

emerged from a conclave NBLCA facilitated last October that was co-chaired by Rev. Calvin Butts, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, and Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of the Potter's House in Dallas.

The strategy would set goals and time-tables and identify needed resources. It would make sure the 10 agencies that administer AIDS programs coordinate and communicate with one another. In short, it would be a road map about how we respond to the AIDS epidemic in the United States.

The United States requires countries that receive help under PEPFAR to have such a strategy yet the United States itself does not have one. More than ironic, that's tragic.

The impact AIDS is having on our citizens, especially those in the black community, is alarming—and it's getting worse. If we don't mobilize now and make sure that we're attacking this disease with as much energy, resources and intelligence as we can muster, we will someday wonder how we let such a disaster happen.

Despite all the bad news, there can be hope. I came away from the International AIDS Conference encouraged that we are determined as never before to fight the disease. I came away from the conference—and I think many of my fellow delegates from all over the world did, too—much more committed to this cause.

#### HONORING SANDRA POINDEXTER ON BEING NAMED MICHIGAN'S PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

##### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sandra Poindexter of Marquette, Michigan. Professor Poindexter has been named Michigan's Professor of the Year and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring her for this accomplishment.

Sandra Poindexter, who teaches information systems at Northern Michigan University, has been recognized as Distinguished Professor of the Year by the presidents of Michigan's 15 public universities. She is being honored for her sustained commitment to creating and infusing innovative teaching strategies and experiential learning opportunities into the classroom.

This special recognition for Professor Poindexter is the most recent of many she has received for her innovations to learning, which expand the classroom into the community and around the world. Some of her special innovations to learning include creatively integrating the Internet and notebook computers into academic environments, forming team-based and service-learning experiences and also fostering international education through student and faculty exchange programs and developing the International Information Technology Student Conference.

Northern Michigan University in the Upper Peninsula is committed to the high-quality, visionary teaching that Sandra Poindexter embodies and this special award celebrates her many contributions to the academic world.

Madam Speaker, as Sandra Poindexter accepts the honor of being named Michigan's Professor of the Year, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in congratulating her on this momentous

occasion. Teachers like her are always appreciated and I thank her for her contributions to education.

#### JOB CREATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

##### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7110, the Job Creation and Unemployment Relief Act. Millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet during these extremely difficult economic times. The budgets of American families are being squeezed as the price of gas, food, housing and healthcare continue to increase, while wages are down and unemployment is up. The number of unemployed Americans is the highest it has been since 1992. The economy has lost jobs for 8 straight months, with 605,000 American jobs lost this year. Last month alone, 84,000 Americans lost their jobs.

In February, I was pleased to vote in favor of the first economic stimulus package when it passed the House. However, I was disappointed that, because of Republican opposition and the need to move the bill quickly, it did not include increases in unemployment benefits, Food Stamps, Medicaid payments to States, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program benefits, or infrastructure investments, all of which would have a significant stimulative effect on our economy. As a result, a number of studies have concluded that the stimulus package only had a negligible effect on our economy.

Seven months later, the recession has only worsened. The crisis on Wall Street continues to expand, with the largest bank collapse in our Nation's history occurring on Thursday, and more and more banks coming to government, hat in hand, asking to be bailed out. The time has come to take care of the millions of working families across America who have been struggling for years under the Bush economy, before we swoop in to rescue Wall Street with billions of taxpayer dollars.

H.R. 7110 provides a critical additional 7 weeks of extended benefits for workers who have exhausted regular unemployment compensation, with workers in high unemployment States eligible for an additional 13 weeks of benefits. Studies have shown that extending unemployment insurance is one of the quickest forms of economic stimulus because workers who have lost their jobs spend those benefits quickly.

This package also provides a crucial temporary increase in Medicaid payments to States. These funds will help States offset the increased cost of Medicaid as more people apply for assistance while healthcare costs continue to skyrocket. While Governor Blagojevich is struggling to maintain benefits in Illinois, we have already seen other States cutting eligibility and services, and more reductions will occur if we do not provide increased temporary assistance. As we know from past financial downturns when we took similar action, increased Federal payments are not only important to the children, senior citi-

zens, persons with disabilities and others who rely on Medicaid but will stimulate the economy quickly and substantially as well.

Finally, this package also contains \$12.8 billion for our Nation's deteriorating highways and bridges; \$1 billion for repair and construction projects of public housing units; and \$3 billion to repair crumbling schools, including technology upgrades and energy-efficiency improvements, which likewise will have an immediate stimulative effect on the economy. These projects provide short-term benefit by putting people to work immediately—with funding, work can begin on many of them tomorrow—and they provide long-term improvements that will benefit Americans for years to come.

This is an excellent package, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in creating good jobs and providing assistance to those struggling in today's economy.

#### HONORING RAMADAN

##### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of introspection, fasting and spiritual renewal.

Throughout the entire 9th month of the Islamic calendar year, Muslims demonstrate their devotion by fasting from sunrise until sunset. The month of Ramadan is also an important time for Muslim families and communities as they join together in expression of their devotion.

Many Muslims use this time to seek physical and spiritual renewal. In fact, more than 25,000 Muslims in my Congressional District observe this celebration to mark their steadfast commitments to faith, family and heritage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in acknowledging the celebration of the month of Ramadan and wishing Muslims a peaceful holiday.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF DEAN STEVEN OLSON

##### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize Steve Olson, who has recently retired as Dean of Occupational Education and Economic Development at Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC.

Dean Olson began his career as a Plant Science Instructor at SRJC in 1970, and was named Department Chair in 1974. Thirteen years later, he was selected as Dean of Instruction, Educational Programs and Services. In this role he administered a variety of programs for the college including the Agriculture Department, the college's Shone Farm, international education, as well as Community Outreach and Development.

During his tenure at SRJC, he helped establish the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and the college farm. He also expanded course offerings to more than 50 sites

throughout Sonoma County, created a study abroad program for SRJC students, and developed an educational telecommunications program at the college.

Throughout his career, Dean Olson has been an active participant in many professional associations, serving as Vice President of the California Agricultural Teachers Association, CATA, President of the North Coast CATA, founding Chairman of the State Advisory Committee on Vocational Agricultural Education, a member of the California Joint Policy Council on Higher Education in Agriculture, President of the California Agricultural Leadership Associates, and co-chair of the Northern California Advocates for Global Education. His involvement in his community has also extended to numerous non-profit organizations including the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, the Sonoma County 4-H Foundation, Chair of the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Foundation, and Director of the Sonoma County Harvest Fair among others.

Over the years, Dean Olson has been recognized for his many accomplishments with such honors as the Friend of 4-H Award, the Rotarian of the Year Award for Northern California, the Friend of Sonoma County Agriculture Award and the Harold D. Bostock Lifetime of Service Rotary Award.

Madam Speaker, Dean Olson has had a long and distinguished career where he has been a model for his community and his profession. He plans to spend his retirement years with his wife, Elaine, and their 6 grandchildren pursuing their many hobbies. It is appropriate at this time that we honor Dean Olson for his many accomplishments and wish him well in his retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LEGACY AWARDS

##### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the 2008 Chester County Community Foundation Legacy Awards.

The Foundation annually recognizes members of the community who embody its mission of making Chester County, Pennsylvania a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family.

The following awards will be presented to those who have exhibited exceptional charitable commitment and dedicated community involvement:

Carol Ware Gates, Ph.D. of Christiana will receive the Jordan Award for Lifelong Philanthropy; Peg Anderson of Coatesville will receive the Thanks For Caring Award for community involvement; Herr Foods of Nottingham will receive the Corporate Social Investment Award; John A. Featherman, III, Esq. of West Chester will receive the Door Opener Award for introducing prospective endowment fund donors to the Community Foundation; and the West Chester University Relay for Life Student Committee will receive the Youth Philanthropy Award.

The Community Foundation will honor the contributions these recipients have made to

the community during the Annual Meeting and Legacy Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, October 14, 2008, in Philips Auditorium on the campus of West Chester University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all of the recipients for these well-deserved awards and commending them for giving so much of themselves while serving others and building a better Chester County.

#### INTRODUCTION TO H.O.P.E.

##### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the H.O.P.E. resolution of 2008: Honoring Organizers for Promoting Equality.

In every community across our Nation, the contributions of community organizers are woven into the fabric of our history. They have worked to ignite movements such as the Underground Railroad, farm laborers' rights, civil rights, and women's suffrage. Today, community organizers in my own city of Chicago fight for improved housing, adult literacy initiatives, equal access to quality healthcare, and fair and just immigration laws.

As citizens of the United States—a country founded on the principles of freedom and justice—we should not discredit the serious and historic responsibilities of community organizers. I believe that there is no greater responsibility than standing up to injustice.

The men and women who followed in the footsteps of César Chávez and were committed to speak out for the voiceless, who saw the work of Jane Addams and decided to champion an unpopular cause, or who heard the words of Dr. Martin Luther King and chose to stand firm against the status quo—these men and women know where true power lies. In educating and encouraging others to reject injustice and to demand change, organizers create better communities and a better country for us all.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude with these words from Thomas Jefferson: "Enlighten the people, generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like spirits at the dawn of day." Community organizers play an integral role in empowering people of every faith, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, and their efforts are worthy of more than a punch line.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

##### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: RDT&E, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Burnham Institute for Medical Research.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10901 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Description of Request: Recent world events have made abundantly clear the need for a deeper understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms employed by bacterial and viral pathogens that would facilitate the design of countermeasures to weaponized biological agents such as anthrax, ricin, smallpox virus, botulinum toxin or plague bacteria. Additionally, as evidenced by the ever-present threat of viral pandemics and the relentless rise of antibiotic-resistance, there is a clear and urgent need for the development of new families of therapeutic agents—antibiotics, vaccines, antitoxins and antivirals. Given the large and growing number of recalcitrant pathogens, the most useful new therapeutics are likely to have broad-spectrum efficacy; to target immutable elements of the pathogen or host; to be rapidly adaptable in the face of natural or engineered variants; and to be physically robust.

To assist the United States Army in protecting our soldiers against these growing threats, I secured \$2.4 million for the Infectious & Inflammatory Disease Center (IIDC) at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, which will build on its studies of diseases that result from a broad range of human pathogens. The work will define and characterize host responses to infection, including innate and adaptive immunity and inflammation, providing a molecular understanding of host-pathogen interactions. Over the next ten years, many antibiotics currently prescribed to treat bacterial infections will no longer be effective owing to microbial resistance. Drug-resistant strains of some pathogens, such as the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, and MRSA, have already appeared. Several deadly viral agents have also emerged, threatening both our soldiers in the battlefield as well as large civilian populations; and, except for some vaccines, few treatments for viral infections exist to date.

With regard to infectious diseases, a major goal of the IIDC is to discover, characterize and validate novel virulence factors and toxins from infectious agents, working closely with our bioinformatics group who annotate (attempt to assign function based on the DNA sequence) the rapidly expanding number of pathogen genome sequences. These combined studies facilitate the discovery of novel but conserved pathways that may be validated as targets for broad-spectrum antibiotics. Complementary strategies will be developed to produce drug-like compounds for further development, including High-Throughput Screening (HTS), 'in silico' screening, and the development and application of NMR-based fragment approaches (the Institute hosts "The San Diego Chemical Library Screening Center", one of 5 such centers nationwide). The IIDC will continue its well-funded studies of the most likely agents of bioterrorism, including anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*), smallpox (*Variola virus*), and plague (*Yersinia pestis*); but it will also expand its focus to the study of emerging diseases such as SARS, West Nile and Dengue Viruses, as well as preparing countermeasures to treat a possible influenza pandemic—should avian flu strain H5N1 gain the ability to transmit directly from person to person.

A major new focus of the IIDC will be to understand and exploit host responses to infection. Human cells provide the never-ending