

Hospital, University of Miami Medical School, and retired from the Miami-Dade County Health Department as supervisor of nursing in 1997.

While she was a devoted member of numerous community organizations, Mrs. McKinney DeVeaux had a special love and dedication to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Throughout her 57 years of membership, some of the leadership roles she assumed were: multi-term chairperson of the Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter's annual Ebony Fashion Fair event, advisor to the undergraduate Iota Nu Chapter at University of Miami, chairperson of the health committee and founding member of the AKA WISH Foundation. In recognition of her 50 years of committed membership, she was crowned a "Golden Soror" in 2004.

In homage to her profession and the community where she was raised (Overtown), she proudly served for 14 years as the recording secretary of the Board of Directors, Jefferson Reaves Sr. Health Center, Inc. Also, always the consummate "Rattler", she was a life member of the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University Alumni Association.

Mrs. McKinney DeVeaux remained devoted to her family, and will be missed by all who knew her. I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family—her children, Jennifer DeVeaux Robinson (Rodney) and Pierre Rutledge; sister, Barbara McKinney; brother, Robert L. McKinney, Esq.; special brother, Reverend Canon J. Kenneth Major; four grandchildren, as well as her nieces, nephews, Godchildren, and vast array of friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, in the words of her Sorority's mission to provide "service to all mankind", Mrs. McKinney DeVeaux has embodied and wholeheartedly embraced this throughout her life. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions and service she made to the betterment of Miami-Dade County and South Florida will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING VERA BRYANT OF
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Bryant of Hernando County, Florida. Vera will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Vera Bryant was born May 7, 1909, in Twin Lakes, Florida. A native Floridian, she married her sweetheart Robert Bryant and together they had two beautiful children, both girls. After finishing school, Vera worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 33 years while raising her two children.

A dedicated church member that gives her much happiness in life, Vera attends the Bethlehem Progressive Baptist Church where she is the oldest member. Today she spends much of her time visiting with her family and her church. At one time, Vera enjoyed delivering the Tampa Tribune, where she had her own paper route. Vera said she did a lot of volunteer work and was a Lilly White Convention Member and sang in the Church Choir.

Vera's proudest moments now are having time to spend with all of her grand, great- and great-great-grandchildren. She also has many wonderful memories of riding her father's horses. Vera's advice to young people today is to be sure to get a good education and make something of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Vera Bryant for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. This bill would create a commission to review and determine facts surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans during World War II.

Almost 30 years ago, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to study the circumstances which led to the detention of 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. After twenty days of hearings, testimony from 750 witnesses, and review of thousands of government and military documents, the Commission concluded that internment of Japanese Americans was the result of racism and wartime hysteria. In its report to Congress titled *Personal Justice Denied*, the Commission stated "not a single documented act of espionage, sabotage or fifth column activity was committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or by Japanese alien . . ." The Commission's findings vindicated these loyal Americans and President Ronald Reagan's signature of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 brought closure to thousands who suffered unspeakable indignities and tremendous losses. However, there remains a group who has not yet experienced the closure they deserve or obtained the justice to which they are entitled.

Between December 1941 and February 1948, approximately 2,300 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry were abducted from 13 Latin American countries and deported to internment camps in the United States. The U.S. government orchestrated and financed this operation with the intention of using these individuals as hostages in exchange for Americans held by Japan. Over 800 people, many who were second or third generation Latin Americans and had no familial or linguistic ties to Japan, were used in two prisoner of war exchanges. The remaining detainees were held in U.S. internment camps until after the end of the war. In the appendix of *Personal Justice Denied*, the Commission cited the Federal government's role in kidnapping and detaining Japanese Latin Americans, but acknowledged it had not researched documents that exist in distant archives or received official testimony from government officials or survivors.

It is for these reasons that I introduce this very important legislation. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act would create a commission to investigate and review the facts with regard to the abduction and detainment Japanese Latin Americans during World War II by the U.S. government. Composed of nine members appointed by the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President pro tempore of the Senate, the commission would be charged with holding public hearings and submitting a report of its findings and recommending appropriate remedies to Congress.

I am proud to be working with Senator DANIEL K. INOUE of Hawaii, a decorated World War II veteran and a tremendous public servant, who is also introducing an identical Senate companion measure today. Additionally, I am honored to have the indispensable support of the wonderful men and women of the Campaign for Justice and the Japanese American Citizens League. Without them this effort would lack the heart and soul essential to cross the finish line.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to reconcile our past and complete the official narrative on a troubling period in our Nation's history. As we commit ourselves to building a better America for our daughters and sons, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act.

TRIBUTE TO MURRELL MITCHELL,
SR.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Murrell Mitchell, Sr., a pillar of the community in Corbin, Kentucky, who sadly passed away on November 18, 2008 at the age of 91.

Murrell's life was a testament to his love for his community, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, his country, and the Lord. A hard worker and small business owner, Murrell was a fixture of southeastern Kentucky. In addition to his entrepreneurial efforts, Murrell also served as a member of the Knox County Kentucky School Board, as well as three terms as a Knox County Magistrate.

Murrell was also devoted to serving the Lord and working in his church, the Grace Baptist Church in Corbin Kentucky, where he was a deacon for many years. As a faithful member of the congregation for most of his life, Murrell also served as Sunday school director as well as church treasurer.

Through all of his successes, Murrell had a deep abiding love for his family. He was married to his wife, Opal, for over 70 years. Together they have been the loving parents of 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Murrell's presence as father, grandfather, deacon, and rock of the community will be sorely missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the memory of Murrell Mitchell. Although he has departed from us in body, his memory will live on in each of us

who were honored to know him. While we will miss him in this life, we know that his residence today is far better than ours is here. And we will be satisfied in that knowledge until we meet again.

HONORING BISHOP ROBERT J.
CARLSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Robert J. Carlson, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, as he celebrates the 25th anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. The Diocese is celebrating this event in honor of Bishop Carlson at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Bay City, Michigan, on January 11.

Bishop Carlson is a native of Minneapolis. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1970, for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and his Master of Divinity degree from Saint Paul Seminary. He continued his studies at Catholic University of America, receiving his Licentiate in Canon Law in 1979.

On January 11, 1984, Bishop Carlson was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for his home archdiocese. In 1994 he was appointed the Bishop of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He served at this post until Pope John Paul II directed he become the Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw. He was installed as the fifth Bishop of the Saginaw Diocese on February 24, 2005.

Currently Bishop Carlson serves as co-chair of the Mission Advisory Committee of the Institute for Priestly Formation, as a member of the Canon Law Society of America, a member of the Board of the International Dominican Foundation, as a member of Board of Sacred Heart Seminary, a member of the Board of Los Cabos Children's Foundation, a member of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors. In 2004 he founded the Messengers of Peace Religious Community in Colombia.

Bishop Carlson's pastoral letters, speeches and publications reflect his commitment to the Catholic Church, priestly formation, the sanctity of human life, and evangelizing. He has written on the Sacraments and the role of Bishops in the Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Bishop Robert J. Carlson. His motto is, "Before the Cross there is no Defense," and expresses his deep faith in Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The cross on his coat of arms represents his commitment and mission to the faithful entrusted to his custody. Bishop Carlson has devoted his life to the care and nurturing of people of the Catholic Church and all humanity. The best testament to his life's achievement is the love, respect and spiritual growth they reflect back to him.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIS "SNAKE"
MURRAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Willis "Snake" Murray, an outstanding Floridian who is one of the most unsung leaders of our Miami-Dade County community and Florida.

A native of Miami, Mr. Murray was born to Willis and Mazie Murray on October 9, 1923, in Sanford, Florida. One of the distinguished members of Booker T. Washington's Class of 1943, he went on to obtain his bachelor's and master's degree from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, and attended post-graduate studies at Barry University and University of Miami.

An avid football fan, Mr. Murray especially enjoyed attending Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and Miami Dolphins football games throughout football season.

Mr. Murray was a volunteer for the Alliance for Aging advocating for seniors, the American Cancer Society and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Youth and Elderly Against Crimes Task Force. He was also a strong advocate for seniors. Each year he participated in the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, which raises money for cancer research and programs.

Mr. Murray was a staunch believer who abided by the dictum that those who have less in life, through no fault of their own, should be helped by the government, regardless of their race, creed, age, or gender. As a community activist, Mr. Murray had a penchant for being at the forefront of African-American and other minority struggles in their quest for justice and equality. The unabashed and exemplary service demonstrated by Mr. Murray was evident in his desire for youth academic excellence and political empowerment for disenfranchised Americans. His commendable political activism has motivated countless others from all political and philosophical persuasions throughout Florida to follow his example of unrelenting defense of the "forgotten man." Moreover, his charitable actions toward others served as the quintessential embodiment of the Judeo-Christian faith.

Throughout Mr. Murray's commitment as a community activist, he remained devoted to his family. He will be missed by all who knew him. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family—his brother, James Murray; daughters, Barbara Walker and Karlar Arthur; and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. Murray's contributions to South Florida. Mr. Willis "Snake" Murray's life was a triumph. He was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of his life and his interests. He will be remembered as a true pioneer and community activist.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIKIDS
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2009, legislation to provide universal health coverage to our Nation's children.

During the campaign, President-elect Obama spoke of the need to mandate coverage to ensure that every child receives needed health care services. MediKids is the simplest, most effective means of achieving that goal. While it is critical that any reform proposal meet the special needs of children, I want to be clear that I am not suggesting we start with children or stop with children. I am looking forward to working with the new Administration and Congressional colleagues on a health reform effort for which the goal is assuring comprehensive care for everyone. I am open to other proposals and believe that we have to look across the board at various options. However, I submit that MediKids contains many elements that could be useful in the upcoming debate.

Nearly 9 million children in this country still lack health insurance coverage. The majority of these children live in families with at least one full-time worker. Often, their families are not offered coverage by their employers at all or they cannot afford the premiums. These simple, but sobering, statistics speak to the need for change. Our system is fundamentally broken when a working parent cannot get health coverage for his or her children.

Rather than reinvent the wheel, I think we should build on what works. When Congress created Medicare more than 40 years ago, our Nation's seniors were more likely to be living in poverty than any other age group. Many senior citizens were unable to afford needed medical services and unable to find health insurance in the private market, even if they had the resources. Today, as a result of Medicare's success, seniors are much less likely to be shackled by the bonds of poverty or to go without needed health care.

Sadly, children are now the group who are most likely to be living in poverty. Kids in America are nearly twice as vulnerable to poverty as adults. This travesty is morally reprehensible, and it has grave consequences for the future of our country. Our future rests on our ability to provide our children with the basic conditions to thrive and become healthy, educated, and successful adults. Poor children are often malnourished and have difficulty succeeding in school. Untreated illnesses only worsen their chance to become productive members of our economy. Healthy children are the key to our economic future.

The MediKids Health Insurance Act would create a new Federal health insurance program for children. Modeled after Medicare, MediKids would provide comprehensive benefits appropriate to children, simplified cost-sharing, prescription drug coverage and mental health parity.

Every child in America would be automatically enrolled in MediKids at birth and maintain that eligibility through age 23. The cost, adjusted for income, would be applied to the family's annual tax bill, unless they opted for