

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for S. 1793, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act.

We all know the troubling statistics. Since its inception, AIDS has claimed almost 600,000 lives in the United States. Over 1 million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS today. Recent data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest that HIV diagnoses are increasing, by as much as 15 percent in three years. As the AIDS crisis has continued year after year, it has become more and more difficult for anyone to claim that AIDS is someone else's problem.

Since 1990, the Ryan White program has helped establish a comprehensive, community-based continuum of care for uninsured and under-insured people living with HIV and AIDS, including access to primary medical care, pharmaceuticals, and other services. In New Jersey, Ryan White funding helps support the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which in 2008 provided almost 5,000 patients with needed HIV medications.

As we debate health care reform, it is important that we keep the needs of HIV/AIDS patients in mind. I have spoken out in favor of reforming Medicare Part D to work seamlessly with state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs and to ensure these patients have continuous access to their needed anti-retroviral prescriptions. These provisions are currently included in America's Affordable Health Choices Act, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to strengthen these policies for HIV/AIDS patients.

By passing S. 1793 today, Madam Speaker, we will affirm our commitment to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. We also will be affirming our dedication to sound public policy. By reauthorizing the Ryan White Act, we will give hope and a real chance for a better life to thousands of HIV/AIDS victims.

THE FOURTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH BAY FAMILY HEALTH CARE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of South Bay Family Health Care on the 40th Anniversary of its founding. Since 1969, SBFHC has provided health care to underserved residents in the South Bay region of my Congressional District, growing from a single-site family planning clinic serving 1,600 patients per year, to a system of four comprehensive health clinics serving more than 16,000 patients per year. Today, it is one of Los Angeles County's leading community health clinics and largest safety net providers to the uninsured and underinsured.

SBFHC has evolved and adapted to meet changing community needs. In the mid-1980s,

in response to the emerging HIV/AIDS crisis, it opened the first and only HIV/AIDS center in the South Bay. In 2002, it changed its model from a free clinic to a Federally Qualified Health Center with a sliding pay scale, making the clinic eligible for federal funding to expand its services and the number of people served.

Today, with a budget of \$9 million, SBFHC provides 70,000 visits per year. Its services cover a broad spectrum, covering preventative care, chronic disease management, prenatal and pediatric medicine, dental care, and social services including mental health and domestic violence prevention.

In an effort to bring service to patients, SBFHC sponsors a "Healthy Kids Express" mobile care center that provides immunizations and care for sick children at local school districts, community events and health fairs.

SBFHC also does fantastic work for minorities: 65 percent of their patients are Latino and 16 percent are African-American.

I also want to recognize the CEO of SBFHC, Jann Hamilton Lee, for her leadership and guidance to me as a member of my Medicine Cabinet—a bipartisan group of healthcare experts from my district who advise me on health policy.

My congratulations to Jann and everyone else who has proudly served the South Bay Family Health Center for 40 years of service. The residents of the South Bay—and your representative in Congress—are grateful.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LAWRENCE PARISH IN LAWRENCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceville, Illinois. On October 18, 2009, a centennial liturgy was celebrated with Bishop Edward K. Braxton acting as the celebrant and homilist. A dinner was held after the service to honor the event.

On July 20, 1909, local Catholics met at Lawrenceville City Hall hoping to form their own parish. After land was purchased, 22 families celebrated the first mass in the unfinished church. Ruth August Diver was the first parishioner to be baptized in the new church on March 5, 1911. The finished church was dedicated in October of 1911. The parish has continued to expand, including the opening of a school in 1956.

I would like to congratulate the members of St. Lawrence Parish for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 100 years of service to God and their community. I want to encourage the parish with the words of Matthew 5:16; "Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

TRIBUTE TO JIM LIPTAK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Liptak, a resident and community leader from Paso Robles, California, for his outstanding and exemplary leadership while serving as the 2009 President of the California Association of REALTORS®.

Jim has been a longtime successful leader in local real estate matters, reflecting immense enthusiasm, care, and commitment to his community. He has served the Paso Robles Association of REALTORS® in all levels of leadership and has served two terms as President since being named Realtor of the Year five times by his peers at the Paso Robles Association of REALTORS®.

Jim has also ably represented Paso Robles realtors and the Paso Robles community in the state and national association. He started his career in 1983 as a California Association of REALTORS® (C.A.R.) Director, winning an election for the position as a "Write-in Candidate." He has since served as Chair on over 5 committees and was a 1995 Chairman of the California Association of REALTORS® Legislative Committee, where he holds the record for most bills introduced in a single session, 17. In 1998 he became the Honorary Director for Life in the California Association of REALTORS®, and is the first realtor in Region 31 of the Central Coast to be named a National Association of REALTORS® Director. Since 2006, Mr. Liptak has been an Honorary Life Member by the Paso Robles Association of REALTORS®, and is a "National Ten Year Golden R" Member—President's Circle.

A true mark of leadership is the generosity of time and talents that one gives on behalf of his neighbors and communities. Jim Liptak exemplifies this time-honored tradition. I commend Jim for his service and leadership as President of the California Association of REALTORS® and wish him and his family well as he continues to serve our community.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 3792, The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009. Nearly twenty years after the enactment of the landmark Ryan White Act, Congress renewed its commitment today to provide primary medical care and treatment for uninsured or underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS. For nearly two decades, low-income Americans living with HIV/AIDS have relied on the life-saving benefits offered under this program and I am pleased to join my colleagues in reauthorizing this important legislation.

Currently, New York State is home to 120,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS—the

second highest rate of reported AIDS cases in the nation. That number includes 25,000 people who reside in Brooklyn. The Ryan White Act has been, and continues to be, a lifeline for those New Yorkers and Americans living with HIV/AIDS.

As medical costs continue to rise, the reauthorization comes at a critical time. It provides for an important five percent increase across every category of funding. Additionally, several new provisions included in the bill focus on reducing the disparities in access to health care among racial and ethnic groups who are disproportionately affected by the virus.

By passing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 yesterday with an overwhelming majority we not only restored a sense of hope and dignity for those dealing with the everyday struggles of this disease, but we also demonstrated our nation's steadfast commitment to ensuring that 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS have access to quality care and treatment.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHARLES
ANTZELEVITCH

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Charles Antzelevitch for his 25 years of service as executive director and director of research at the world renowned Masonic Medical Research Lab (MMRL) in Utica, New York.

Dr. Antzelevitch truly embodies the American dream. After immigrating to this country from Israel as a child, he worked as a cab driver in New York City and put himself through college before earning a doctorate at SUNY Upstate Medical. From there he went on to do his post doctoral work at MMRL, eventually becoming a Gordon K. Moe Scholar and Professor of Pharmacology at SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, New York. Dr. Antzelevitch has distinguished himself as an award-winning scientist, editorial board member of several leading medical journals and member of numerous national medical research committees.

Under the exceptional leadership of Dr. Antzelevitch, MMRL has excelled in its mission to improve the health and quality of life for all humankind through its discovery of genetic mutations responsible for Brugada syndrome, Long QT syndrome which is linked to sudden infant death syndrome, Short QT syndrome which is linked to sudden cardiac death syndrome, and many other cardiac-related syndromes and illnesses.

An internationally renowned authority in the field of biomedical research, Dr. Antzelevitch has received too many awards and honors to enumerate. His contributions to scientific literature include 310 original papers and book chapters, over 250 abstracts and four books. MMRL, often referred to as a "gem in the crown" of Utica, is widely recognized as one of the top research laboratories in the world working on cardiac arrhythmias.

Other initiatives of Dr. Antzelevitch and MMRL, which include free screenings and four educational programs, demonstrate an unparalleled commitment to our local community. MMRL hosts a summer fellowship program and welcomes undergraduate, predoctoral and postdoctoral students, as well as the wider scientific and medical community, to use the lab's extensive library for research and reference.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Antzelevitch for his distinguished 25-year career at MMRL and his ongoing service to our community. He is a father, mentor and friend to all who know him, and I wish him many more years of success and prosperity.

HONORING NAPA VALLEY HORSE-
MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NAPA
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa Valley Horsemen's Association on the occasion of their 70th anniversary. NVHA was organized by a dedicated group of horse lovers to promote horses as a form of recreation in the Napa Valley. On October 17th, 2009, the Association is celebrating this milestone at their clubhouse in Southwest Napa.

The Horsemen's Association has a long and storied history. NVHA held its first meeting on October 11, 1939, at the Napa Fairgrounds in the Home Economics Building. From there the club grew to 82 charter members by January 1940. On November 19, 1939, the club held its first event, consisting of races, roping, horsemanship classes and jumping.

NVHA purchased the 32 acres at its present location on Foster Road in Napa in 1948. The site was a working dairy, and upon purchase the club members refurbished the milking barn to operate as a clubhouse and spent the next few years holding fundraisers to build the arenas and horse barns.

NVHA has been involved in supporting local equestrian events throughout its history and continues to do so today. The club boasts members who participate in all disciplines of riding, along with many members who simply enjoy horses. In addition to offering numerous shows, cattle events and speed events, NVHA also hosts educational clinics aimed at improving training, feeding and the keeping of local horses. In recent years, NVHA has partnered with the Bureau of Land Management to host adoption events for mustangs and burros. The club boasts an active youth group and also gives out annual scholarships to four local high school students who are studying equestrian or agricultural topics.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor the Napa Valley Horsemen's Association's illustrious history and numerous contributions to equestrianism in the Napa Valley. The Association continues to improve and thrive today, and I commend past

and current board members for their commitment to this cause.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MINNIE HILL
MCCLLEASE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on October 25, 2009 friends and family will gather to honor Mrs. Minnie Hill McCleese, a retired teacher who has had a tremendous impact on North Carolina's First Congressional District. On this special occasion, Mrs. McCleese's loved ones will join her to pay special tribute to this extraordinary woman.

Born on December 17, 1908, Mrs. McCleese will soon celebrate her 101st birthday. After graduating from State Normal High School in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, she earned a bachelors degree from Shaw University and later a masters degree from New York University.

Retiring on June 4, 1971 after 37 years, Mrs. McCleese served as a mathematics teacher at Elizabeth City's P. W. Moore High School and at Northeastern High School. To this day, the Cooper/McCleese Scholarship is presented in her honor annually at Northeastern High School to a student who excels in mathematics.

During her career, Mrs. McCleese earned the respect of her students, fellow teachers and the entire community. She fully dedicated herself to teaching because she cared so very deeply about the education of children. And, as we all know, good teachers like Mrs. McCleese make a remarkable difference in the lives of their students.

During her extraordinary teaching career, Mrs. McCleese inspired countless students. She made an undeniable impression on every student, and many of them went on to do great things. Among her students were Superior Court Judge J.C. Cole, cardiologist Dr. Lindsey White, retired principal and Pasquotank County Commissioner Cecil Perry, Virginia Beach Health Director Dr. Venita Newby-Owens, retired U.S. Army General Hawthorn Proctor, cardiologist Dr. Kermit Brown, retired educator Eddie Davis and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Superintendent Linwood Williams. These accomplished people represent just a few of the many great students Mrs. McCleese helped inspire to reach their full potential.

Mrs. McCleese has also been a highly active member of Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. McCleese. She is truly a remarkable person deserving of our deepest gratitude for the enormous contributions that she made in the lives of children in eastern North Carolina and to the entire community.