

HONORING MARTINA “TEENA”
BOREK

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Martina “Teena” Borek, one of South Dade’s best known farmers, and a dedicated mother.

Teena grew up in a small fishing village in Newfoundland and would visit her aunt’s farm in South Dade during summer breaks. It is there where she met her late husband, Steven Borek, who came from one of Homestead’s oldest farming families. The two married and started their own farm, Steven Borek Farms. They also had two children, Steven Jr. and Michael. Unfortunately, Steven lost his life shortly thereafter in an accident on the family property and Teena was left to raise the children and run the farm. Despite the loss of her husband, and a lack of knowledge in farming, Teena managed to successfully continue the family business, which continues to thrive today. She has proven to be one of South Dade’s most innovative farmers, being Homestead’s first to use a linear irrigation system and a computer for her work. She does not shy away from using new technologies and products, has engaged in research efforts and has learned to follow the changing market, responding to demand and adapting her crop. Teena has also surpassed devastating freezes and the hit of Hurricane Andrew, which forced her to basically start from scratch.

Despite facing adversity on several occasions, Teena has not given up. Her hard work and passion coupled with her desire to succeed, have allowed her to be both a loving mother and savvy businesswomen. She is a leader in the agriculture industry and never fails to give back to our community. She has been involved with the Dade County Farm Bureau, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange, the Florida Heartland Heritage Foundation, the Florida Farm Bureau Labor Advisory Committee, South Dade High School Agricultural Advisory Council, Dade County Women in Agriculture and the Everglades Community Association, to name a few.

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, I ask you to join me in honoring Martina “Teena” Borek, a successful businesswoman, community leader and mother, who vowed to continue her husband’s legacy. Her story and accomplishments should serve as inspiration to others.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF THE
HONORABLE THOMAS H. KELLY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and mourn the extraordinary life of the honorable Thomas H. Kelly upon his passing at the age of 74.

Born on May 27, 1935, Tom Kelly was a man devoted to helping his fellow human beings through public service. In his lifetime,

Tom served as a teacher, Wayne City Councilman, Michigan State Representative; and he worked closely with the Wayne County Commission.

Regrettably, on March 24, 2010, Thomas Kelly passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Bridget, and their four sons Thomas, Patrick, Michael and Kevin; and five grandchildren, Emma, Joseph, Carl, Kalen and Ava. Tom will also be ever remembered as a loving brother by Sister Anne Kelly.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Kelly was a loving husband, father and grandfather; an honorable and effective leader; and a true friend to all blessed to know him. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join his family and our entire community in mourning Tom Kelly’s passing; and in honoring his exemplary service to Michigan and America.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALICE JONES
NICKENS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on April 10, 2010, friends and family will gather to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Alice Jones Nickens, a retired teacher who has had a tremendous impact on North Carolina’s First Congressional District. Born on April 14, 1904 in Winton, North Carolina, Mrs. Nickens will be celebrating her 106th birthday.

Affectionately known as “Miss Alice,” she earned a Bachelor’s degree from Hampton Institute—now known as Hampton University—and a Master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Miss Alice taught second grade at C.S. Brown School in Winton, North Carolina for 47 years. And, after retiring, she served as a substitute teacher for 10 years.

She has been active in preserving the rich history of C.S. Brown School, formerly known as Chowan Academy and then Waters Training School. It was the State’s first secondary school for children of color, and Miss Alice’s mother, Annie Walden Jones, was the school’s first graduate. She has also played a key role in documenting and preserving the history of Winton, North Carolina and the surrounding communities.

Mrs. Nickens was a charter member of the C.S. Brown Cultural Arts Center. Along with her sister, Sally, Mrs. Nickens was instrumental in securing \$200,000 from the State to help restore the building.

She has long been a devoted member of Pleasant Plains Baptist Church, and served as a member of its trustee board.

Mrs. Nickens has also served as Vice President of the Democratic Women’s Club of Hertford County, and as a volunteer of the Auxiliary of Roanoke Chowan Hospital.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Alice Jones Nickens. She is truly a remarkable woman 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.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to mark the passage of this historic legislation and to thank the individuals whose hard work made this moment possible. Of course we would never have gotten here without the perseverance of our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, Majority Leader STENY HOYER, and Majority Whip, JIM CLYBURN. Also, Congressman JOHN LARSON, Chair of the Democratic Caucus and XAVIER BECERRA, Vice Chair. I would also like to thank Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN for his leadership and the Committee and Subcommittee Chairs whose perseverance brought us to this historic vote today: Chairmen GEORGE MILLER from Education and Labor, CHARLIE RANGEL from Ways and Means, HENRY WAXMAN from Energy and Commerce and SANDER LEVIN from Ways and Means and Subcommittee Chairs PETE STARK from Ways and Means and FRANK PALLONE from Energy and Commerce. I would especially like to thank my regional colleagues, Education and Labor Subcommittee Chairman BOB ANDREWS, Budget Committee Vice Chair ALLYSON SCHWARTZ, House Administration Chairman BOB BRADY, Congressman MIKE DOYLE, Congressman PATRICK MURPHY and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Delegate DONNA CHRISTENSEN who represented the Congressional Black Caucus in critical negotiations. This bill will be good for my District, our region, and our country. We in the Congress owe a debt of gratitude to our President, Barack Obama, who led this historic effort.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the staff whose talents are rarely seen in public, but without whom this would never have happened. First, Liz King in my office, an ardent advocate for my constituents in this debate. In the White House, Nancy-Ann DeParle whose institutional memory and long-term commitment to healthcare access for all contributed to the success of this effort. Cheryl Parker Rose and Wendell Primus in the Speaker’s office, Catherine Tran in the Democratic Caucus, Debbie Curtis and Cybele Bjorklund on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, Michele Varnhagen on the Education and Labor Health Subcommittee and Karen Nelson on the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee staff.

On the local level, I would like to extend my appreciation to Marc Stier at Health Care for America NOW and Bob Brand a close friend, local advocate and veteran in this fight. I would also like to thank the countless constituents who called my Washington and Philadelphia offices, sharing their stories and raising their voices on behalf of health reform for themselves and their neighbors.

I want to thank and congratulate each and every one of them for getting this bill to this point and for giving me the opportunity to vote for affordable, secure healthcare for America’s families.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, regarding spiritual care: The purpose of health care reform has been to ensure that all Americans are covered by affordable, quality insurance. Some of my colleagues have raised concerns about how this impacts Christian Scientists who use certain primary care services that are currently eligible for a medical care tax deduction.

Nothing in this health care reform legislation prevents insurance companies from covering care that is currently recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as eligible for a medical care tax deduction through health insurance plans in the Exchanges; nothing in the legislation is intended to have such a prohibition. Nothing in this legislation is intended to minimize or reduce existing provisions in the law that recognizes spiritual care.

Individual responsibility: The individual responsibility requirement requires individuals to pay a tax on their individual tax filings or provide information documenting they fulfill the requirements for having essential minimum coverage over the past year. Congress makes the following findings to support this requirement:

The individual responsibility requirement provided for in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and amended by Section 1002 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, requires individuals either to purchase a minimum level of insurance coverage or to make a payment on one's tax return to help cover the cost of uncompensated care. This requirement is commercial and economic in nature and substantially affects interstate commerce in many ways, including as a result of the following aggregate effects:

(1) The requirement regulates activity that is commercial and economic in nature, involving the distribution and consumption of health care services throughout the national economy, and in particular economic and financial decisions about how and when health care is paid for and when health insurance is purchased. Some individuals currently make an economic and financial decision to forego health insurance coverage and self-insure, paying for charges for services directly to the provider and relying on uncompensated care. The decision by individuals not to purchase health insurance has many substantial effects on the national economy, the national marketplace for health insurance, and interstate commerce. In general, individuals who fail to purchase health insurance have a diminished capacity to purchase health care services, and increase overall health care costs. When such individuals inevitably seek medical care, the costs of that care must often be paid for by providers, insured individuals and businesses through higher premiums, or Federal, State, and local governments. The requirement encourages prepayment for services, and affects an individual's decision whether or not to purchase health insurance by imposing penalties on individuals who remain uninsured. Congressional Budget Office, *Key Issues in Analyzing Major Health Insurance Proposals*, December 2008.

(2) The uninsured receive about \$86,000,000,000 in health care, of which about \$56,000,000,000 is uncompensated. Private spending on uncompensated care is \$14,500,000,000, and includes profits forgone by physicians and hospitals. Government spending on uncompensated care is \$42,900,000,000, and is financed by taxpayers at both the State and Federal levels. Jack Hadley et al., *Covering the Uninsured in 2008: Current Costs, Sources of Payment, and Incremental Costs*, Health Affairs, August 25, 2008.

(3) Health care received by the uninsured is more costly. The uninsured are more likely to be hospitalized for preventable conditions. Jack Hadley, *Economic Consequences of Being Uninsured: Uncompensated Care, Inefficient Medical Care Spending, and Foregone Earnings*, Testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, May 14, 2003. Hospitals provide uncompensated care of \$35,000,000,000, representing on average 5 percent of hospital revenues. Health Affairs, August 25, 2008.

(4) Those who have private health insurance also pay for uncompensated care. Medical providers try to recoup the cost from private insurers, which increases family premiums by an average of over \$1,000 a year. Families USA, *Hidden Health Tax: Americans Pay a Premium*, May 2009.

(5) The decision to self-insure increases financial risks to households throughout the United States. Sixty-two percent of all personal bankruptcies are caused by illness or medical bills, and a significant portion of medically bankrupted families lacked health insurance or experienced a recent lapse in coverage. David U. Himmelstein et al., *American Journal of Medicine, Medical Bankruptcy in the United States*, 2007: Results of a National Study, 2009.

(6) The national economy loses up to \$207,000,000,000 a year because of the poorer health and shorter lifespan of the uninsured. Elizabeth Carpenter and Sarah Axen, *The Cost of Doing Nothing*, New America Foundation, November 2008.

(7) A large share of the uninsured are offered insurance at low or zero premiums, but choose to forego coverage. New America Foundation, December 6, 2007. According to one estimate, the absence of a requirement from health reform would leave 50 percent of the uninsured without coverage. Linda J. Blumberg and John Holahan, *Do Individual Mandates Matter?*, The Urban Institute, January 2008. While generous subsidies alone would not achieve universal coverage, the requirement further expands coverage. Congressional Budget Office, December 2008. The requirement improves budgetary efficiency by significantly lowering the federal cost per newly insured. Jonathan Gruber, *Covering the Uninsured in the U.S.*, National Bureau of Economic Research, January 2008. In Massachusetts, where a similar requirement has been in effect since 2007, the share of uninsured declined to 2.7 percent in 2009. Massachusetts Division of Healthcare Finance and Policy.

(8) By regulating the decision to self-insure, and expanding coverage, the requirement addresses the problem of free riders who rely on more costly uncompensated care, including access to emergency care required by federal

law to be provided even to the uninsured, shifting costs to medical providers, taxpayers, and the privately insured. It will also reduce the cost to the national economy of the lower productivity of the uninsured.

The preceding 8 points cite numerous studies and papers which illustrate the extensive evidence that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by Section 1002 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, substantially affects interstate commerce. These citations are included in their written entirety for the record.

RECOGNIZING WALTER RICHARDSON UPON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Walter Richardson, a veteran, a Tuskegee Airman, and a true American hero. Walt has spent his life dedicated to his country, his community, and his family, and I am proud to honor his achievements and life of service.

A Pensacola, Florida native, Walt Richardson is first and foremost an American patriot. During his thirty years with the United States Air Force, Walt served in many of our Nation's wars and conflicts. Walt joined the revered Tuskegee Airmen, training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in a variety of disciplines that would serve him throughout his entire career. During his time with the Tuskegee Airmen, Walt was part of "Operation Happiness," the first all-military troupe to entertain at air bases. His military service also took him to Vietnam, and while stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Walt became the first African-American to be promoted to master sergeant in the field maintenance squadron. He retired as a chief master sergeant, the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force.

Beyond his full-time career with the Air Force, Walt is a dedicated community servant in Northwest Florida. For the past 29 years, he has served as a permanent deacon of St. Mary Parish in Fort Walton Beach. He also recently completed a book about his life story entitled "How Great Thou Art: A Black Boy's Depression-era Success Story." In 2009, Walt traveled to Washington, DC, as a special guest of the President for the inauguration. For his service to his country as part of the Tuskegee Airmen, I have the honor of presenting Walter Richardson the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor in the United States.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled to venerate Walt Richardson as an American hero and a community leader. Our Nation is proud and grateful for his courage, service, and patriotism. My wife Vicki and all wish all the best to Walt, his wife, Helen, his eight children, his grandchildren, and his entire extended family.