

used in everyday life at worksites and in community settings. This important legislation is the minimum necessary to address this major health care crisis. Already, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight or obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., which is 1.7 million each year, and 60 percent of U.S. medical care expenses annually. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the United States was more than \$117 billion in 2000. Currently, an estimated 300,000 deaths per year are related to obesity.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005. National data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor doubling the percentage of overweight youth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now, before entirely preventable health conditions, that often begin in children, overwhelm the nation's health care system.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JACK DAVIDSON

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kansas University Professor John P. [Jack] Davidson, who died on January 10th.

Jack Davidson, along with his wife Mary, was a consistent voice for enlightened, progressive leadership in Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas. I was proud to have him as a constituent and very much appreciated his thoughtful advice on many of the pending issues of the day. Jack was a candidate for the Kansas Board of Education in 1998, the same year I first was a candidate for the U.S. Congress, and he later served a term as an elected member of the Lawrence U.S.D. No. 497 School Board. Jack was a longtime, dedicated Democratic Party activist whose dedication, hard work and creativity will be missed by all who knew him and worked with him through the past several decades. I am pleased to include with this tribute an obituary for Jack that appeared in the Lawrence Journal World.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to pay tribute to a Kansan who worked tirelessly to make his community, his nation and the world a better place.

[From the Lawrence Journal World, Jan. 12, 2010]

Jack Davidson (John P. Davidson) died at home in Lawrence on January 10. A memorial service is planned at the Ecumenical Christian Center on Feb. 15.

He was born on July 22, 1924, in Los Angeles, the son of John Pirnie Davidson and Istalia Rhine.

After graduating from Glendale High School, Jack followed his interests in rock-

etry and science to the University of California, Berkeley.

From 1943 to 1946, he served in the Army Signal Corps in the European Theater of Operations until he was honorably discharged as a first sergeant.

Returning to Berkeley, he graduated from the University of California in 1948, with highest honors in physics.

As a graduate student at Washington University in St. Louis, he worked with Mary Rieser and others to organize the Student Committee for the Admission of Negroes. Although most students supported that effort, Arthur Holly Compton, the Chancellor, declined to challenge community traditions at that time. Jack and Mary were married in September 1949.

Jack received his doctorate in 1952, working under Eugene Feenberg. He did postgraduate work at Columbia University and eventually published more than 40 research papers, a monograph, and encyclopedia entries.

He taught at the Brazilian Center for Physical Research in Rio, and at the Joint Establishment for Nuclear Energy Research in Lillestrom, Norway. His research for the Norwegian merchant marine on the possibility of outfitting the fleet with nuclear reactors included the possibility that the reactor core might breach containment and melt down through the hull. This was the first use of the term "meltdown" in nuclear reactor literature.

He taught and did research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute through 1966, and after that at the University of Kansas. He was chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from 1977 to 1989. He also taught at Tsing Hua University in Taiwan in the summer of 1969.

Jack Davidson led summer camps in astronomy for high school students for many years. He is a member of the American Astronomical Society, the American Physical Society, and the Kansas Academy of Sciences.

After his retirement in 1996, he served on the USD 497 School Board from 1999 to 2003. He was also active in local Democratic Party politics and in flying clubs.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Duncan Davidson. He is survived by his wife, Mary Davidson, of the home, and by four sons, John Pirnie Davidson III and his wife, Shirley Schaeffer, Scarsdale, New York; Robert Kenneth Davidson and his wife, Monica Davidson, Ottawa, KS; Tom Davidson and his wife, Diane Davidson, Lexington, MA; and Jim Davidson, Lawrence, KS; and by six grandchildren, Jessica, Julia, Anna, Nathan, Owen, and Alice.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Ecumenical Christian Center, 1204 Oread.

RESOLUTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I introduce a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

Whereas one in every five Americans struggles with some sort of disability, be it intellectual, physical or otherwise, and the need for inclusion of individuals with disabilities is a family, community and national priority;

Whereas a similar ratio exists in the Jewish community, with over 1 million Jewish individuals living with a form of disability;

Whereas individuals with disabilities face significant disadvantages in educational and employment opportunities;

Whereas 70 percent of individuals with disabilities are unemployed or significantly underemployed;

Whereas special education and related programming do not address underlying needs for appropriate training to lead to greater independence and employment;

Whereas Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities, and its parent organization, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, is dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community;

Whereas Yachad provides programming for individuals with disabilities and their families to foster inclusion in communal happenings and assists in placing individuals with disabilities in employment;

Whereas Yachad and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America are cosponsoring North American Inclusion Month in February to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of individuals with disabilities, and the need for increased employment opportunities, better special education and increased inclusion of these individuals on the family, communal and national levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

NONNIE BURNS—A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, when we will be in session I assume, an excellent organization known as Discovering Justice will present the Champion of Justice Award to a great advocate of fairness, Nonnie Burns. Nonnie Burns, I should say at the outset, is an old friend of many years, going back to the days when she was a strong supporter of mine when I first ran for the State Legislature in the Beacon Hill section of Boston in 1972. Since then, she has gone on to an extraordinarily distinguished career, first as an extremely respected judge in the Massachusetts trial courts, and then as the state's Commissioner of Insurance, a position from which she has since retired.

Throughout her career as an attorney, judge and commissioner, Nonnie Burns has exemplified the legal profession at its best—namely in a commitment to seeing that justice is done for all. It is entirely appropriate that Discovering Justice, housed I should note in the Federal Courthouse in Boston named for our beloved late colleague Joe Moakley, is honoring her. Discovering Justice educates young people about the justice system and what they can do to make sure that it functions as it should. They run a particularly large program called Children Discovering Justice, which Nonnie Burns inspired and which she has championed. The program for children in grades 1–5 is taught in 25% of the public schools in Boston.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Nonnie Burns a friend and grateful for the advice I have been able to get from her over the years. In particular, during her tenure as Insurance Commissioner, she was of significant value to those of us on the Financial Services Committee in her thoughtful and prompt responses to questions we had affecting insurance policy. I congratulate Discovering Justice for recognizing her value and presenting her with this award, which, as I noted, I will not be able to note in person because I will be here on the floor when the event goes forward.

HONORING RALPH L. FLETCHER

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ralph L. Fletcher, the mayor of Lakeland, a city in my 12th Congressional District of Florida. Ralph has worked tirelessly to represent the best interests of the citizens of Lakeland. Moreover, as a small business owner, he has successfully run his Fletcher Printing Company and helped form the successful real estate company, Arch Inc.

"Buddy" Fletcher enjoyed building one-on-one relationships with the citizens of Lakeland. As his deputy city manager, Tony Delgado told the Lakeland Ledger, Monday mornings became Buddy Time—where the mayor would share with him all of the complaints and suggestions he had gathered from residents of Lakeland over the weekend. No task was too small or big for Mr. Fletcher, and he was dedicated to making sure that the issue was addressed properly.

Mr. Fletcher truly is Lakeland's own. He first attended Lakeland High School and then later pursued his education even further at Florida Southern College. Mr. Fletcher first served as one of Lakeland's City Commissioners from 1989 to 1992. He was then elected as mayor of Lakeland in 1993 as has served in that office ever since.

When he first decided to run for office, his wife suggested that running a campaign only on economic development would not be sufficient. However, during his tenure as mayor he helped bring in Watkins Motor Lines and the headquarters of the grocery chain Publix downtown to add jobs in the city. Always with an eye for the long term benefits to Lakeland, Fletcher is remembered by his admirers for improved economic development, city beautification and the restoration of parks.

Fletcher has been well renowned for his accessibility to residents. He instructed his staff to give out his cell phone number to any resident who wanted to reach him personally. People he has golfed with had several anecdotes about taking weekend calls out on the course. A reporter once asked him how many hours a week he dedicated to job. Fletcher was baffled by this question because he considered himself always on duty from when he woke up at 4:30 a.m. until he went to sleep.

In 1998, he was recognized for his volunteer service earning the Sun 'n Fun Chairman of the Board Award. The Sun 'n Fun organization is a volunteer group focused on aviation education and running the Florida Air Museum.

In 2001, he earned the Jere Annis Leadership Award. These awards are granted to

those who have graduated from the Lakeland Leadership Program—which has provided consistent leadership in enhancing quality of life and cohesion in the Lakeland community.

Mr. Fletcher truly is a great leader in the community and his extensive volunteer efforts reflect that. In February of 2004 he earned the Distinguished Citizen of the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America for outstanding leadership. In May of 2009, he earned the University of South Florida Polytechnic Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to USF Polytechnic and service to the community.

Mr. Fletcher looks forward to spending his retirement with his devoted wife of 57 years, Weetsie.

Lakeland City Commissioner Dean Boring had this to say of Fletcher, "He's been Lakeland's No. 1 cheerleader, and he'll never stop doing that. If you cut Buddy Fletcher, Lakeland would pour out. He lives, sleeps, eats and drinks Lakeland."

IN RECOGNITION OF FAMILIES FLU VACCINATION DAY AND FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Families Flu Vaccination Day and Families Fighting Flu. Influenza is a serious disease that kills nearly 100 children younger than five years of age every year in the United States. In fact, more children die from the flu than from chicken pox, whooping cough, and measles combined. The flu is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract. With the recent development of H1N1, a deadlier strain of the flu, it is more important now than ever to vaccinate our children and educate the American public. Indeed, more than 240 children in the United States have died from the H1N1 virus.

I commend the efforts of Families Fighting Flu, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization of families who have experienced firsthand the death of a child or have had a child experience severe medical complications from seasonal or H1N1 influenza. Families Fighting Flu and its medical advisors are dedicated to educating people about the severity of influenza and the importance of vaccinating children against the flu every year. The members of Families Fighting Flu have suffered terrible personal losses as result of the virus. We are grateful that they are sharing their personal tragedies so that others will not have to suffer such loss. Influenza is unpredictable, but we know that the more people who are vaccinated, the less likely the disease will spread.

Every year in the United States more than 20,000 children under the age of five are hospitalized due to influenza. Additionally, children are two-to-three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu because of their less developed immune systems. Because the flu vaccine is typically 60 to 90 percent effective when administered to children, getting an annual flu vaccination is an easy way to help stop the spread of the virus.

This week is National Influenza Vaccination Week, a national observance that was estab-

lished to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as foster greater use of the flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all children 6 months through 18 years of age get vaccinated against the flu every year. In addition, the CDC recommends that all contacts and caregivers of children from birth to age five should be vaccinated.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Families Fighting Flu. This non-profit organization is determined to help prevent the tragedy of losing another child by encouraging annual flu vaccinations for all children. I look forward to working with my colleagues to support Families Flu Vaccination Day and make influenza immunization for children a national health priority.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday evening and today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote 1, "nay" on rollcall vote 2 and "yea" on rollcall votes 3, 4 and 5.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Military Construction—Army National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nevada National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2460 Fairview Dr., Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: \$2,000,000. Funding will be used for wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects at facilities and training sites operated by the Nevada National Guard.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Military Construction—Air National Guard

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nevada National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 2460 Fairview Dr., Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: \$10,800,000. Funding will be used for the design and construction of a new fire station at the Nevada Air National Guard base located at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Reno, Nevada. The