

Rick has never expected anything in return for his community service, but his contributions have been recognized. Rick was inducted into the Santa Ana College Hall of Fame, honored as "Man of the Year" by Cypress College and awarded the Ethics in Business award by the Freedom Foundation. Rick received the California SBA Business Person of the Year in 2003. In 2001, the Orange County Business Journal and California State University Fullerton presented Rick with the prestigious Family Owned Business Award. In the spirit of the "America Way," Rick started a group called USA Owned/USA Made, to support companies whose products are made in the United States. Rick worked with Congress to pass a proclamation called "Try American Day," celebrated in conjunction with Labor Day. Many states and cities ratified this proclamation and recognized Rick's valuable contribution. However, to Rick, what is even more prestigious than awards or recognition is that in his personal life Rick is a husband of over 30 years to his wife Nancy and father to his two daughters, Veronica, 26, and Stephanie, 25. Rick also enjoys hobbies like wake boarding, snow boarding, being a private pilot and running as a master's track competitor.

Rick's tireless passion for American business and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Orange County, California. I am proud to call Rick a fellow community member, American and close friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his work and salute him on his 60th birthday.

HONORING OUR MEDICAL HEROES AND HEROINES ON NATIONAL NURSES' RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in awe of all the amazing work our nation's nurses accomplish—from the battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the late-hours in the local hospitals of our communities. These men and women on the frontlines of our health care system deserve our utmost praise, and in this week, we salute their herculean efforts. But in the coming months, as we ambitiously attempt to bolster and reform America's health care, let's keep their concerns and their voices at the forefront. Let's do right by them, as we should by the 45 million uninsured Americans who need our help.

The elimination of health disparities is a central goal of health reform. Minorities are more likely to be uninsured and often experience worse health outcomes. This is unacceptable and has been the case for far too long. If we do health reform right, we have a great opportunity to address the fundamentally inequitable health disparities that plague our nation. The first major step is to get everyone insured, but that is not enough. We must ensure that we have enough primary care, specialty doctors, and registered nurses to serve everyone. We must take steps to improve the health workforce and infrastructure so that insurance veritably translates into access to high-quality care. In addition, we must ensure that the millions of people who are Limited

English Proficient have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate providers and care.

The nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession. They are an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care for hospitalized patients, and are prepared to meet the different and emerging health care needs of our community. As a founding member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, with a mandate to educate Congress on all aspects of the nursing profession and how nursing issues impact the delivery of safe, quality care, I will continue to advocate on behalf of these notable professionals.

I honor registered nurse's accomplishments and efforts to improve our health care system, and we should all show our appreciation for the nation's registered nurses—not just this week but at every opportunity throughout the year.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF BASEBALL TEAM, 2009 HOY CLASSIC CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Indiana School for the Deaf Baseball Team. Last month, they were crowned the national champions at the Hoy Classic in Fremont, California.

Since the inception of this program four years ago, this was the first time that the Indiana School for the Deaf captured the championship title. I applaud the team for its exceptional performance. This was also the first time that they played on a Varsity Schedule. The team exemplified themselves at the tournament by finishing with a record of 4–1, defeating the host California School for the Deaf by 5–3.

This year's team was led by an impressive roster of talented athletes who were recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship. Pitcher Tyler Crace was named the Most Valuable Player at the event, with 16 strikeouts in nine innings. Tony Dall and Jose Mast were selected for the all-tournament team. I would also like to recognize Will Fetzer, Dylan Osbourne and Trevor Rouse as some of the top players throughout the competition.

It is important to mention that this exceptional achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of first-year Head Coach, Rusty Crace and Assistant Coach, Steve Sorse. With their unwavering support, these coaches pushed the team to reach their full potential. Additionally, the dynamic faculty, staff and student body should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding baseball team, the coaching staff and the school for their marvelous achievement in winning the Hoy Classic championship title and distinguishing themselves as one of the best baseball teams in the nation.

MARISSA BAUM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marissa Baum who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marissa Baum is an 8th grader at Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marissa Baum is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marissa Baum for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Merchant Mariners who served during World War II. Tasked with delivering troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other supplies to war theaters, Merchant Mariners suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branch of the service. Their bravery for our country deserves recognition.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 23, the "Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009." This legislation will provide certain honorably discharged U.S. Merchant Marine veterans with a monthly \$1,000 benefit.

With each passing year, there are fewer surviving Merchant Marine veterans. I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to join me in supporting H.R. 23 to give these veterans their recognition.

JOHN BADGETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud John Badgett who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. John Badgett is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by John Badgett is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and

perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to John Badgett for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during Tuesday's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted against tabling the Flake Privileged Resolution, in favor of H. Res. 413, and in favor of H. Res. 378, amended.

DANIEL BENAVIDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Benavidez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Daniel Benavidez is a senior at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Benavidez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Daniel Benavidez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. IDA MAE
DUKE RICE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to a special day in the life of a constituent of mine, Ms. Ida Mae Duke Rice.

On May 25, Ms. Rice will celebrate her 100th birthday. To help commemorate this special occasion, her friends and family are holding a celebration on June 20 at Barfield Baptist Church.

Ida Mae Duke Rice was born in Clay County, AL to Steve Morris and Zeda Eudora Duke.

She married Charlie Henry Rice on February 26, 1930 and has five children, 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Ms. Rice served as an LPN at Lineville Nursing Home and retired after 30 years of service. She is a member of New Fellowship Baptist Church.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Rice on reaching this important milestone in her life, and wish her the happiest of birthdays at this special occasion.

MEGAN BOWEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Megan Bowen who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Megan Bowen is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Megan Bowen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Megan Bowen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF
THE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
(STAAR) ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise to re-introduce the "Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act," which I believe has the potential to save many thousands of lives by strengthening the United States' response to infectious pathogens, including H1N1 influenza, that are becoming increasingly resistant to existing antimicrobial drugs (antibacterials, antivirals, antifungals, etc.).

I have been working on the issue of antimicrobial resistance for several years and it is alarming how often reports of resistant infections now appear. I do not believe the public health community simply is crying "wolf." We no longer can be complacent.

When I first introduced this bill two years ago, we were facing reports of extensively-drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) and fears of an Avian flu pandemic. Over the last few weeks, we all have followed the H1N1 influenza outbreak as we ramped up our awareness of influenza mitigation strategies and the impact of infectious pathogens. What received

less attention is the fact that H1N1 is resistant to some of the drugs in our arsenal. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue to watch the spread and evolution of this pathogen as flu season hits the southern hemisphere. Hopefully, we again will buy some time before we truly face a pandemic. But, now the possibility of a pandemic has become real to many of us. We have been forced to think about how quickly an infection can spread, especially in the age of international air travel, and the disastrous result if it were a strain of bacteria that failed to respond to our current antiviral drugs.

Another resistant infection that caught our attention over the past year is community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA). Historically, this infection was acquired during a hospital stay, but now is impacting young, healthy people and spreading in our communities. We've heard stories of high school, college and professional athletes losing their lives or careers as a result of these infections. Many of our constituents are facing serious illness and death due to MRSA infections. Sadly, this infection has become far too common, difficult to treat and has few options to fight it. It can leave individuals disfigured, if they survive. In my own state of Utah, the number of children with MRSA infections at the Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City has increased by almost 20 fold over the past two decades.

There are still more infections to worry about. We have numerous reports of our soldiers coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan with *Acinetobacter*—a resistant bacterial infection that is especially difficult to treat and the only option is a very toxic antibiotic.

Other examples of concern include vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA), an alarming development because vancomycin is the drug of last resort for treating several serious infections, and *Escherichia coli* (E.coli), which has caused outbreaks due to contamination of spinach, peanut butter, and other foods we regularly consume.

Madam Speaker, I believe strongly that this year we must take this issue seriously and ensure we have the public health infrastructure in place to both monitor and respond to these emerging drug resistant infections. The STAAR Act is the most comprehensive legislation introduced to date to address this serious and life-threatening patient safety and public health problem. We must act now to begin to reverse the alarming trend, and infectious disease experts tell me that the multi-pronged approaches contained in the STAAR Act provides our best chance to address the multiple problems that face us.

We have taken antimicrobial drug development for granted. Few of us remember medicine before the discovery of antibacterial and antiviral drugs. Antibacterial drugs in particular have allowed many medical advances, including routine invasive surgeries, organ transplants, and other procedures that otherwise would be impossible due to resulting infections. But we are falling behind in our ability to protect ourselves against infections, and we have a lot of catching up to do. Fifteen years ago, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) examined the problem of antimicrobial resistance and reported to Congress that "The impacts of antibiotic-resistant