

RECOGNIZING APRIL 7–13 AS
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the week of April 7–13 as National Public Health Week. In 1995, former President William Jefferson Clinton proclaimed the first full week of April as National Public Health Week. Since then, the American Public Health Association has organized National Public Health Week and developed campaigns to educate the public, policy-makers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health.

Public health efforts strive to prevent disease and promote good health in a variety of ways, including vaccination programs, regulation of prescription drugs, worker health and safety standards, access to clean water and air, and other educational campaigns. Public health includes professionals from many fields with the common purpose of protecting the health of a population.

My colleagues and I have no doubt seen the positive effects that public health awareness can bring to a community. A healthy public gets sick less frequently and spends less money on health care; this means better economic productivity and an improved quality of life for everyone. Healthy children are more likely to attend school and, as a result, improve their overall performance in education. Healthy parents can inform their children about positive wellness choices that will hopefully stay with them well into adulthood. Public health prevention not only educates people about the effects of lifestyle choices on their health, it also reduces the impact of disasters by preparing people for the effects of catastrophes such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and terrorist attacks.

The American Public Health Association has selected climate change as the theme of National Public Health Week 2008. Though the scientific realities and environmental impacts of climate change have been highly publicized in recent years, little has been said about the effects of climate change on public health. Extreme weather events such as hotter summers, colder winters, higher rainfall, and increased rates of natural disasters all aid in posing a greater risk to public health. Disease and injury, in addition to the negative effects of pollution and other modern environmental challenges, are all hazards to public health which must be explored and addressed as this issue continues to influence communities.

I commend the organizations and individuals in Chicago as well as nationwide for their work on the critical issue of public health. National Public Health Week is the ideal time to highlight the immediate and ongoing need for the promotion of and investment in public health activities that will safeguard our Nation's current and future well-being.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
RAHLIN WATSON FOR WINNING
THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rahlin Watson showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Rahlin Watson was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Rahlin Watson 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 Rahlin Watson on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING STEVEN LYNCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Joseph Lynch of Liberty, Missouri. Steven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Joseph Lynch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO LEO H. CARON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Leo H. Caron, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Leo Caron has dedicated almost 250 hours of his time to volunteer for the patients at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation Extended Core Center (BRECC). He volunteers at the BRECC at least twice a week, which is not

easy for Leo as he is disabled himself and cannot drive himself or walk without the assistance of a walker.

At the BRECC, Leo makes it his mission to ensure every patient has the best possible stay. Leo often searches for support from public agencies, and throughout his extensive searches for resources, he has helped orchestrate donations of such items as books on tape, voice activated watches for blind patients, and other items. He also makes monetary donations to the BRECC for additional resources and will often bring the patients candy and treats.

Despite his own physical challenges, Leo provides recreational visits, personal visits, and resources to the many patients at the BRECC. He does his best to cater to every patient's needs, volunteering his time, donating his money, and tirelessly searching for additional resources to better the patients' time at the BRECC.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Leo Caron. He is a truly remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through his ongoing efforts, he has helped hundreds of veterans receive the resources and comforts they deserve and served as a consistently positive influence in their lives. Leo has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have dedicated their lives to serve our great country.

JULIA M. CARSON POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the late and great former Congresswoman Julia Carson of the Seventh District of the State of Indiana who passed away on December 15, 2007.

Julia Carson was the first woman and African-American to be elected to Congress by the Seventh District of the State of Indiana. She holds the title as the second woman to be elected by the State of Indiana, besides Katie Hall. She served in the Indiana House of Representatives for 4 years and the Senate for 14 years before moving on to a new position as a trustee for Center Township in Indianapolis, Indiana. She gained much respect and success as the trustee and was motivated by former Congressman Andy Jacobs to run for Congress in 1996.

Her victory was marked by sheer success in the House of Representatives. Julia made a lot of good contributions to the House as being a firm supporter of children's health insurance, and by playing a key part insuring that Rosa Parks received a Congressional Gold Medal in her remembrance.

She was a devoted member to the Congressional Black Caucus and to Congress as a whole. We will truly miss her and take all her wisdom with us as we move on to make right decisions for the American people.