America be treated equally, given a fair and thorough diagnosis and be treated with the most up-to-date treatments that are available. We must remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

In any hospital on any given day or night, in communities with large numbers of people of color and African Americans, the poor, you will witness this terrible health care crisis firsthand. Just go to an emergency room and see who needs medical attention, emergency or not.

It's about time that we invest resources to close these deadly, and that's what they are, they are deadly disparities. We need to enact universal health care for all.

America is the wealthiest industrialized country in the world. It is a shame and disgrace that over 47 million have no health insurance and that such a large percentage are African Americans, Latinos and Asian Pacific Americans.

What is wrong with this picture? I just want to commend, again, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and the Congressional Black Caucus; and also our Tri-Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific American Caucus for insisting, and I mean insisting, that this House of Representatives begin to focus on closing these deadly health care disparities among communities of color.

□ 1945

#### SERGEANT KEITH KLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commemorate the life of Sergeant Keith Allen Kline, born and raised in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Sergeant Kline was serving his second tour of duty when he was mortally wounded while on patrol in Baghdad on July 5, 2007, the day after the 4th of July, his favorite holiday. Today, Sergeant Kline was laid to rest following a fitting and moving ceremony at his alma mater Oak Harbor High School. Through my words this evening, America honors his memory and comforts his family. After the ceremony today, he was laid to rest at Oak Harbor's Union Cemetery.

In his poem, the Psalm of Life, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes:

“Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;—  
Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.  
Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.”

Sergeant Kline lived the spirit of this message. The poem’s words served as an epitaph as we recall his life and honor his ultimate sacrifice.

Keith Kline graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 2002. A talented wrestler, he placed in the top six wrestlers in Ohio during his high school years, a truly magnificent achievement from a large State like Ohio. He also played soccer and football and participated in school plays. He enlisted in the U.S. Army post-9/11 following his graduation.

At Fort Gordon, Georgia he completed his advanced individual training and was assigned to Bravo Company, 96th Civil Air Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade. In Iraq 3 months, he was assigned to the Civil Affairs Team supporting the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. In his brief career, his distinguished service brought him four Army achievement medals, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary medal and Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Basic Parachutist Badge. His death brought him the posthumous award of the Purple Heart Award, Bronze Star Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

More than a soldier, Keith Kline was known as a goodhearted person that was full of life and a very hard worker. Every single individual who paid him tribute this morning used the term “a man of great heart.” He was a NASCAR fan, too, and he reveled in family get-togethers. And his favorite holiday, as I mentioned, was the 4th of July.

Cherishing his memory and celebrating the gift of life are his mother Betty, brother John, stepfather, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and true friends he held close to his heart. We offer them our sincere condolences and heartfelt gratitude as they struggle through this very difficult time. May they find comfort in their loved one’s memory, and recall the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven.”

Today, America salutes Sergeant Keith Kline, a valiant son of our Republic, for his patriotism, for his excellence in service, for his courage, and for loving us more than he loved life itself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PASSING OF RUSSEL TIMOSHENKO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, early in the morning on Saturday, July 7, I awoke to an unusual sound; it was the sound of a police helicopter circling over the community in which I reside. Typically, when you hear a police helicopter you know that something has gone wrong in the community. They are usually searching for a suspect in a crime.

Today, I stand before this body and before you, Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart. The reason behind that circling was the injuring, critical injuring of an officer, a police officer. And it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor the life and contribution of a fallen hero, a great American patriot, New York Police Officer Russel Timoshenko. Last weekend, he was tragically shot in the face and the neck and succumbed to those fatal gunshots this weekend.

Officer Timoshenko was born in Belarus and immigrated to the United States in the early 1990s, when he was only 7 years old.

Upon his graduation from Tottenville High School in Staten Island, New York, Russel attended City College and majored in economics while playing on the lacrosse team. I understand, like myself, he loved to dance.

Prior to completing his studies, he decided to become a New York City police officer. During his short career on the force, Officer Timoshenko made 15 arrests. And although Officer Timoshenko had only been on the force for 1½ years, his commitment to protect and serve the least and the greatest in our community embodied the true sentiment of a public servant, and he was highly regarded among his colleagues.

Officer Timoshenko and his partner, Officer Herman Yan, were both shot during a routine traffic stop in Brooklyn in the early morning of Saturday, July 7. Officer Yan survived because of his bulletproof vest, and I pray for his continued speedy recovery. Unfortunately, Officer Timoshenko was shot in the head, and the two bullets that struck him cut across his spinal cord just beneath his brain. Officer Timoshenko did not survive his wounds.

Officer Timoshenko’s untimely death was a direct result of the proliferation of illegal guns in my community. His life was taken in service to our city and in pursuit of his oath to protect and serve. And, in so doing, there are three less illegal handguns on the streets of New York.

I stand with the New York City Police Chief, Commissioner Kelly, Mayor

Bloomberg, and Governor Spitzer in the fight against illegal gun trafficking into our city, and also in aggressively working to make our neighborhoods safe to live, work, and play.

To the parents and family of Officer Timoshenko, please accept our thanks for sharing him with us. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share the life of such a fine human being. And on behalf of New York’s 11th Congressional District, I offer my sincerest condolences, and pray that God will grant the family comfort and peace at this time.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE—PERSONAL ACCOUNT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the irrefutable fact of the Armenian genocide. Looking at the history of this catastrophic event from 1915 to 1918 and the impact it had on the Armenian people, it is impossible to deny that this was indeed genocide by all accounts. But one way, Mr. Speaker, to bear witness to the truth is to make reference to personal accounts when the genocide occurred at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

Thousands of Armenians have their own account of the horrific events their families had to endure, but tonight I would like to tell the story of one person, Mrs. Haigoohi Hanessian, from Syracuse, New York.

Mrs. Hanessian was born in 1906 in Taurus, Turkey. In 1909, her family fled from their home after receiving word that the Turks were leading a massacre on all Armenians in the area. They took refuge in an institution, and I should say they took refuge, Mr. Speaker, in an American institution, and finally returned to their home only to find it burned to the ground. After traveling and staying with family in different areas, they eventually moved back to Taurus, Turkey.

Yet, again, in 1915, the Armenians were being exiled. Her family was forced to board a train with an unknown destination. With thousands of others, they were herded into these trains, confined in small boxcars for days with no food and no water. Mrs. Hanessian recalls that if someone died on the train, they were simply thrown off the train and were left on the side of the tracks.

When they finally arrived at their destination, they were placed in barracks. She speaks of the sentiments towards the Armenians at the time, stating, “They wanted all the Armenians to vanish from the Earth. Instead of killing them, they suffered and died.”

The Armenians were then marched through desert towards Syria in extreme heat, again with no food and no water. On the way, many died and were left to rot. After they reached a small