

stress both the importance of protecting one's organs and the need for more organ donors. She makes presentations at elementary schools, distributes literature at health fairs and community events and does interviews with the local news media. Furthermore, Nyasha participates in fund-raising events sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation and the Regional Transplant Community and has further spread the word about organ donation as a contestant in the National American Miss pageant.

Madam Speaker, Nyasha Sprow represents the best of our nation's youth, and her work with organ and tissue donation demonstrates her dedication to helping those around her. I congratulate her on this award and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BETTY WHITE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty White, who is receiving the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association's (GLAZA) Beastly Ball Award.

Betty began her impressive performing career in the 1940s on the radio. Her first big break was in 1949 when she joined Al Jarvis on a daily, live, local television show, which she eventually hosted. In partnership with writer George Tibbles and producer Don Fedderson, she formed her own production company and produced her first comedy series, *Life with Elizabeth*, receiving an Emmy in 1952. Appearing frequently on major variety and game shows, she was a recurring regular with Jack Paar, Merv Griffin, and Johnny Carson, and a regular on *Mama's Family*.

Ms. White's first appearance on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* in the show's fourth season led to her becoming a recurring cast member, and her portrayal of Sue Ann Nivens, the *Happy Homemaker*, brought two Emmys for supporting actress in 1974–75 and 1975–76. She received her fourth Emmy for Best Daytime Game Show Host for *Just Men*. Nominated seven times for Best Actress in a Comedy Series for *The Golden Girls*, she won the Emmy in 1985, and won a sixth Emmy for Best Guest Actress in a Comedy Series in 1996 on *The John Larroquette Show*. Since 2000, Betty has appeared in *Ally McBeal*, *That 70s Show*, *Boston Legal* and *The Bold and the Beautiful*. In May 2010, Betty hosted *Saturday Night Live*, resulting in the long-running show receiving its highest ratings ever. In June of this year, she will appear in a new weekly TV Land Series, *Hot in Cleveland*. Betty's movies for television credits include *Chance of a Lifetime*, *Stealing Christmas*, *Annie's Point*, and *Animal Planet's The Retrievers*. Her big screen endeavors include *Hard Rain*, *Dennis the Menace Strikes Again*, *Bringing Down the House*, *The Proposal*, and *You Again*, which will be released in September 2010.

Along with the Emmys, Betty has won numerous awards during her seventy-year career. They include the Pacific Pioneers in Broadcasting's "Golden Ike" Award, the Genii Award from American Women in Radio and TV, the American Comedy Awards' Funniest

Female Award as well as their Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, she was honored with the Career Achievement Award from the Television Critics Association, the Life Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Acting from the American Women in Radio and Television. In 1995, Betty was inducted into the Television Academy's Hall of Fame.

Betty's work on behalf of animals is close to her heart and legendary. She is President Emeritus of the Morris Animal Foundation, serving as a Trustee since 1972, a member on the Board of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association since 1974 and an eight-year Los Angeles Zoo Commissioner. Among the awards she has received for her work for animal welfare include the American Veterinary Medical Association's Humane Award, the Jane Goodall Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, and an honorary doctorate from Western University Veterinary School as "Doctor of Humane Veterinary Sciences." In 2006, Betty was honored by the City of Los Angeles with the title of "Ambassador to the Animals."

The time, energy and devotion Betty has given to GLAZA is extraordinary, and the residents of the greater Los Angeles area have benefited enormously from her generosity. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in commending Betty White upon receiving the 2010 Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association's Beastly Ball Award.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Courtney/Petri/Matsui amendment which would transfer the Troops to Teachers Program back to the Department of Defense from the Department of Education and would make essential improvements to the program to ensure that veterans returning from service have access to its benefits.

Currently, the Troops to Teachers Program is operated by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) within the Department of Defense. The Department of Education simply transfers funds to DANTES. Our amendment would transfer the program back to the Department of Defense, thus streamlining the program. Both the Department of Defense and the Department of Education support this transfer, which is reflected in the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget request.

Additionally, our amendment would ensure that veterans participating in the Troops to Teachers program receive a \$5,000 stipend for teaching three years in any school that is in a district receiving Title I funds. This change would create a 49-percent increase in the number of schools eligible under the program.

As the language of H.R. 3943 reflects, it is the intent of this amendment to strike "high need" from the stipend participation language in the Troops to Teachers statute. There was a late night drafting error that mistakenly did not delete the term "high need" as was planned and is consistent with the language in H.R. 3943. As this provision is finalized in conference, it is essential that this technical change be made to implement the original intent of the amendment.

This amendment also makes this program more accessible to our veterans returning from service by reducing the length of service requirements for active military. Many of our young men and women returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan who would like to pursue teaching careers are currently ineligible for the program. The amendment reduces the required length of service from six years to four years.

Finally, this amendment creates an advisory board to ensure continued success, by increasing awareness and participation and ensuring the program meets the needs of schools and veterans.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative COURTNEY and Representative PETRI for their work on this amendment and for their continued support of the Troops to Teachers Program, as well as both the House Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Education and Labor for their assistance in this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

#### HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Stanislaus County Medical Society upon celebrating its 100th anniversary. The medical society will be celebrating the anniversary during the annual membership meeting to be held on Thursday, May 27, 2010, at the Del Rio Country Club in Modesto, California.

During the 1820s, early settlers to California began migrating near the Stanislaus River. In 1848, California was ceded to the United States, gold was soon discovered and in 1854 the boundaries were set for Stanislaus County. Between the gold rush and the Central Pacific Railroad laying tracks through the area, Stanislaus County was growing fast. In 1878, there were 10 men listed as licensed to practice medicine in Stanislaus County. By 1891, a county hospital had been built and the number of practicing physicians had risen to 15.

In 1903, Dr. Surryhne built the first private hospital in Stanislaus County. By 1910, the Stanislaus County Medical Society was established with Dr. W.J. Wilhite serving as president and Dr. Surryhne serving as secretary. The society meetings typically took place at the Hotel Modesto, with an attendance of eighteen to twenty members. By 1946, physicians were returning from World War II and the Society grew in numbers and specialties, such as obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, G.U., general surgery and internal medicine.

The physicians of the Stanislaus County Medical Society formed the Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care to guarantee the delivery of quality medical care on a prepayment basis at a just and equitable cost to both the patient and physician. The foundation was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1957, and acts as a health management system. It was created and operated by local physicians to serve the best interests of the public and professional community.

Today, the Stanislaus County Medical Society has over 650 active, retired and resident members. The members serve the purpose of "promoting and developing the science and art of medicine, conserving and protecting the public health, promoting the betterment of the medical profession, cooperating with organizations of like purposes and uniting with similar societies from other counties of the State to form the California Medical Society."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Stanislaus County Medical Society upon 100 years of service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Society, and all of the members, many years of continued success.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of amendment number 38 to the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2011.

I would like to thank Chairman SKELTON for including this amendment, which I introduced, in an en bloc package today.

Representative JOHN FLEMING of Louisiana, a member of the Armed Services Committee's Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, is co-sponsoring the amendment. I appreciate his support and the leadership he has shown on the issue of improving and protecting our nation's bomber fleet.

This amendment requires reports from the Institute of Defense Analyses, the Congressional Budget Office and the Department of Defense that, taken together, will provide a comprehensive review of the sustainment and modernization requirements and costs related to the U.S. bomber force and long-range strike capability.

Over the past year, as I've met with Air Force leaders, including Secretary Michael Donley and Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz, we have discussed the need to sustain and modernize our nation's current bomber fleet as the Air Force begins to develop a next-generation bomber and long-range strike capability needed to maintain a strategic deterrence.

Since I was first elected to Congress in 2004, I have worked closely with the brave air-

men at Ellsworth Air Force Base in my state of South Dakota. Ellsworth is home to two wings of B-1 bombers, and I know the important role those planes have played in Iraq and Afghanistan. These planes, and the other bombers in our fleet, project power across the globe in order to keep potential enemies at bay and also serve to protect and save the lives of troops fighting on the ground.

As Members of Congress, we are charged with equipping our Armed Forces and are responsible for allocating taxpayer funds in the most fiscally responsible manner. This amendment ensures that we will accomplish both goals by better informing Congress and the Department of Defense on the best path forward for our nation's bomber fleet.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

PRESIDENT OF GABON, ALI BONGO ONDIMBA

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, in early March, it was my pleasure and privilege to meet the new President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba.

President Bongo was in New York in his capacity as head of state of the country that, for the month of March, presided over the United Nations Security Council. Gabon is one of three African countries that are members of the Security Council on a rotating basis.

President Bongo came to office after the death of his predecessor last year. Between June and October, Acting President Rose Francine Rogombe, who had previously served as president of Gabon's Senate, led a smooth and swift transition.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, and Chair of the Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, I understand the importance of the relationship between the United States and countries of the Central African region.

In our conversation, I was impressed by President Ali Bongo's determination to improve the quality of life for the people of Gabon. He is committed to eliminating corruption that has plagued Gabon in the past.

I was particularly interested in Gabon's role as one of the six members of the Bank of Central African States and as a member of the Economic Community of Central African States. Gabon's capital city, Libreville, is also the location of one of the key regional offices of the African Development Bank, and it is the headquarters of the locally-owned and operated Gabonese Development Bank.

As one might expect, Central African countries, including Gabon, were hit hard by the global economic meltdown of the past few years. As a report from the International Monetary Fund noted on March 15, "The Gabonese economy went through a difficult year in 2009 due to the unusual domestic environment because of painful social developments and the preparation of the presidential elections on the one hand and to the unfavorable international economic situation on the other."

Given these circumstances, I listened carefully as President Bongo explained what his

government and those of neighboring states were doing to stabilize currency in the region and to regularize customs and tariffs. He also expressed his desire for attracting more foreign investment to Gabon—especially beyond the dominant oil-industry sector—and his vision for how to achieve that.

During his visit to the United States, President Bongo met with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Washington. Secretary Clinton said after their meeting that "Gabon is a valued partner of the United States, and this visit gave us an opportunity to discuss a wide range of common concerns." She went on to thank President Bongo "for his and Gabon's efforts on behalf of regional stability in Central Africa and for its leadership on the world stage, particularly at the United Nations."

In line with my own conversation with President Bongo on the same topics, Secretary Clinton said "We are very supportive of Gabon's efforts to diversify its economy, widen the circle of prosperity, and create new opportunities for its people" and added: "I want to recognize President Bongo's efforts to improve government efficiency, eliminate waste, and fight corruption."

To offer a sense of the purpose of President Bongo's visit to the United States, I would like to insert in the RECORD an article from America.gov by Jim Fisher-Thompson entitled "Gabon's President Meets Clinton, Calls Corruption Africa's Cancer," which was published on March 9.

[From America.gov, Mar. 9, 2010]

GABON'S PRESIDENT MEETS CLINTON, CALLS CORRUPTION AFRICA'S CANCER

(By Jim Fisher-Thompson)

WASHINGTON.—Gabon's president, Ali Bongo, intends to use his country's two-year seat on the United Nations Security Council to highlight democratic reforms and his fight against corruption, which he terms a "cancer" sapping Africa's strength and potential. "Unfortunately, when it comes to the African body, we have many diseases—and corruption is one of them," Bongo told America.gov in an interview after meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton March 8 at the State Department.

"Corruption is a major problem that has to be stopped," the African leader said, "which is why we are committed to fighting it. We know if we want to build a better future with responsible people, we especially need accountability, and this is what has been lacking." Gabon, with a population of fewer than 2 million, is largely dependent on the energy and extractive (mining and timber) sectors and is the fifth-largest supplier of oil in sub-Saharan Africa to the United States. In 2009, the nongovernment group Transparency International rated the nation 106 out of 180 countries in its annual corruption index, tied with Argentina, The Gambia, Niger and Benin.

After his election as president in August 2009 and before traveling to the United States, Bongo instituted a number of government reforms, including cutting Cabinet posts while restructuring the Treasury Department and launching an environmental effort called "Green Gabon."

At the same time, he streamlined government by eliminating several agencies and bureaucracies that were hindering innovation and investment in Gabon. He has also threatened criminal penalties for persons attempting to bribe public officials, according to a recent press report.

Despite the challenges of corruption and reform, Bongo told America.gov: "I remain