

the veterans' stories of service and sacrifice today while at the same time collecting and preserving them for the benefit of future generations of Americans.

No one has done more to secure this country's freedom and prosperity than our veterans. And, thanks to Phil Fleisher's hard work, we all can benefit from his story as a veteran and the stories of thousands of other veterans who proudly served this great Nation.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Phil Fleisher and wish him a safe and successful event this Saturday.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RON SMITH FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ron Smith showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Ron Smith was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ron Smith always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Ron Smith on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Monday, funeral services were conducted in the Midlands of South Carolina for two gentlemen who symbolized achieving the "American Dream" of extraordinary fulfillment promoting their families.

Louis Gonda and E.D. Phillips will always be cherished in our community for their service to others.

Louis Gonda was born in Murska-Lobota, Yugoslavia, and immigrated at age four to Cuba. In 1960, he fled with his family to America for freedom, where he established the innovative Fergon Tool & Machine Co.

His courage was proven when he was preparing to flee Communist Cuba. He bought multiple suitcases at a local shop, and as he arrived home, the secret police met him to interrogate him about his unusual purchase. The totalitarian enforcers accepted his story that his children were taking a short trip to New York to visit a sick aunt.

E.D. Phillips was a proud native of South Carolina and graduate of the University of South Carolina. As an independent entrepreneur, he founded the Phillips Farmer Garden and Phillips Plants at the State Farmers

Market. He courageously ran as a pioneer for the State House at the beginning of the new Republican Party in 1968 and 1970. He and his late wife, Emily, were among the founding members of Republican efforts in Richland, Orangeburg, and Lexington Counties providing the foundation for dozens of successful candidates at the county, State, and Federal levels. In 1988, they were Congressional District chairmen for President George H.W. Bush.

Both Mr. Gonda and Mr. Phillips were married to active, strong, and supportive wives, who partnered with them to raise outstanding children as loving families.

Mr. Gonda is survived by his wife, Nena, who he met when he was 11 and she was 8. Their children are Luis Gonda, Maria Gonda Smoak, Diane Gonda, Frank Gonda, and Rick Gonda. Services were at St. Peter's Catholic Church of Columbia.

Mr. Phillips is survived by his children Becky Phillips, Deedie Belangia, Jackie Finch, Hal Phillips, and Steve Phillips. Services were held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Windsor Lake Ward of Columbia.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JORDAN BENSON FOR WINNING THE BOYS' DIVISION II STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jordan Benson showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jordan Benson was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Jordan Benson always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jordan Benson on winning the Boys' Division II State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

CRITICAL PUBLIC HEALTH BILLS CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSE TODAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the seven bills the House is considering on suspension today in conjunction with National Public Health Week. This week gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance of quality public health programs in all of our lives—from effective childhood vaccination programs, to early screening programs for diseases, to ensuring that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care. These seven bills were all approved unanimously by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and I expect they will get a similar level of support today from the full House.

H.R. 1198, The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EDHI) Act, was introduced by Rep. LOIS CAPPS. Congresswoman CAPPS is a registered nurse (R.N.) who served for 20 years as a nurse and health advocate for the Santa Barbara School District. I want to commend her for continuing to advocate for the health of young Americans by authoring this legislation. H.R. 1198 will reauthorize this critical Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) program, intended to identify and help infants with hearing loss, through FY 2013. It also expands screening and intervention services to include young children.

Children who are hard of hearing find it much more difficult than children who have normal hearing to learn vocabulary, grammar, word order, idiomatic expressions, and other aspects of verbal communication. It is estimated that approximately 391,000 school-aged children in the U.S. have unilateral hearing loss, and early detection of hearing problems is critical to developing and implementing effective treatment for these children. When EDDI was first authorized in 1999, only 3 percent of all babies were being screened for hearing loss at birth; today, 93 percent of babies are screened within one month of birth.

H.R. 2464, The Wakefield Act (Emergency Medical Services for Children) reauthorizes through FY 2011 and makes improvements in the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program, which is designed to improve emergency medical services for children needing trauma or critical care. There are over 30 million child and teen visits annually to our nation's emergency rooms. And yet many emergency services are still designed for adults. Since the EMSC program was created 20 years ago, major improvements in emergency care for children have been realized. Injury-related deaths have dropped by 40 percent over that period of time.

H.R. 1237, The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, is designed to improve the analysis of tests for cervical cancer by ensuring that health care professionals who read tests for cervical cancer are skilled in today's medical technology. It modernizes the cervical cancer testing program by requiring continuing medical education for pathologists to assess their diagnostic skills and ensure they keep up with the latest practices. The program is modeled after a similar quality standards program for reading mammograms. The American Cancer Society predicted 11,150 women in the U.S. would be diagnosed with cervical cancer last year and 3,670 women would die from the disease. The way to cut down on the number of deaths is to ensure that all cervical cancer tests are read correctly.

S. 845, The Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act, was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent in August 2007. Nationally, 42 percent of all nursing home admissions take place as a direct result of geriatric falls. Fractures of the hip are relatively common in seniors and often lead to devastating consequences. Disability frequently results from persistent pain and limited physical mobility. Hip fractures are associated with substantial morbidity and mortality; approximately 15–20% of patients die within one year of fracture. Most hip fractures occur in elderly individuals as a result of minimal trauma, such as a fall from standing height.

S. 845 launches a comprehensive preventative care program to reduce the number and

severity of falls by the elderly. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement directives to reduce falls, including improving the identification of seniors who have a high risk of falling; supporting education campaigns focused on reducing and preventing falls and educating health professionals about fall risk, assessment and prevention; and conducting research to reduce falls.

H.R. 2063, The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act, helps schools deal with food allergies among student populations. Nearly three million American children have food allergies. The danger of a life-threatening reaction from exposure to an allergen can be found beyond obvious places like the lunchroom. This danger also lurks in places where kids—and adults—wouldn't normally expect it, including field trips, school celebrations or special projects like arts and crafts.

Last year, the Congress appropriated \$491,000 for the CDC to develop guidelines for schools regarding food allergies and anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction involving multiple organs). This bill requires HHS, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop a policy for schools on appropriate management and emergency plans for children with food allergies and anaphylaxis. The policy would be provided to schools within one

year after enactment, and schools could voluntarily implement the policy. The bill also authorizes HHS to award grants to local school districts to help them in implementing the policy.

S. 1858, The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on Dec. 13, 2007. This bill educates parents and health care providers about newborn health screening, improves follow-up care for infants with an illness detected through newborn screening, and helps states expand and improve their newborn screening programs. Incredible advances in medical technology have equipped us to better screen and treat infants for congenital, genetic and metabolic disorders that, if left untreated, could lead to severe disability and death. S. 1858 authorizes funding to help states expand and improve their programs. It also helps to ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening, so that tests are as accurate as possible and infants receive appropriate care.

The House Amendment to S. 793, The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Act, was sponsored by Rep. BILL PASCRELL. The House amendment was reported out by the Energy and Commerce Committee on March 13 and is similar to S. 793, which was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on December

11, 2007. The thousands of brain injury survivors who are returning home from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan are joining the 5.3 million similarly afflicted Americans here at home. TBI is now the leading cause of death and disability among young Americans. The legislation would require the CDC to monitor brain injury incidence and create a reporting system to track the condition. It also directs CDC to study treatment techniques and NIH to conduct basic research to improve treatment. The House version renews through FY 1012 the Traumatic Brain Injury Act, which authorizes the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide state grants for patients with traumatic brain injury to enter treatment and rehabilitation programs.

These bills make critical contributions to our nation's public health infrastructure, and I commend the House for considering them. I would like to add, however, that the single most important public health initiative the Congress could take would be to pass national health insurance legislation such as that proposed in my bill, H.R. 676, which was recently endorsed by the American Public Health Association. With a system of truly universal health care, there would no longer be any need to implement the stopgap, patchwork measures that we are so frequently obligated to consider.