

by then, the disease is so advanced that another fracture is extremely likely.

While there is currently no cure for osteoporosis, there are effective and inexpensive techniques both to detect and prevent. A bone density screening is non-invasive, painless, and reliable. If osteoporosis is diagnosed early, drug therapy can reduce the risk of hip and spine fractures by 50 percent. The screening test costs, on average, between \$59 and \$300—compared to the more than \$35,000 it would cost to repair a hip fracture.

I believe that when we can improve health and save money at the same time, we should do just that. By requiring private health insurance plans to cover bone density screenings for the men and women who are most at risk for osteoporosis, we can prevent millions of painful hard-to-treat, costly, and completely unnecessary injuries.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF FLOYDADA, TX

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the City of Floydada, TX, on the occasion of its centennial celebration. This 100 year milestone was commemorated by the dedication of the "Centennial Plaza" on October 2, 2009.

Floydada was officially incorporated in October 1909 with a population of approximately 500. In 1910, the Santa Fe Railroad arrived in town, sparking the growth and development of this community. Floydada has seen great changes over the past years from the building of new public facilities and fire stations to meeting the challenges of hard times in the 1930s.

Throughout its 100-year history, farming and ranching, as well as a sense of community and fellowship, have sustained Floydada.

Today, the Floydada community remains a stronghold for agriculture and authentic country living and has earned the title of "Pumpkin Capital of the U.S."

I am proud to recognize Floydada, the P.R.I.D.E. Committee, the Centennial Committee and over 4,000 residents of the city on the 100th anniversary of their wonderful community.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
BETTY J. WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a tireless leader in the community.

Born and raised in South Carolina, Betty Williams began her educational pursuits at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She then received her law degree from New York Law School. Always one to know the true importance of education, Ms. Williams obtained a Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University.

Betty Williams was elected to Kings County, Brooklyn Civil Court in November of 2000. On March 31, 2009, Justice Williams as appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice by the Chief Administrative Judge of New York State, Ann Pfau. She continues to preside over the Misdemeanor Brooklyn Treatment Center, affording long-term substance abusers the opportunity to receive treatment instead of incarceration.

Justice Williams serves in various capacities as Co-Chairperson of the National Association of Women's Judges (NAWJ) Women in Prison Committee, attending the NAWJ's Fourth Annual Meeting with the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and National Women Leaders of the Judiciary, Chairperson of the New York State Chapter of the NAWJ Legislative Subcommittee and the past chairperson of the Chapter's Women in Prison Committee. Justice Williams is also a board member of the Downtown Brooklyn Waterfront Local Development Corporation, the Community Advisory Board of the Bayview Correctional Facility, and the New York Chapter of the NAWJ.

Justice Williams is a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Brooklyn Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Kings County Criminal Bar Association, the Judicial Friends, the World Community of Social Workers, Church Women United, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the St. Paul Community Baptist Church.

In recognition of her loyalty and service, Justice Williams has received numerous awards, including the National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award, the Whitney M. Young Jr. Equal Justice for Children Service Award, the New York City Department of Education Leadership Award, the New York Law School Black Students Association Outstanding Achievement Award, and the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Alumni Association's Julia S. Brook Achievement Award. Justice Williams was also the first woman in New York State to be awarded the Abraham Markoff Scholarship Award from the New York State Bar Association Workmen's Compensation Division.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this selfless and faithful public servant, Honorable Betty J. Williams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on October 20, 2009, I missed the following rollcall votes due to a longstanding commitment away from Washington:

1. Rollcall vote No. 790, H.R. 3763, To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for an exclusion from Red Flag Guidelines for certain businesses;

2. Rollcall vote No. 791, H.R. 3319, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Gulling Street in Portola, California, as the "Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery Post Office Building";

3. Rollcall vote No. 792, H. Res. 558, Supporting the increased understanding of, and interest in, computer science and computing ca-

reers among the public and in schools, and to ensure an ample and diverse future technology workforce through the designation of National Computer Science Education Week.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on all matters.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 772 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to HR. 3689); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 773 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to HR. 3476); and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 774 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 659).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber on October 15, 2009 because I was in my district with Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood reviewing an important community investment. On rollcall Nos. 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, and 789, had I been present, I would have voted "yea," and "no" on 783.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR
GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY,
JR. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL
GUARD RETENTION AND
COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr. District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act for technical reasons. I introduced this bill a month after the heartbreaking collision of two Red Line Metro trains here in the District of Columbia that took the lives of 9 area residents, 7 from the District, including a local hero, Major General David F. Wherley, Jr. I originally had introduced the District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act in May of this year, but after the Metro tragedy I said at the Wherleys' memorial service that I would rename this bill in honor of General Wherley, who not only served his country all his adult life and never forgot the men and women who served under him at home or at war, but was particularly attentive to the residents of the District of Columbia, especially the city's most troubled youth. Thereafter, Congressman José

SERRANO, chair of the Appropriations Financial Services subcommittee, was good enough to offer this renaming in his appropriations bill and to appropriate the funds without authorization this year and in prior years.

Under General Wherley's command, the D.C. National Guard deployed several of its units in the Global War on Terrorism. General Wherley himself served courageously in both Iraq and Afghanistan, but at home he spent hours with me figuring out ways to get funds for programs for the District's children. We were always successful because he would show up, not only in my office, but wherever he was needed to go and get funds or to do service.

General Wherley was a full-service leader. He not only commanded the D.C. National Guard; he worked closely with me and with city officials on programs for our city, its disadvantaged youth, and on keeping our Guard competitive as a premier force at home as well as abroad. He became one of us when he and his wife, Anne, decided to purchase a co-op in Southeast, D.C., in the Capitol Hill community where they participated as hometown residents. Anne, who sadly also was killed in the train collision, was his high school sweetheart. At their joint memorial service, I only half-jokingly said that she did everything with him but run the D.C. Guard, because she was his helpmate in every aspect of his full and fruitful life.

As I highlighted when I originally introduced this bill earlier this session, the education incentives in my bill serve not only to encourage high quality recruits, but, when appropriated, have had the important benefit of helping the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence because this funding helps equalize an important benefit compared with what is offered by Guard units in surrounding jurisdictions, which also are open to them.

A strong D.C. National Guard, able to attract the best soldiers is especially important, given the dual mission of the D.C. National Guard to protect the federal presence as well as hometown D.C. This unique responsibility distinguishes the D.C. National Guard from any other National Guard and accounts for the generosity of the Appropriations Committee in the past. However, while the appropriators treat funding for the D.C. National Guard as a programmatic request, under past administrations, the Office of Management and Budget has contended that these funds are earmarks, putting them in jeopardy for consistent funding. It therefore is imperative that this important educational incentive be authorized appropriately to ensure its permanent sustainability. That is what this bill does today.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION
ACT**

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Pet Safety and Protection Act—legislation that I believe is essential to protect family pets, bring our nation's research policies into the 21st century, and end the un-

necessary and illegal abuse of cats and dogs that's widespread in the Class B dealer system, which provides a number of animals to biomedical research labs.

Class B dealers are licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to acquire animals from "random sources," including individuals who claim to have bred and raised the animals, but oftentimes haven't actually done so. Then the dogs and cats are sold to labs across the country that conduct important biomedical research.

Most scientists agree that animals with certain genetic characteristics or medical conditions are necessary for some types of medical research. So-called random sources are often the best sources for such animals. Unfortunately, the Class B dealer system that was set up to address this need has been plagued by widespread and flagrant violations of the Animal Welfare Act—including complaints that family pets have been swept up and sent to labs and used in biomedical research.

While USDA has tried to monitor Class B dealers and make sure these laws are followed, it simply has never had the resources to ensure the dealers' compliance. USDA's efforts, have, however, resulted in a number of investigations that forced many bad dealers out of the business. Today, 7 of the 10 remaining licensed Class B dealers are being investigated for alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act. An additional dealer has had his license suspended for 5 years.

That record should give anyone an idea of the magnitude of the problems that exist in the current Class B dealer program. If anyone still doubts the need for action, I urge them to watch a 2006 HBO program documenting in graphic, disturbing detail the inhumane and illegal treatment of animals by Class B dealers. This remarkable documentary contains video footage shot undercover in a Class B dealer's facility. Among the abuses documented in this film are overcrowded cages, rotten food, food contaminated with feces, frozen drinking water, dogs with serious untreated injuries and diseases, and live dogs caged with the carcasses of dead dogs. This investigation also documented the beating, strangulation, and shooting of dogs by a Class B dealer.

I have been working for a number of years to pass legislation that would change the way animals with random source characteristics are acquired for biomedical research. This legislation, the Pet Safety and Protection Act, would prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by Class B dealers for experimentation. Its goal is to stop the illegal supply of dogs and cats to laboratories—as was intended when the Animal Welfare Act was first adopted by Congress in 1966. The Pet Safety and Protection Act also provides an alternative to Class B dealers for acquiring such animals. Research labs could acquire them from Class A dealers, from certain publicly owned and operated animal pounds, and through donations from people who have owned the animal for at least a year. I believe that this law would end the abuses running rampant in the Class B dealer system and make the process for acquiring animals necessary for medical research far more humane.

This legislation has the strong support of the Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society of the United States.

In previous years, this bill has been derailed by concerns that it might prevent or delay life-

saving biomedical research. Consequently, the 110th Congress directed the National Academies to examine the issue and determine whether the Class B dealer system should be continued. Earlier this summer, the National Academies released its report on the Class B dealer system. The National Academies concluded that:

Although random source dogs and cats represent a very small percentage of animals used in biomedical research, this small number is not commensurate with their potential value, and it is desirable to assure continued access to animals with random source qualities. This access can be accomplished with existing alternative mechanisms other than Class B dealers and can be assured with additional effort. The Committee thus determined that Class B dealers are not necessary for supplying dogs and cats for NIH-funded research.

I believe that the National Academies study puts to rest any remaining concerns about the desirability of eliminating the Class B dealer system.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me reiterate my belief that enactment of the Pet Safety and Protection Act is necessary to end the inhumane and illegal treatment of animals acquired and sold by Class B dealers, protect families' pets from being used for biomedical research without their permission, and achieve those goals without hindering essential biomedical research. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this long overdue legislation.

**NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH**

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, which aims to bring awareness to the nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect, affecting 3,000 pregnancies every year. New data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, reported this spring, indicates the number of Americans with spina bifida is actually 154,000—double what was previously thought. According to the Delaware Health Statistics Center, approximately one out of every fifty-six babies born in Delaware with birth defects suffers from spina bifida. Spina bifida occurs within the first month of pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column that subsequently impacts nearly every organ system. People with spina bifida face a host of complications, such as physical, developmental, educational and vocational challenges, among others.

The National Institution of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the NIH supports research on neural tube defects. Studies have shown the addition of folic acid (0.4 mg of folic acid daily) to the diet of women of child bearing age may significantly reduce the incidence of neural tube defects. An estimated 70 percent of neural tube defects, including spina bifida, are preventable through consumption of folic acid prior to pregnancy, and National Spina Bifida Awareness Month plays a critical role in conveying this prevention message to the public. As a 2005 study uncovered, the