

their only child, a son Jay was born, and Irv took on one of the great roles of his life as a parent. He was a loving role model to Jay, who called him his most admired person. Just three years after Jay was born, Irv was admitted to the California Bar Association and he spent the next 30 years as a respected practicing attorney in both New York and California.

Irv's competitive nature and enduring spirit compelled his interests throughout his life. He had a passion for sports and was a dedicated Los Angeles Lakers fan. He also held a deep-seated interest in politics and closely followed elections and the political process. In the recent midterm election cycle, Irv made use of the latest technology to keep track of races across the country by following the elections on his new Apple iPad device. Each election cycle, Irv lent his support to candidates he felt would best serve his local community as well as the country he was so proud of.

Later in life, Irv's most rewarding experiences came from caring for his ailing wife during her ten-year battle with Alzheimer's. It was during the time he cared for Harriet that Irv's true nature shone through. His love, coupled with his optimism and interminable selflessness, provided comfort to Harriet, to Jay, to their family and to their many friends affected by Harriet's condition.

Irv had a genuine love for life and humor about every aspect of it. He was the most positive person I've ever known, a man who demonstrated very clearly what he believed in by how he lived. He was a man of integrity and intelligence, grace and goodness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere condolences to Jay Gellert, the light of Irv's life and the son of sons. In Irv's passing, we've lost a great friend and patriot whose dedication and service made our nation a better place. We mourn his passing, but take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy lives on through the wisdom he shared, through the humor and keen observations he displayed, and through all the people he touched throughout his long and extraordinary life.

RECOGNIZING CHAUNCEY POSTON

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Chauncey Poston to the City of Grass Valley, California.

Council Member Poston has a long history of service to others, beginning with his time with the United States Navy serving in Vietnam and Guam, following which he returned home to California where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from California State University, Humboldt. Since 1978, Chauncey has lived in Nevada County, where he has served as President of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, as a member of the Grass Valley Planning Commission and the Grass Valley Traffic Safety Review Committee and since 2006, as a member of the Grass Valley City Council. Chauncey is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to our community, including his work to ensure the

fiscal solvency of the City's infrastructure programs, facilitating the cooperation between local government, businesses and interest groups and working to address each issue the City has faced as it has grown: from traffic congestion to public safety and economic development. It is a remarkable statement of Council Member Poston's service that every part of our community, from businesses to fine and performing arts groups to environmental advocates, felt they were well represented by his efforts.

Grass Valley City Administrator Dan Holler described Chauncey well: "Throughout his years on the City Council he was dedicated to building a better community by listening to residents and businesses, by being involved in civic organizations, by making hard decisions and by focusing on the long-term vision of the City of Grass Valley." Madam Speaker, in a time where localities across our country are struggling to find competent and effective leaders, Council Member Chauncey Poston has served as a fine example of the culture of service that ought to be reflected in all elected officials, and it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of that service.

COMMENDING BRO. STUART TOMS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commend Bro. Stuart Toms upon the occasion of his retirement from the Sweetwater Baptist Church. His unwavering dedication and service to Jackson Parish is admirable and deserving of our appreciation.

At a young age, Bro. Stuart began his impressive list of endeavors. In 1959, he was named class valedictorian of Quitman High School. He went on to further his education at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU), which today is known as the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Here, Bro. Stuart excelled as a point guard on the basketball team. In 1961-1962, he helped direct his team to their first league title in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). He was named 1963 All-GSC First Team and was inducted into the NLU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

After graduating from NLU, Bro. Stuart continued sharing his love of basketball as a high school coach. In this capacity, he also worked as a math teacher and principal until he retired from the school system in 1984. His talents on the sidelines matched his impressive skills on the court proven by the numerous accolades he earned for his coaching abilities. At his high school alma mater, he coached back-to-back Class B State Championship basketball teams in 1970 and 1971. Among his honors, Bro. Stuart was named Class B Coach of the Year for the State of Louisiana in 1970, inducted into the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989 and inducted into the Jackson Parish Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Bro. Stuart commenced his career service to the Lord when he was ordained as a Baptist minister in October 1983. Following his or-

dination, he began as the pastor of Sweetwater Baptist Church where he has continued to serve the congregation for the past 27 years. Through the years, he has addressed numerous revivals, presided over many weddings and funerals and has been on two international mission trips.

Beyond his professional career, Bro. Stuart has been married for 39 years to Johnette Pardue Toms. They are the loving parents of Stuart "Stu" Toms, Jr., Dr. Catherine Lucas and Mrs. Julie Nelson, and the proud grandparents of Ty and Kale Toms, Lily Lucas and Andrew Nelson.

I have been fortunate to have attended his worship services for several years. This truly gracious man is a friend to many, and it is his connection and involvement in his community for which we should all strive to model. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bro. Stuart Toms. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL L. KERLEY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on December 31, 2010, Michael L. Kerley, Esq. will retire from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors after 41 years of dedicated service.

It is a rarity in our Nation's Capital to find someone who has worked in one place for more than 10 years. For Mike to have been with NAIFA for over four decades is a tremendous achievement and a testament to his devotion and his character.

Many of us in Washington know Mike as a passionate advocate for the life insurance industry and those individual agents who work tirelessly to help Americans take the steps necessary to protect their loved ones and their employees from financial disaster in the wake of life's inevitable risks. Members on both sides of the aisle have had the pleasure of working with Mike and know him to be a man of high integrity and sincerity.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on an incredibly successful career and wishing him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 626 on, H.R. 4994, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments, The Medicare & Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 Agree to Senate Amendment, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 627 on, H.R. 6412, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass, Access to Criminal History Records for State Sentencing Commissions Act of

2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

**MEDICARE AND MEDICAID
EXTENDERS ACT OF 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4994, the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act, which would provide a one year extension for Medicare reimbursement rates for physician services.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established a new way to determine Medicare physician payments: the Sustainable Growth Rate, SGR, formula. Since 2002, this formula has called for an automatic decrease in Medicare physician payments each year, potentially limiting physician access for Medicare patients. The formula goes beyond Medicare and also affects TRICARE, the insurance plan for active and retired military personnel and their families, and its reimbursements for civilian physicians.

According to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, there is a broad consensus that this physician payment formula is flawed. These parts of the Balanced Budget Act should not have been passed in the first place and should be repealed and rewritten anew. The health reform legislation passed by the House of Representatives last year, which I supported, included a provision that would have repealed and replaced the SGR formula with a new Medicare physician payment plan. Unfortunately, the final health reform bill that was signed into law did not include this provision, which would have been a permanent solution to the SGR formula.

Unless Congress acts, this formula would lead to a 25 percent cut in doctor's payments in 2011, discouraging many doctors from continuing to accept Medicare patients.

The Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act would freeze the current rates for physician services through December 31, 2011, giving Congress time to work on a permanent solution. Further, this piece of legislation would extend the 5 percent increase in Medicare payments for mental health providers that is set to expire at the end of 2010. This provision would expand access to mental health care for millions of Medicare patients.

Additionally, this bill would extend funding for the special diabetes program through 2013. Without this bill, the special diabetes program, which funds 35 percent of all Federal research on Type I diabetes and supports research and prevention diabetes programs for Native Americans and Alaska Natives would expire at the end of 2011.

This bill is completely paid for by making small changes to the health reform law.

I am frustrated by these continuing short-term extensions. This is unfair to physicians who must plan their office budgets and unfair to patients who face unnecessary anxiety about the availability of the doctors on whom they depend. I will continue to advocate for legislation that eliminates the broken SGR for-

mula and replaces it with a system that fairly compensates physicians for treating Medicare patients. Until we have a new system, we must pass this one-year fix to ensure that American seniors and military families have the access to their physicians.

**HONORING J. DAVID COLFAX OF
MENDOCINO COUNTY**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the civic accomplishments and dedicated public service of J. David Colfax who has served on the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years.

As supervisor, educator and exemplary citizen his service has benefitted the ruggedly beautiful Mendocino County in northern California where he has lived with his wife Micki since 1973. He has served on many boards, committees and organizations including the Mendocino County Office of Education, First 5 Mendocino, the Economic Development and Finance Corporation, the North Coast Railroad Authority, the Criminal Justice Board Standing committee and the Local Agency Formation Committee.

David and Micki raised four sons whom they homeschooled on their Shining Moon ranch, where they built their own house and raised award winning goats. Their children went on to such universities as Harvard and Yale and all are working in professions that give back to others. David and Micki authored the book Home Schooling for Excellence which continues to inspire. And they wrote Hard Times in Paradise about their transition from their urban lives in the eastern United States to their rural ranch outside of Boonville not far from the Pacific Ocean.

During his three terms as a Mendocino County Supervisor, David has represented his geographically diverse district that ranges from the coast to 4,000-foot ridges to valleys and includes at least five watersheds. He has won the support of constituents who are entrepreneurs, fishermen and women, winemakers, brewers and mavericks of many persuasions. With a college professor style and animated discourse, David Colfax has served with passion and dedication.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, David Colfax has earned the admiration and respect of his peers, his community and his family. He is a friend and colleague whose legacy and contributions are long lasting in Mendocino County. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor J. David Colfax.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
BLANDINA**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Blandina, a resident of Brick Township, New Jersey and dedicated

member of the community. On October 30, 2010, Mr. Blandina retired from his position as Manager of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in Lakewood, New Jersey. He is also recognized for his work with various political organizations in Ocean County, including the Brick Township Democratic Municipal Committee where he serves as Chairman. Today, I applaud Mr. Blandina, as his achievements should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Blandina began his professional career as a Special Police Officer with the Brick Township Police Department in 1983. He valiantly served the constituents of Brick Township for seven years. In conjunction with his service as Special Police Officer, from 1985 through December 1999, Mr. Blandina served in the Tax Assessor's Office. His outstanding abilities and commitment were evident as he soon rose to the position of Principal Assessing Clerk. After approximately fifteen years of service to the Tax Assessor's Office, Mr. Blandina soon accepted a position with the Administration Department where he assisted constituents with various local issues. His responsibilities also included coordinating media related events for the Township of Brick. During his tenure, Mr. Blandina also spent summers working in the Recreation Department, specifically assisting the Township Recycling Program. In June 2007, Mr. Blandina accepted a position as Manager of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in Lakewood, New Jersey. Throughout his professional experience, Mr. Blandina's generosity has undoubtedly touched many lives and has helped countless people throughout central New Jersey.

Mr. Blandina is also a valued member of various local and political organizations. Since 1983, he has proudly served on the Brick Township Democratic Committee, eighteen of those years as Municipal Chairman. He has also served as Democratic Finance Committee Chairman and has dedicated his time to assisting the Ocean County Young Democrats. Similarly, Mr. Blandina has assisted with the Ocean County Columbus Day Parade Committee, one of the largest parades and ethnic festivals in the state of New Jersey. His other affiliations include the Ocean County Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, The Girls Scouts of the Jersey Shore Awards Reception Committee, Brick Township Democratic Club, among others. Mr. Blandina continues to mentor, exemplifying confident leadership and management skills.

As a result of his outstanding service, Mr. Blandina has been the recipient of numerous awards. He has received Brick Township Democratic Club's "1999 Democrat of the Year" award and the Columbia Civic League of Ocean County's "1999 Man of the Year" award. He has also been the recipient of the Heritage Festival Ball Committee's "2003 Outstanding Ethnic Leader" award and Brick UNICO Chapter's "2004 Italian American of the Year" award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in acknowledging Mr. Blandina's multiple years of service to the Ocean County community. His dedication and commitment are positive examples of what steadfast determination and hard work can accomplish.