

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.

HONORING PVAMC DIRECTOR
RICHARD CITRON

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to honor Director Richard S. Citron on his retirement from the post of Director of the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Mr. Richard S. Citron was appointed Director of the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center in August 2007. The Philadelphia VAMC is a tertiary care facility for the eastern half of VA Healthcare—VISN 4, providing care to 60,000 Veterans in America's sixth largest metropolitan area including the city of Philadelphia and surrounding six counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has led more than 2,000 dedicated staff working at the main campus in West Philadelphia and community-based outpatient clinics in Fort Dix, NJ, Gloucester County, NJ, Camden, NJ, Center City Philadelphia, and Horsham, PA (the Victor J. Saracini Community Based Outpatient Clinic). Philadelphia VAMC operates 140 inpatient beds and a 135-bed nursing home known as the Philadelphia Veterans Community Living Center.

Mr. Citron has 38 years of VA healthcare experience, beginning in 1971 at Long Beach, CA. He has since served at medical centers in Newington, Loma Linda, Richmond, Brockton/West Roxbury, and VA Central Office. Mr. Citron served as Assistant Director of the VA Medical Center (University Drive) in Pittsburgh, as Acting Director of medical centers in Murfreesboro and Cleveland, and Director of the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. Prior to arriving in Philadelphia, Mr. Citron was Director of the Wilmington, DE, VA Medical Center.

Mr. Citron served in the US Army from 1968 to 1971, including one year at a MASH hospital in Chu Lai, Vietnam. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He is also a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Director Citron for his commitment to ensuring the well-being of our nation's Veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DALY
CITY YOUTH HEALTH CENTER'S
20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 20th anniversary of the Daly City Youth Health Center, a health and youth development program linked to the Jefferson Union High School District. Since its inception this facility has served over 37,000 youth and currently provides services to more than 600 teens each month. Clearly, we are a better community because of the dedication, caring and expertise of the center's staff.

The center, a satellite office of the San Mateo Medical Center, offers primary medical care, reproductive health care, mental health counseling, sexuality education, case management of pregnant teens, vocational guidance and life skills training. This center has been highly effective in helping girls and boys from low-income backgrounds where individual needs require a multi-service response.

I would like to point out that over 5,000 teens seek medical services from the clinic during the year and that most of the care revolves around reproductive health. These services are free although staff will work with these young people in terms of helping them apply for health insurance.

The center has been hailed for its development of programs covering mental health counseling, teen pregnancy prevention, peer leadership and the always challenging transition from school to a career. We would all do well to adhere to the center's mission to increase resiliency, encourage responsibility and promote self-determination among youth and young adults.

Madam Speaker, while this body has engaged in long and spirited debate on the issue of health care, it is important that we recognize and honor a 20-year-old program that has enriched thousands of young people in my district.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF WJER
1450 AM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, WJER 1450 AM was founded and began broadcasting in 1950 and is celebrating its 60th anniversary; and

Whereas, WJER AM has served as "the Voice of the Valley" by connecting the citizens of Dover, New Philadelphia, and Tuscarawas County for sixty years; and

Whereas, WJER is committed to continuing their work of bringing news and entertainment to the communities of Tuscarawas County in years to come; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend WJER for six decades of service to the Tuscarawas Valley through the broadcast of national and local news, sports, and entertainment.

JESUS GUEVARA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesus Guevara who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jesus Guevara is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jesus Guevara is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jesus Guevara for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF VOLUNTEERISM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in favor of H. Res. 1276, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the landmark service legislation, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

Since its enactment 1 year ago, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act has cemented the importance of volunteerism and community involvement in American society. This legislation reflects the willingness of Americans to dedicate their time and effort to help their neighborhoods through a common goal of community improvement.

The success of the Serve America Act is apparent not only in its progress so far, but in those results yet to come. The creation of 175,000 new volunteer opportunities, through existing service programs such as AmeriCorps, is increasing volunteerism in America to the highest level since 2003.

The Serve America Act has demonstrated that even in this period of economic uncertainty, investment in communities continues to reap the highest rewards. The Serve America Act has allowed Americans to play an active role in our economic recovery through their volunteerism by empowering individuals to initiate real and lasting development within their communities. And by rewarding those who volunteer their services even during their full-time education, this legislation has enabled countless diligent students to combine community activism with greater educational possibilities.

I am particularly proud that this legislation created the Musicians and Artists Corps that I championed to train and deploy skilled musicians and artists to low income communities, schools, health care and therapeutic settings, and other areas, where they promote music and arts engagement programs. As someone who knows firsthand the proven social benefits of music and creative arts programs, I believe this program will have tremendous rewards.

The Serve America Act has been a call to service to all Americans, and undoubtedly it has inspired American citizens from all walks of life to give back to their communities. The Musicians and Artists Corps allows musicians and artists who are eager to serve to contribute their special skills and diverse talents to this community of activism.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act has contributed significantly to increasing service in our country, and I am proud to commemorate its passage and support its continuing good work.