

SCRA trustees and chairman, recording secretary for the company and the All-Associates' meetings, and program management for the South Carolina Nutrition Research Consortium. Mrs. Dodds also assisted program management for SC Launch!, which is working to expand the knowledge economy of South Carolina. Additionally, she has contributed significantly to not only the day-to-day execution, but also the long-term transformation of SCRA. Her integrity is reflected in the thoughts and comments of her peers. Robert Henderson, past president and CEO of SCRA, has remarked that "she was a great friend and an astounding organizer." Another former president and CEO of SCRA, Larry Druffel, says it best with "Peggy was not only the soul of the organization but she knew the history, the people and most importantly the culture, which she worked to nurture."

I am grateful for Peggy Dodds' service to the South Carolina Research Authority and her service to the many lives she has helped to improve in the State of South Carolina and the Nation. I know Peggy looks forward to focusing on her family and her church as well as traveling with her husband, Dave. I wish her good health and Godspeed for her future.

SUPPORTING PSORIASIS RESEARCH AND CARE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act, and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

As many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Between 10 percent and 30 percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints.

Brian Lehrsall, coleader of the Triangle Psoriasis, Education, Advocacy, and Support group in my congressional district, is just one of my constituents living with psoriasis. Diagnosed with plaque psoriasis at age 13, Brian underwent many courses of treatment to address his severe condition, including several different topical medications and ultraviolet radiation. Through the years, Brian has remained active in his local psoriasis support group and been a staunch advocate for the National Psoriasis Foundation's work to increase psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research.

H.R. 1188 would direct the National Institutes of Health to expand and intensify research and related activities of the Institutes with respect to psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Specifically, the bill would direct the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases to conduct a number of research activities related to psoriasis. The bill also would establish a national psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis patient registry through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and would direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to con-

vene a national summit on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research. Finally, the bill would authorize a study by the Institute of Medicine regarding medications and treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

I appreciate the work Brian and his colleagues have done on behalf of so many individuals living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act.

HONORING ST. FRANCIS PARISH AMARILLO, TEXAS 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Francis Parish, in Amarillo, Texas, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

The history of the St. Francis Parish can be traced to the early 1900's when Texas sold public lands to encourage development in the region. In 1907, the Reverend Francis J. O'Reilly decided to establish a "Catholic colony" in the Texas Panhandle. After an extensive search, a site was selected to serve a growing number of parishioners settling the area. By 1908, over 13,000 acres on the Potter-Carson County line were purchased to develop a town.

The community boomed with families who were attracted to West Texas to work the land as faithful farmers and ranchers, and the first Catholic church was built there in 1908. The parish continues to flourish with a current congregation of about 65 families.

Over the years, the community and parish experienced both the blessings and challenges of life in West Texas. Dealing with unpredictable weather, crops, and economic conditions served to help parishioners become even more steadfast in their faith. The strong agricultural community set deep roots in the area, and many descendants of those first families still call the Texas Panhandle and St. Francis home.

The St. Francis Parish continues to actively celebrate and embrace its history of faith and community. In 1983, they commemorated their 75th Anniversary, which included the placement of a historical marker and the publication of a hardbound history book entitled "Harvest of Memories—The St. Francis Story."

Faith, family, and fellowship make our communities strong and provide us with hope. As St. Francis Parish celebrates its past and looks ahead to the future, I join with the community to wish them a joyous 100th Anniversary.

HONORING DEPUTY DAVE MILLS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Deputy Dave Mills of Gallatin County, Illinois. Deputy Mills passed away suddenly on March 11, 2008.

Deputy Dave, as he was affectionately known to the students in Gallatin County, was the Gallatin County School District DARE Officer. I received a letter from a student in Gallatin County, Taylor Jackson, who had this to say about Deputy Dave; "He was really close to me and most of the students of my school." Taylor went on to write, "he was a great man and a huge influence to me and my teachers and my fellow students . . . I'm only 13, but he really meant the world to me and many others."

As we can tell from Taylor's words, Deputy Mills' work certainly had an impact that will be forever etched into the hearts and minds of those whose lives he touched. I extend my sympathy to the family and friends of Deputy Dave Mills. My prayers will be with them and the Gallatin County community as they mourn this great loss.

HONORING VERONICA MONTGOMERY-COSTA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Veronica Montgomery-Costa, the Harlem-born, third-term President of Local 372 and District Council 37 who assumed leadership of more than 26,000 union members on July 15, 1999. Local 372 represents the school-based Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists, part-time School Aides, Family Paraprofessionals, Community Coordinators, School Lunch Workers, School Crossing Guards, and school-based Health Service Aides. Ms. Costa hit the ground running and fulfilled more than her campaign promises. She kept her promise to rebuild Local 372, which had been under the administration of its parent union, AFSCME, by implementing much-needed economic and administrative reforms.

Veronica transformed Local 372 into a fiscally sound, ethically administered organization wiping out an inherited \$5 million deficit, restoring an effective grievance procedure, training for Grievance Representatives and Shop Stewards and increasing the number of members involved in standing committees. Local 372's integrity was restored along with its bargaining power and its members won record salary increases, improved health, retirement benefits and job security for full-time and part-time workers. With Ms. Costa's determination, Local 372 worked with parents and community groups to block the NYC Board of Education from turning over the management of five public schools to a private, for-profit corporation. Ever in the forefront of the fight against school vouchers, Veronica and Local 372 used its phone bank to support an effort which resulted in the House Education and Workforce Committee dealing President Bush and conservative Republicans a critical blow by voting to strip a private school voucher provision from the House Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Veronica Montgomery-Costa started a Local 372 Scholarship Fund for Members' children, fought off privatization of the School Lunch Program, successfully lobbied to restore \$3.1 million to the School Based Prevention Program in the state budget, and played a role in

fighting for the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Program without any cuts to the program. In conjunction with the Community Food Resource Center, Veronica spearheaded an innovative pilot project to help 500 Local 372 members take advantage of their eligibility for Earned Income Tax Credit.

Madam Speaker, Veronica Montgomery-Costa was unanimously elected for three consecutive terms as President of the 125,000-member District Council 37 by the Council's delegates and also serving in her second term as a member of the Steering Committee of the Municipal Labor Committee. It is an honor to pay tribute to her exceptional leadership on behalf of working men and women. She is most deserving of our recognition today.

ELSIE LEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elsie Lee of Kansas City, Missouri. Elsie is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, and earning the most prestigious award of Girl Scout Gold Award.

Elsie has been very active with her troop, participating in many scout activities. In order to receive the prestigious Gold Award, Elsie has completed all seven requirements that promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values and leadership skills.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elsie Lee for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Girl Scout Gold Award.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge Tuesday's consideration and passage of H. Res. 1024, a bill recognizing the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am honored to support a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such enormous personal meaning to me. I am immensely proud of my Greek heritage, and the profound influence this legacy has had not only on American democracy but on governments around the world.

Early on, America's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient Greeks and their enlightened society for inspiration in forming a new government. As we know, American representative democracy is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of Greek government.

It is this example of freedom and representation that so many governments strive to emulate today. And now, more than ever, it is imperative for that message to be heard.

The Greek American community continues to work admirably to connect Greek culture and heritage with the global society of today. They have grown that symbiotic relationship into an extensive Greek-American legacy.

This legacy is made of the contributions of millions of Greek-Americans, such as my paternal grandfather who emigrated from Greece in the early 20th century and earned his citizenship in his new country by fighting in World War I. My father, Socrates, continued the Space family's patriotic tradition by serving in the Marines during the Korean War. After the war, my father attended Ohio State's law school, thanks to the GI Bill, thereby paving the way for his future family—for me.

The opportunities afforded to my father and my grandfather in America were—in my opinion—a result of the democratic by-products of freedom and liberty that Americans enjoy, thanks to the Greeks.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful nation's independence, it's important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. Needless to say, as a Greek-American, I very much support H. Res. 1024.

HONORING SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGAL SINGERS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exceptional high school choir in my district, the San Marcos High School Madrigal Singers of Santa Barbara, CA, which was chosen to perform at New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

The San Marcos high School Madrigal Singers were selected out of dozens of high school choirs across the country for this performance. The concert featured 200 students from four states, and is the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert was conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Apart from their world-renowned performances, Carnegie Hall brings innovative music education programs to students across the Nation. I am delighted that these young people have been given this opportunity.

Led by Carolyn Teraoka-Brady. The Madrigal Singers, one of 5 choral groups at San Marcos High School, performs a varied repertoire of choral literature, Renaissance to contemporary, for the community and at festivals. In the last 4 years, the group has consistently received superior ratings at State and regional festivals in CA. In 2006, the group received a first place score at the invitational "National Festival of Gold" in New York City, featuring some of the country's finest ensembles. In addition to choral activities, these students are also leaders in the school's theatre productions, student government, Mock Trial, school newspaper, and CIF sports. The Mad-

rigal Singers have performed for Donald Brinegar, Lynne Gackle, Anton Armstrong, André Thomas, and Weston Noble.

I am honored to have one of the 4 schools in the Nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival come from my California district. The Madrigal Singers should be proud not only of their musical achievement, but their embodiment of the quality musical education the State of California provides. I commend these students and their leaders for their success.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the time has come to enact the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. We need to end discrimination against those with mental illness and substance use disorders, just as we have worked to end discrimination more broadly. I regret that I could not be here to vote on its passage out of the House.

If you cannot be moved by a sense of compassion to support this important legislation, then maybe you can be moved by the statistics. More than 57.7 million Americans suffer from mental disorders. That's one in five Americans—people in our families, our friends, and coworkers. Mental disorders and addictions affect us all—regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic status. H.R. 1424 ensures that health insurers and group health plans treat mental disorders and addiction no differently than any other disease.

This is not a mandate. The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act simply says that if plans choose to offer mental health coverage, then that coverage must not be subject to different standards than the coverage for treatments of physical disease. Parity will ensure that treatment for mental disorders and addictions will be no more restrictive than treatment limits applied to comparable medical and surgical benefits.

Opponents of true parity claim that H.R. 1424 could result in decreased access to employer provided health insurance. That is merely a scare tactic designed to undermine the broad-based support for the bill. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the impact on premiums is just two-tenths of one percent. Statistics show us that depressed workers lose 5.6 hours a week of productive work time. This translates into tens of billions of dollars annually in lost productivity for employers.

We also know that every dollar spent in treatment saves up to \$12 in health care and criminal justice costs alone. Do the math, and you'll see that treating mental health and addiction disorders is a wise investment. No one in this day and age should lose years of their lives in the fog of mental illness and addiction when help is available. We would never think of denying diabetes patients insulin. Yet, it seems to be acceptable to erect financial barriers or take other steps that ultimately deny patients with physical and chemical imbalances treatment for their mental illness. That