

and example in the world, this country should strive to carve out a premier health care system that works for everyone, not just the politically connected, not just the moneyed. For every American, we have safeguarded the promise of life, liberty, and happiness—and we ought to make good on that. We can have none of the three without adequate health care. This should be our national pride: to continually develop and improve upon our remarkable successes in medicine, to shape and mold a health care system that is the envy of the world.

An April 22 New York CARIB News piece, titled "Organ Donation A Crisis Among Minorities" and written by Dr. Jennifer Wider, denotes these concerns and offers solutions.

ORGAN DONATION A CRISIS AMONG MINORITIES

The number of people needing organ transplants is rising faster than the number of donors, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Roughly 77 people receive organ transplants per day in the United States, but 18 people die each day waiting for transplants that will never happen due to the shortage of available organs.

Organ transplantation involves putting organs or tissues from one person into the body of another person, whose organs or tissues have been damaged or are no longer working.

"The recipient has to be immunologically matched to the donor well enough that the organ won't be immediately rejected," says Mark Schnitzler, Ph.D., assistant professor of health administration at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "Blood type match has to be acceptable and the recipient can't be already sensitized to the donor's tissue types."

The need for transplants is particularly high among minorities, especially among African-Americans. Of the 83,000 people on the national transplant waiting list, approximately fifty percent are minorities, according to United Network for Organ Sharing.

According to a recent study in the American Journal for Respiratory Critical Care Medicine, David J. Lederer, M.D., and colleagues at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York found that, "After listing for lung transplantation, African-American patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were less likely to undergo transplantation and more likely to die or be removed from the list compared with Caucasian patients." Unequal access to care is among the likely reasons Lederer and his team cited for this disparity.

Organ donation recipients are more likely to match up to others of their own race and ethnicity. "Both blood type and tissue types have racial and ethnic patterns," Schnitzler said. That is why it is important to look into ways to increase minority organ donations.

The need for more donor organs among minority women is especially great because minority women suffer disproportionately from certain diseases of the kidney, heart, lung, pancreas, and liver that can lead to organ failure.

"Minority women are well represented as a share of the total population that donates organs, but their need for transplants is greater," said Sherry Marts, Ph.D., vice president of scientific affairs for the Society for Women's Health Research, a Washington, D.C., based advocacy organization. "Because of a shortage of appropriate donor organs, minority women often have to wait longer for doctors to find a match. Sadly, many die waiting. With more donated organs from minority women, finding a match will be quicker, waiting times will be cut and more lives will be saved."

Further complicating matters are studies that show the biological sex of the organ donor and recipient can affect transplant success. At least one study has found that the combinations least likely to result in organ rejection are female recipient-male donor, followed by male recipient-male donor.

"These findings have not yet affected clinical practice because of the organ shortage," Marts said. "Doctors can't afford to wait for the most optimal donor-recipient combination where the sex of the patients is concerned. They have to make the best decisions possible with the limited organs available. As organ preservation techniques improve, however, this could become a factor."

Health promotion and disease prevention programs are needed to shed light on the diseases and negative lifestyle choices that may increase the need for organ transplants. Diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and behaviors including alcohol and substance abuse, poor nutrition and lack of exercise are all risk factors for diseases that can cause permanent or irreversible damage to organs and tissues.

The Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program is working to increase awareness for minority organ donation. This program also provides information that is vital to good health and can delay or prevent the need for organ transplants. Here are some of the program's key tips:

Have your blood pressure checked at least twice per year after age 12; Diabetics should have blood pressure checked regularly and follow diet and exercise instructions; Avoid alcoholic beverages to help prevent liver disease; Avoid use of illegal drugs such as marijuana, heroin and cocaine which cause liver disease and kidney failure; Avoid smoking cigarettes which can lead to heart and lung disease; Avoid foods high in cholesterol and saturated fats such as fried foods which can clog the arteries; Establish a regular exercise routine which should be performed at least three times per week; Visit your doctor at least once per year for a check-up.

April is National Donate Life Month. Information about organ and tissue donation is available on a special Web site from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.organdonor.gov/>.

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American—APA—Heritage Month. I am pleased to celebrate this important event.

May 2008 marks 30 years since President Jimmy Carter signed a joint Congressional resolution declaring the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1992, the commemoration was extended to the full month of May.

While it's an appropriate time to note the achievements of Asian Pacific Americans, APAs, we cannot overlook the needs of the community, including a fair and sensible immigration policy. I chair the Immigration Task Force of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus's, CAPAC, and I will continue to fight for the needs of family within the immigration debate.

The challenge has become much more difficult in the last year because the presidential

primary campaigns have poisoned the discussion, focusing all their attention on undocumented immigrants from Mexico and calls for higher fences and tougher enforcement. Completely ignored is the fact that immigration issues facing Asian and Pacific Americans are far different. And those issues have been completely drowned out by the shrill demonization of illegal immigrants.

One of the major issues for the Asian Pacific American community is family reunification: allowing relatives of legal permanent residents, other than spouses and minor children, to immigrate legally and join their families. It can take the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as long as 23 years to even consider an application for a family member from the Philippines.

The extended family is a foundation in many of our cultures, and it provides real benefits to the greater society as well. Families often pool resources to educate children or purchase homes and establish roots in their communities. We often see extended family networks starting businesses, providing economic development and jobs.

It is important that we move the debate on immigration past the bumper sticker solutions that have dominated the public dialog and work together to advocate for the needs of family. I believe we must find a just, practical and humane response to the 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows of our society. But, we cannot forget that families that are separated tear at the very fabric of what America means. I urge my colleagues to learn more about this issue during APA Heritage Month and throughout the year, and work for comprehensive and human immigration reform for the APA community.

HONORING BARBARA KORNER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Barbara Korner throughout her life, interwoven with the strands of wife, mother, and teacher are patterns that appear and reappear: Her devotion and love for the Sinai Free Synagogue makes Kehillah Kedosha (sacred congregation) a way of life in all that she does.

She reaches out to all, teaching the youngest, Beresheet Bunch, to welcoming the eldest at services; to honoring the most revered as chair of the Congregant of the Year dinner dance. She initiates new relationships and strengthens existing ones in the Women's Spirituality Circle, as well as giving herself to fundraising projects such as Honey for Rosh Hashanah.

Whether serving food during a concert, shopping for bagels for an adult education brunch, or selecting beautiful Judaica for the shop, she brings friendship and caring to the synagogue community.

She has a long history of volunteerism at Sinai Free Synagogue, and the Free Synagogue before that. She has been honored with the Congregant of the Year Award, having served as Religious School Board co-chair, Hospitality Chair for the successful congregational dinners, and co-chair to the Jewish Festival.

She was born in New York City to Ruth and Murray Zucker, and graduated from Hunter College. She taught at P.S. 100 for her entire career and met her husband Ira there. They married in 1970 and have three children, Matthew, Shelby and Ari, and three grandchildren Daniel, Maia and Gabriel.

Barbara Korner is a vital part of the leadership at the synagogue and the community at large, with her enthusiasm, her artistic flair, and her strong sense of tikkun olam in everything she does. She has made Sinai Free Synagogue into a community, and helped to strengthen the Jewish community in Mt. Vernon.

THANKING MR. FRANK JONES FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on June 30, 2008, I rise to thank Mr. Frank Jones for his 32 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Frank graduated from Brook High School in Calvert County, MD and moved to DC in 1962. He started working at the Washington Post selling subscriptions. He wanted to learn a trade and decided on printing. Frank went to work at A&E Blueprinters learning all facets of the trade from 1963–1969.

Looking for a change in profession, he obtained a job at Seibert Decorators in Washington, DC in 1969. It was there that he began to learn and hone his skills as an accomplished upholsterer. Frank came to the House upholstery shop in February 1977 and worked there until his retirement.

Over the next 15 years he artfully upholstered many pieces of House furniture. Among his list of accomplishments is the upholstery shop's most valued piece of furniture, the Turkish Chair. He has trained numerous employees, teaching the techniques, touch, and feel needed to upholster this chair. He redesigned and tufted the "Sam Rayburn Chair" for the then Clerk of the House, Donald Anderson. Over the years he has worked on the Lincoln Catafalque several times, preparing it for ceremonies for Presidents lying-in-state at the Capitol. For the last 17 years he has served as Foreman of the House Upholstery Shop, passing on his wealth of knowledge and talent in the trade.

On a more personal note, Frank has always gone out of his way to ensure that all of his customers are completely satisfied. Frank has operated his own upholstery business for almost 40 years and the quality of his work and dedication to his craft are well known in the DC–MD–VA area. In addition, Frank is part owner and driver of Millennium Tours bus service. He has always been interested in team sports and played with many of his co-workers on the House Rockers softball team from the late 1980s to the 1990s in the Congressional Softball League. He now enjoys bowling and travels around the country participating in tournaments. Frank is, and always has been, very involved with his church, singing with the choir, performing solos, and participating in services.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I personally congratulate Frank on his retirement and thank him for all he has done for this institution. I wish Frank the best and good luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING LAWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in recognition of the Lawton Fire Department of Lawton, Michigan on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Since 1858, Lawton firefighters have bravely served their fellow village residents, working endlessly to promote the health, safety, and well-being of their community. In addition to providing protection and emergency relief services, the department has actively invested itself in the Lawton community, positively impacting those lives they seek to protect.

I am proud and fortunate to represent the citizens of Southwest Michigan because we believe in continually striving to improve our quality of life. Because of the fine work of courageous men and women at the Lawton Fire Department, Michigan is truly a better place to live.

Again, it is my honor to stand today in recognition of the Lawton Fire Department for its 150 years of outstanding and selfless service to the residents of Lawton, Michigan.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI STATEHOOD

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary of statehood.

On May 14th, 1948, David Ben-Gurion announced to the world that the State of Israel had been created. This declaration was made in accordance with the United Nations Resolution 181 which was passed in November 1947. The creation of two states was proposed, one Jewish and one Palestinian. The new State of Israel established an opportunity for Ben-Gurion and other Zionists to realize a return to the "promised land."

Although the new state would be tested immediately following its creation, its citizens, supporters and ideals would hold. Even at the conclusion of the first Arab-Israeli War, a constant barrage of state and non-state actors would seek to destroy this government. Sixty years later this battle continues, as the entire world copes with the challenging yet necessary task of respecting the beliefs of others and protecting the natural rights of all mankind.

The "land of milk and honey" is significant not only for its ability to offer refuge to a people who have been persecuted for the past 2 millennia, but to also demonstrate the global communities' determination to right wrongs and to help their fellow man. Today there are

close to 7 million individuals who inhabit Israel. Although the vast majority of those persons happen to be Jewish, there are also people who follow the Christian and Arab faiths. While there happens to be conflict currently between the Jewish and Muslim populations, the possibility of Israelis and Palestinians co-existing in peace is still feasible.

As a Member of Congress, I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Israel, to talk with those that live there and to see the success that it has become. There exists within the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio and across the United States, a strong community of individuals who are committed to supporting our close ally. I am proud to consider myself a fellow advocate and look forward to supporting the State of Israel in the future.

May the people and the government of Israel continue to enjoy their statehood and be blessed with peace.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S ROLE IN FILLING THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE AS IT RELATES TO H.R. 6022, THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FILL SUSPENSION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 6022, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act by a bipartisan vote of 385–25.

This important piece of legislation is now awaiting action by the Senate, which passed a similar bill 97–1. Hopefully this bill will be on the President's desk in the immediate future, and he will sign it into law so that American consumers can experience some relief immediately.

The purpose of the bill is to temporarily halt filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) while oil is at recordbreaking highs. It makes absolutely no sense for the Government to be buying oil at roughly \$125 a barrel and pumping it underground. While this is a modest measure to address gasoline prices, every little bit helps, as the President noted over 2 years ago. Considering that American taxpayers are paying \$9 million a day to continue filling the reserve, I think halting the purchases is more than just a "little bit."

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve was created in 1975 to respond to the first Arab oil embargo of the 1970s. Originally, the Department of Energy was provided with appropriations to purchase oil to fill the SPR, but in 1999 the situation changed, and it was announced that oil taken as a "royalty-in-kind" from production in the Gulf of Mexico would be used instead. Through the end of the last fiscal year, the Department of the Interior has provided roughly 140 million barrels of royalty-in-kind oil to fill the SPR, valued at approximately \$4.6 billion. Today, the SPR is almost 97 percent full, yet royalty-in-kind oil is still flowing into it at a rate of 70,000 barrels, worth, as stated above, nearly \$9 million per day.