

this position, which she held for over 10 years, Ms. Martinez honorably served the citizens of Nevada by overseeing the State's pursuit to ensure equal employment opportunities.

After her retirement from the professional world Ms. Martinez began serving in several organizations including the Henderson Democratic Club, *Si Se Puede*, the Clark County Hispanic Democratic Caucus, Clark County By-Laws Committee and the Clark County Democratic Black Caucus. Ms. Martinez understood the necessity of improving her community through public service and advocacy. For this reason, it is no surprise that she went on to serve in various leadership positions in many community-based groups. At the time of her passing, Ms. Martinez was serving as the president of the Henderson Democratic Club, treasurer of the Clark County Democratic Hispanic Caucus, and corresponding secretary for *Si Se Puede*.

Along with her dedication to serving her community, Ms. Martinez will also be remembered for the overwhelming love she had for her family. Ms. Martinez was married to Glenn Phillips with whom she raised their beloved son Benjamin. Prior to the birth of her child, she mentored four nieces and nephews, inspiring them to become active community leaders in Nevada. Ms. Martinez is preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her husband, son, sister, and a large extended family throughout southern Nevada and across several States.

I am humbled today to offer my profound gratitude to Ms. Martinez for her life of service to the citizens of the great State of Nevada, and with equal humility offer my deepest condolences to Ms. Martinez's family.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF PROJECT C.U.R.E.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to speak in recognition of PROJECT C.U.R.E. and its efforts to improve health care infrastructure in developing countries. PROJECT C.U.R.E. has been bringing customized medical relief to those in the developing world since its inception in 1987. In 2008 alone, PROJECT C.U.R.E. delivered nearly \$40 million worth of supplies to more than 100 health care facilities throughout the world.

PROJECT C.U.R.E. representatives conduct needs assessments at prospective sites to determine unique, appropriate medical supply and equipment needs. Follow-up accountability assessments provide necessary training and ensure that donated medical supplies and equipment are operating and being used properly. The organization focuses more than 98 percent of funds on program delivery. For every nickel given to PROJECT C.U.R.E., they provide a dollar's worth of services; that is an impressive 20-to-1 return on investment.

PROJECT C.U.R.E. would not be successful if it were not for the grassroots

efforts of volunteers throughout the United States, including participants in my home State of South Dakota. Doctors, medical professionals, housewives, businessmen, and average citizens in the Black Hills have come together to donate supplies and used medical equipment to be reprocessed, re-sterilized, and sent to where there is the greatest need. The local Wal-Mart facilitated these efforts by donating the transportation of the goods from Rapid City, SD, to the PROJECT C.U.R.E. warehouse in Centennial, CO.

In 2004, the Rapid City Regional Hospital had an ultrasound machine that was 1 year past meeting U.S. standards but was still perfectly functioning. The hospital was weeks away from sending it to the landfill when they heard about PROJECT C.U.R.E. Rather than waste away in the landfill, this \$75,000 machine was sent to Malawi where it is still being used today. There are many similar success stories and countless individuals that have benefited from these efforts.

Once again, I commend the volunteers and staff of PROJECT C.U.R.E. for their generosity, dedication, and hard work. I wish them well as they continue their mission "to identify, solicit, collect, sort and deliver medical supplies and services according to the imperative needs of the world."

VISION REHABILITATION

Mr. BROWN. I rise today to recognize the importance of vision rehabilitation services for vision-impaired Americans.

There are more than 25 million Americans who have trouble seeing—even when aided by glasses or contact lenses. Over 1 million are legally blind and over 3 million have low vision or partial sight.

This disability strikes Americans from all walks of life: the young and old, the poor and rich, urbanites and rural-dwellers.

Among Ohioans over the age of 40, there are more than 40,000 blind people, more than 90,000 suffering from age-related macular degeneration, more than 170,000 suffering from diabetic retinopathy, and nearly 100,000 with glaucoma.

Vision rehabilitation services help vision-impaired Americans restore function and live independent lives.

Whether it is learning to read Braille or use assistive computer technology, travel safely or take care of the home, meet career objectives or enjoy leisure activities, vision rehabilitation services help vision-impaired people cope with and overcome their disability.

These critical services are provided by occupational therapists—who can earn a specialty certificate in low vision—and vision rehabilitation professionals—who include low vision therapists, orientation and mobility specialists, and vision rehabilitation therapists.

These health care providers are uniquely qualified to serve the vision-impaired and have made a profound difference in millions of lives.

Take, for example, Laurine, an 84-year-old from the Cleveland area in my State of Ohio.

Laurine went blind 5 years ago due to macular degeneration. After decades of living independently, Laurine suddenly needed help with basic activities of daily living and had to go into an assisted living facility.

Laurine wanted to regain her independence, so she took advantage of services from the Cleveland Sight Center, a nonprofit organization providing vision rehabilitation.

She had orientation and mobility training, and relied on Susie Meles, a vision rehabilitation specialist, to learn how to cook her own meals, do her laundry, and even sew.

Today, Laurine is living happily and independently in Strongsville, OH.

There is also the story of Nicole, a 32-year-old from Ohio.

Nicole has been totally blind since she was 2 years old.

Like Laurine, she came to rely on the orientation and mobility specialists and vision rehabilitation therapists at the Cleveland Sight Center for help learning how to travel to school and later to work, how to read Braille, and how to use special computer software and adaptive aids.

Today, Nicole is a self-employed music therapist living with her husband in South Euclid, OH.

These are two of the many success stories produced every year at the Cleveland Sight Center.

However, the work of the Cleveland Sight Center and other vision rehabilitation organizations across the country is hindered by a lack of reliable funding.

Clients are often unable to pay for the services themselves. And while some disability and workers' compensation insurance policies cover the costs, very few health insurance policies do.

Public insurers like Medicare and Medicaid do not reimburse for vision rehabilitation services when they are performed by a vision rehabilitation specialist, despite the fact that they are accredited by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals, a national body.

Medicare is currently testing a low-vision demonstration project in four States and two cities that allows vision rehabilitation professionals to be reimbursed for their services when supervised by a physician.

I am hopeful that this demo will illuminate the importance of making vision rehabilitation services—and the diagnostic evaluations by optometrists and ophthalmologists that prompt it—a guaranteed Medicare benefit.

I am also supportive of including vision rehabilitation services in the health plans that will be offered in the new exchange set up by the health reform bill.

These are long-term goals. As an original member of the Congressional

Vision Caucus, I realize that we will not achieve all of these objectives overnight. But I know supporting the work of vision rehabilitation practitioners and providers like the Cleveland Sight Center is the right thing to do. And I am confident that we will succeed.

NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, MO.

This Friday's Legacy Awards, honoring Major League Baseball's brightest stars, kicks off what promises to be a season's worth of events marking the 90th year of the establishment of the Negro Leagues, and the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. As a Missourian, I am proud that Kansas City is home to what is not only a local jewel but a National treasure which honors the Negro Leagues, its legendary players, and its place in the American civil rights movement.

In 1920, Andrew "Rube" Foster established the Negro Leagues at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City. The Leagues flourished from 1920 through well into the 1950s. Once forward-thinking baseball executives signed such standout African-American players as Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, interest in the Negro Leagues began to wane. By 1960, as the civil rights movement gained momentum and the best players found their rightful place in the Major Leagues, the Negro Leagues finally folded.

In its heyday, the Negro Leagues was a firmly entrenched and beloved part of African-American culture in Kansas City and throughout the upper Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions of the United States. The museum's Bob Kendrick tells us that many ministers would start church services early on Sundays when the Kansas City Monarchs had a home game on the calendar. Men, women, and children would leave right after church just in time to get to the ballpark, dressed in their Sunday finest, to watch the game. It was the highest level of competition, and players like "Cool Papa" Bell, "Satchel" Paige, and Josh Gibson always made the game exciting.

Kansas City's beloved Buck O'Neil, a former Negro Leagues player, Monarchs' manager and Major League Baseball's first African-American coach, helped establish the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 1990. Back then it was a tiny one-room office in the historic 18th & Vine District in Kansas City. Its mission—the same as it is today—was to preserve and celebrate the history of African-American baseball.

As chairman of the board, Buck O'Neil and his crew took the job seriously, working hard to raise money, acquire what curator Dr. Raymond Doswell has turned into an amazing

collection of original memorabilia, and bring worldwide attention to the museum. By 1997, the museum was robust enough to move into its current 10,000 square foot home at 18th & Vine, where today the story of the Negro Leagues comes to life through its exhibits.

Over time, the museum has had the privilege of welcoming visitors from around the world, and such dignitaries as U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. The museum's National Advisory Board is flush with prominent individuals from the worlds of sports, politics, and the media, all of whom have come to recognize the important role the Museum plays in telling the story of civil rights, sports, and culture in 20th century America. George Will, Ernie Banks, Colin Powell, Lou Brock, former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson, and noted documentary producer Ken Burns are all members of this amazing group of supporters.

In many ways this museum is Buck O'Neil's legacy. Buck, 94 years young at the time of his death in 2006, left a permanent inspirational mark on the game of baseball and all who were fortunate enough to have crossed his trailblazing path. Kansas City—and America—are fortunate to call him our own.

On this the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, I ask that we pause for a moment to pay tribute not only to Buck O'Neil, but to the many unsung African-American baseball heroes who helped the Negro Leagues flourish until the better instincts of baseball executives ultimately made the need for such a league obsolete. This remarkable chapter of American history will be preserved forever thanks to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, a truly American treasure.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4430. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Administrative Regulations; Subpart X—Interpretations of Statutory and Regulatory Provisions" (7 CFR Part 400) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4431. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Daily Economic Loss Assistance Payment Program" (RIN0560-A107) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4432. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, an Executive Order issued on January 16, 2010 relative to the augmentation of the active Armed Forces for the effective conduct of operational missions, including those involving humanitarian assistance, related to relief efforts in Haiti necessitated by the earthquake on January 12, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4433. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Home Mortgage Disclosure" (Docket No. 1379) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 23, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4434. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Custody of Funds or Securities of Clients by Investment Advisers" (RIN3235-AK32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4435. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule Regarding Principal Trades with Certain Advisory Clients" (RIN3235-AJ96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4436. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.