

not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil, but also create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

On this Earth Day, I also want to reiterate my commitment to ensuring that Congress fully funds Great Lakes clean-up programs. The Great Lakes are a national treasure and having spent my entire life living in or near Chicago, I have a tremendous connection to the Great Lakes; my home in Evanston is only a few blocks from Lake Michigan.

As anyone who has spent any considerable amount of time in a Great Lake state knows, the Lakes are more than just a group of fresh water lakes—they play a significant part in shaping our way of life, our traditions, and our future. In addition to its sentimental value, the Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, serve as an important resource, providing 20 percent of all the surface water in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010 RECIPIENTS OF THE McGOWAN COURAGE AWARD

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share positive stories about young people from my congressional district who overcome adversity. Today, I am pleased to share the stories of seven such individuals.

Nella Blackford, St. Peter's High School. Coping with many physical difficulties stemming from the effects of spina bifida and numerous surgeries, Nella is an inspiration to everyone at her school, where she participates in the volleyball and softball programs. She is undertaking an advanced placement courseload and was active in her school's spring musical.

Steven Broeske, Clear Fork High School. Steven has earned the respect of his peers and teachers for the selfless way he deals with cystic fibrosis. He prides himself on his independence and goal-oriented work ethic, carrying a demanding workload in the classroom and dedicating countless hours to his school's Future Farmers of America chapter.

Jackie Bucksbaum, Ontario High School. Jackie's positive attitude in dealing with a lymphatic disorder is a model to her fellow students, who admire her leadership skills. Although challenged recently by medical emergencies and some family-related setbacks, she maintains an aggressive academic schedule and plans to continue her studies at the University of Findlay.

Christian Lauber, Madison Comprehensive High School. Despite the physical challenges presented by cerebral palsy, which he has dealt with since birth, Christian is active in numerous sports. He also enjoys participating in his school's media and technology programs and plans to study business and computer technology in college.

Michael Lupo, Mansfield Senior High School. Michael has worked through many autism-related difficulties in recent years with the assistance of family members and his teachers. He excels as a mainstreamed student—especially in his mathematics and science classes—and routinely ranks in the top ten percent of his class.

Timothy Ritchey, Lexington High School. Tim was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma earlier this year and has been undergoing monthly chemotherapy treatments. Although he has missed many school days as a result, he has kept up-to-date on his studies and continues to work in his school's athletic department. Tim plans to study nursing.

Travis Stone, Crestview High School. In addition to his many academic achievements, Travis has amassed 73 career wins as a four-year varsity starter on the wrestling team—all this despite a birth defect that affected the development of his arms and hands. He received the 2010 Team Attitude Award and was ranked third in his conference.

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club of Mansfield, Ohio, will present these seven students with the McGowan Courage Award on May 11. I am proud to join the Rotary in acknowledging their significant achievements and wishing them continued success in everything they do.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2010

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the StartUp Visa Act of 2010, the companion bill to Senator JOHN KERRY's bipartisan legislation of the same name, which he introduced with Senator RICHARD LUGAR this past February.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Proctor & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

In 2009, the percentage of U.S. residents creating new domestic companies fell to 8 percent from 12.4 percent in 2005. Over the same period, the percentage of residents in foreign countries creating new companies rose to 11 percent from 8.7 percent. Despite this trend, our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new companies in the United States. I am introducing the StartUp Visa Act of 2010 because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

Currently, the EB-5 category visa permits foreign nationals to obtain a green card if their efforts invest at least \$1 million into the U.S. economy and create at least 10 jobs. This bill creates a new EB-6 visa for immigrant entrepreneurs. After proving that he or she has secured initial investment capital (totaling at least \$250,000) and if, after two years, an immigrant entrepreneur can show that he or she has generated at least five full-time jobs in the United States, attracted \$1 million in additional investment capital or achieved \$1 million in revenue, then he or she would receive permanent legal resident status.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must

ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

HONORING NATHAN T. WILSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan T. Wilson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan T. Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SARAH STARNES NAMED SOCIAL WORK LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the House's attention today the recent award of "Social Work Leader of the Year" by the Missouri-Kansas Chapter of the Society for Leadership in Health Care to Sarah Starnes, of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sarah Starnes received a M.S.W. from the University of Kansas in 1977 and went on to receive a M.P.A. in 1984 from the same institution. After working with the Missouri Division of Family Services, the University of Kansas Upward Bound Program, Project New Pride/Kansas Youth Trust Upward Bound, and Transitional Living Consortium, she has spent the last nineteen years serving the interests of our veterans at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, where she works with them on a daily basis, doing casework, group work, program administration, and community organization.

Active in politics during her free time, Sarah represents the best of comprehensive social work practice. As the NASW Code of Ethics states: "Social Workers should facilitate informed participation by the public in shaping social policies and institutions. Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully. Social workers should be aware of the impact of the political arena on practice and should advocate for changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions in order to meet basic human needs and promote social justice."

Sarah Starnes' career has exemplified these principles. I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly recognize her award and am happy to have the opportunity to place in the RECORD her remarks upon accepting this award on March 23rd:

Good afternoon. Thank you so much for this most incredible honor of my lifetime.

This award really goes to all the people who have worked so hard to achieve this victory on the most significant piece of domestic legislation since the Medicare law was passed in 1965.

"This is why we elected Barack Obama . . . it used to be that we'd elect a president and then the lobbyists would determine what happened. This time it is going to be US who determine what happens."

But, I must admit, I had been concerned in recent weeks that I'd be standing before you today saying, "We gave it a good fight, and the fight goes on. . . ."

Then, remarkably, two days ago we had a historic moment in the life of our democracy, when the majority of our lawmakers determined that life is more important than profits; that health care is a right and not a privilege to be enjoyed only by the healthy and the wealthy. They did this because we helped them appreciate that this was the morally right and fiscally responsible thing to do.

I want to dedicate this award to Dean Goering, the brother of my KU undergrad roommate, Susan Goering. Dean was a social worker-to-be, who lived in Midtown Kansas City. Dean received a B.A. in Social Work from Univ. of Central Missouri in 2009, and was starting the MSW program at UMKC. Dean volunteered at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic. He hoped to work with Veterans who have PTSD. But Dean will NOT touch countless lives as a social worker, due to one of the unconscionable practices of the health insurance industry. Dean had a blood clot in his leg about 10 years ago, so, when he recently started having symptoms like shortness of breath, he reviewed his health insurance policy, and concluded that it would not cover another hospitalization for what he assumed was the same condition, and he tried to tough it out. Dean died at age 50 of a Pulmonary Embolism, on February 21, 2010. For Dean and 45,000 other Americans each year, "health care for all Americans" was not just a slogan. It was an unfulfilled life wish. For Dean, the health care delivery system in this country was a death sentence. Thank God, many of these health insurance abuses will end, with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed Sunday in the House of Representatives.

My journey for this health care cause has been going on for awhile, as has the journey of our entire Nation.

I was blessed to find "my calling" early in my life. I have worked in social services continuously and full-time since 1973. I received my MSW from the University of Kansas in 1977, and an MPA from KU in 1984.

I have been passionate about my work with the people in all the groups with which I have practiced.

Let me explain, before I go on, that I am here on my own time, representing myself, not my employer. The VA does provide The Best Care Anywhere and is an extremely effective government-run health care system, but I'm not here representing the VA, only myself, and my advocacy for health care reform was done outside my job.

Another note of explanation—my remarks will be about my work with one specific American political party, but, if you find that you can honor the Social Work Code of Ethics and your personal values via your work with another party, please, go for it!

Okay, so I have voted in every election for which I have been eligible to vote, and have written an occasional letter to an elected official or the editor.

Then, in 2007, my life took on a new and invigorating avocation.

In 2006, I'd read an autobiography written by a man whose maternal grandparents were from El Dorado, KS, and Augusta, KS, where my dad had leased a rock quarry when I was a girl. The author had been a community organizer in Chicago, and he later went to law school and then got into politics, to influence change on a broader scale. His values seemed to be totally consistent with social work values.

In February 2007, this community organizer announced that he was going to run for President of the United States.

Now, regarding Social Work values and politics, please refer back to the NASW Social Work Code of Ethics.

The code says that "social workers should promote social justice and social change . . . and should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully."

Until recently, I had viewed politics as a necessarily dirty, self-serving business. But, in the last few years I've started paying closer attention to the fact that everything I try to accomplish in my work, with my family, and in my own life, is affected by the laws and ordinances made at all levels of government, and the resulting regulations and policies. I started more actively wondering how these laws could be affected, to benefit those who the Social Work Code of Ethics calls "vulnerable."

I gained a heightened awareness that, in our representative democracy, public policy is accomplished through the people we elect to hold public office. And I decided that it is my obligation to do what I could to elect people who will represent the interests of the powerless, and everyday people, at all levels of governance.

One person cannot do it alone. We must each duplicate ourselves. For example, perhaps I can make 50 calls in 2 or 3 hours, but, if I find 5 other callers, we can make 250 calls in the same time period. Or maybe I can register 50 voters in an afternoon or a day, but, if I can enlist 10 other volunteers to register voters, we multiply the results by 10. I can only vote once in each election, but, ideally, I can play a role in THOUSANDS of other people voting.

This monumental health care legislation was not accomplished in the last year. Americans and our leaders have been yearning and working for universal health care for over a hundred years—7 Presidents and 7 Congresses have aspired to achieve this moral imperative.

It took our faith in Barack Obama and his leadership for us to realize that it was up to US to change the way things, including the provision of health care, are done in this country. And the objective reality is that it also took a Democratic majority in the Congress to achieve these reforms.

I have learned through the process of achieving this major legislation that we cannot wait on our elected officials to determine our destinies, essentially throwing them out at the next election if we decide we don't like them, after their damage has been done.

Nothing happens unless we take individual responsibility for change. We know that we simply cannot wait for someone else to fix things.

Sometimes, when we feel the most defeated and alone, if we just keep putting one foot in front of the other, even when we are

tired and discouraged and don't think we can go on, we can achieve amazing results.

If for some reason you are unable to engage in partisan political activities, there are nonpartisan organizations with which you can be involved, to accomplish similar ends . . . these organizations don't "lobby," they "advocate. . . ."

I am issuing a call to all social workers present—consider how you will make a difference—consider running for political office, or helping someone who is running or thinking about it. Hold our elected officials accountable. Let them know what you think, and encourage others to do so. Educate people about the truth regarding the needs of the American people and how those needs might be effectively addressed.

In addition to the people who have worked so passionately for HC reform, I want to thank God for my health, and for my husband, Kelvin Walls, and my son, Kel, for their work and support. Kelvin motivated his doctor friends to speak out on behalf of their patients and potential patients. Kel put up with "all those people I don't know being in our house all the time" for phone banks and health care reform events. They have both sacrificed a lot. During the 2008 election, they canvassed with me in five states.

I became a social worker and political activist out of my core belief that the arc of the moral universe bends in the direction of justice, hope and compassion. And that I need to help it along.

In conclusion, let me say, "We gave it a good fight. We won! And the fight goes on."

HONORING BERNICE BOOKER DEAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Bernice Booker Dean. Sadly, Mrs. Dean passed away on April 23, 2010 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, at the age of 86. Her funeral will be held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church on May 1.

A teacher with the Flint Community Schools for 35 years, Mrs. Dean taught at several elementary schools in the Flint system and was a reading specialist with the State of Michigan Chapter III and Title I reading programs. A passionate advocate for education, reading, social justice, the advancement of women, and physical health; Mrs. Dean mentored numerous youngsters over the years and helped them pursue advanced educational goals.

During her younger days she was a member of the first integrated all female band, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm. During World War II the band was the first all female group to travel on a USO tour, made several records and appeared in movies. Mrs. Dean was also a member of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority—Gamma Delta Chapter and she volunteered in the dialysis department at Hurley Medical Center. She was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church for 53 years. Mrs. Dean leaves behind her son, Robert Booker, and her daughter, Patsy O'Neal, several grandchildren, and numerous friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Bernice Booker Dean. I pray that the children inspired by her life and example will work to carry on her legacy of enthusiasm, strength and positive action.