

Mr. Speaker, Doug Chaffin has served his bank and his community with distinction and honor. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on this well deserved recognition.

# RECOGNIZING "AMERICAN HEART MONTH"

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness of the increase in cardiovascular diseases in the United States. Since 1963, to urge Americans to join the battle against these diseases, Congress has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month." Throughout this month, volunteers, educators, health professionals, community leaders and others will devote time to increase awareness about the number one killer of Americans: Cardiovascular disease. Since 1900 cardiovascular disease has accounted for more deaths than any other major cause of death in the U.S., 1 out of every 3. Every 25 seconds someone has a coronary event and every 40 seconds someone has a stroke. According to the American Heart Association Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics 2010 Update, the estimated direct and indirect costs of CVD for 2010 totaled \$503.2 billion.

Heart disease impacts all ethnic groups, men and women, young and old. Strokes occur more often in women and twice as often in African Americans. Just reported this month at the American Stroke Association conference were statistics showing a 51% increase in strokes in 15–34 year old men and a 17% increase in 15–34 year old women. The average age of a person having a first heart attack is 64.5 for men and 70.3 for women. As overweight and obesity—believed to be the major reasons for these alarming statistics—become more prevalent in our society, the risk of CVD and stroke begins to occur at younger ages.

There are 9 modifiable risk factors for heart disease, 5 of which are related to diet. These include hypertension, abnormal blood lipids, abdominal obesity, diabetes, decreased intake of fruits and vegetables and overconsumption of alcoholic beverages. All of these risk factors could be controlled with healthy eating habits and an active lifestyle.

I am pleased to have the headquarters for the American Dietetic Association (ADA) in my Congressional District. The ADA is the foremost authority in providing nutrition counseling throughout the country. In fact, the more than 71,000 registered dietitians and nutrition professionals who are members support the 'eat right' campaign targeted toward all Americans—young and old. The work that they are doing is making a difference in the fight against heart disease and stroke and is improving the health of our citizens.

Having Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) covered by Medicare for beneficiaries diagnosed with hypertension and abnormal blood lipids must happen if we are to have any impact at conquering CVD and its associated deaths. Medical Nutrition Therapy provided by a registered dietitian has been shown to effec-

tively aid in normalizing blood pressure, blood sugar and serum cholesterol levels, while also promoting any necessary weight loss. The lifestyle changes needed to provide the improvements in these risk factors cannot be made by most Americans without the vital assistance of the registered dietitian. By helping people eliminate or improve these risk factors, Medicare will avoid paying for the expensive treatments, procedures and hospitalizations that occur due to a cardiovascular event, thus creating a shift from health "care" to health "prevention".

I commend the American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) for their numerous programs and educational materials made available to the public to help them adapt a healthier lifestyle. Many employers and churches are participating in programs which encourage them to create a culture of physical activity and healthy eating to live longer, heart-healthy lives through walking. The NHLBI program "Healthy Hearts, Healthy Homes", presents important information about a specific risk factor for heart disease, high blood pressure, in a user-friendly and clear manner for Latinos. Several Point-of-Purchase food labeling programs are being used by various grocery stores to help their customers make the healthiest choices.

The 2020 Impact Goal of the American Heart Association states: By 2020, to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20% while reducing death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20%. It will take all of us working together, encouraging our friends, families and co-workers, to live a healthier lifestyle in order to make this become a reality.

# HONORING VONNIE WARE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant Mr. Vonnie Ware. Mr. Ware owns and operates his own cook syrup farm and has raised cattle for the past twenty years. His parents W.H. and Lovie Dier-Ware had nine children. His father was a Blacksmith who owned his own land.

His wife's father, Samuel Mallet, owned and operated his own farm in the Thomastown community where they could hear the bells ringing on the plantation two miles away. His father shod horses for twenty-five cents (.25) a head. The children that lived on the plantation never went to school until it rained. He says, "That's why I say we are just one step from the plantation, because I still meet the same men today who can't read or write."

Out of all the injustice they endured, Vonnie's parents never taught them to hate anyone because of his skin color. His grandparents were Will and Lizer Griffin-Dier. He considered his grandfather his greatest hero and stayed with him when he was a small boy.

Vonnies grandfather was a Deacon in his church and owned and operated his own farm. He was also a syrup cooker. His grandfather wasn't allowed any kind of benefits because he owned his own land. Vonnie followed in his grandfather's footsteps.

His Aunt Frances Dier taught school 40 years in Leake County. She walked for miles to school since she could not ride the bus because she was black. One day, the bus passed and splashed mud on her; she stepped in the ditch and prayed that one day her people would be able to ride the bus like the white people.

Today, Vonnie Ware is a past TAC (Thomastown Attendance Center) Booster club President of four years. He was also a trustee at Leake Memorial Hospital for two years. He is an active member of the Leake County Voters League.

Vonnies Ware speaks from his heart when he says: "We are thankful for the old freedom fighters that humbled themselves and denied themselves of speaking like they were men or women. They knew what the blacks knew. It was difficult to see "white only" signs up everywhere you go. This hurts my soul to write anymore about it. In order for a young man to succeed, he must do these three things: Believe in God, vote, and know how to spend his money. We have come a long way BUT we still have a long way to go. We must press on."

# FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATION ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chair, Congressman FRANK and Congressman HOLT offered amendments reducing funding for the Internal Revenue Service, and increasing funding for the SEC and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, respectively.

I do not support a reduction in the budget of the Internal Revenue Service, nor do I support the rather modest cut to the General Services Administration included in the Frank Amendment.

I believe that if the House adopts the Frank and Holt Amendments that the Senate will provide the funds to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau indicated in those amendments, and will also restore the funds to the IRS and the GSA. Accordingly, I did not vote for these amendments as if they were the last word that Congress would utter regarding the funding of the SEC, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the IRS, and the GSA. Rather, I believe that in the Senate, and in the Conference committee, the support registered for the Frank and Holt Amendments will bolster the claim of those trying to provide adequate funding for the SEC and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, but will not undercut those of us seeking adequate funding for the IRS and GSA.

My support for IRS funding does not mean that I do not think that there needs to be significant reform of the IRS, its operations, and

in some hopefully rare cases, the manner in which it treats tax payers.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to the Continuing Resolution, which would make devastating cuts to vital programs that can help America win the future.

I recognize the need to reduce our nation's deficit in a thoughtful and deliberate manner. But, as a recent editorial stated, "these are the wrong cuts, to the wrong programs, at the wrong time." To sharply scale back or to eliminate programs that are critical to our nation's future in an effort to achieve an arbitrary level of deficit reduction is unwise. Although I disagree with many of the cuts included in this bill, I will focus my remarks on three programs whose long-term benefits far outweigh their short-term costs: the Pell Grant Program, COPS funding, and the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Pell Grants give nearly ten million disadvantaged students, who might otherwise be unable to afford college, the ability to obtain a university education. As the cost of college rises, and economic challenges persist, many more families are struggling to pay their child's tuition bill. Yet, the legislation we are considering today would reduce annual Pell Grant funding for students by nearly \$690 on average—and by nearly \$720 in my district, Puerto Rico. Many students who are currently attending college with the help of a Pell Grant, or who plan to attend college with the help of a Pell Grant, will be unable to do so if this cut is implemented.

Whatever one's political affiliation, it should be clear that a college education opens doors for our young men and women that would otherwise remain sealed shut. College graduates earn significantly more than those without college degrees and have a broader range of career options available to them. And when our students are better educated, our economy is more prosperous and our nation is more competitive. Our nation will not be able to keep pace with China and other countries if we do not increase the number of Americans who graduate from college. To decrease Pell Grants in the present environment is not just bitter medicine; it is bad medicine.

Another proposed funding cut that would cost our country dearly in the long term is the bill's elimination of the COPS Hiring Program. This program puts officers on the streets, protects communities, and saves lives. No matter what part of the country you are from, you deserve to feel secure in your home. As Attorney General of Puerto Rico in the 1990s, I worked with the Clinton Administration to help secure

passage of the bill that created the COPS program. Since the mid-1990s, Puerto Rico has received over \$160 million in COPS grants. This funding has translated into over 3,500 new police officers in our communities. I can attest that programs funded by COPS have been a key ingredient in Puerto Rico's fight against crime. If the COPS Hiring Program is eliminated and crime increases, it will produce economic and emotional costs that far exceed the investment we could make to COPS today. To propose the elimination of the COPS Hiring Program—especially at a time when states and territories are least able to find the funding necessary to safeguard their citizens—is profoundly irresponsible.

Finally, I have deep concerns about proposed cuts to air and water quality improvement programs administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed reductions to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds will be especially difficult to bear on water and wastewater systems across the country. Reliable 24-hour delivery of safe drinking water is essential to the public health, economic opportunity, and quality of life of my constituents and all Americans. The state and tribal grants administered by the Environmental Protection Agency through these revolving funds are important investments in this infrastructure nationwide.

I am concerned not only with these reductions, but also with reductions to the part of the agency that addresses air quality. As a result of action late in the 111th Congress, Puerto Rico and the territories are—for the first time—eligible for the Diesel Emissions Reduction grants program. The program, however, would be sliced in half by this bill, limiting its reach and effect toward reducing harmful particulate matter emissions. Puerto Rico is challenged with poor air quality, and I am concerned with its linkage to asthma and other chronic respiratory illnesses. We cannot make progress toward improving respiratory health without proper funding for air quality programs.

Because H.R. 1 proposes cuts to these and many other important programs, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre by Armenian forces on February 25–26, 1992 in the town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabagh region of Azerbaijan. Khojaly, now under the occupation of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. Khojaly, once the home to 7,000 people, was completely destroyed. Six hundred thirteen people were killed, of which 106 were women, 83 were children and 56 were purported to have been killed with extreme cruelty and torture. In addition, 1,275 people were taken hostage, 150 went missing and 487 people became disabled. Also in the records maintained, 76 of the victims were teenagers, 8 families were

wiped out and 25 children lost both of their parents while 130 lost one of their parents. According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers, the Armenian armed forces were reportedly aided by the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment.

At the time, Newsweek magazine reported: "Azerbaijan was a charnel house again last week: a place of mourning refugees and dozens of mangled corpses dragged to a makeshift morgue behind the mosque. They were ordinary Azerbaijani men, women and children of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped."

As part of the Khojaly population that tried to escape, they encountered violent ambushes that led to abuses, torture, mutilation and death. The Russian organization, Memorial, stated that 200 Azerbaijani corpses were brought from Khojaly to Agdam within four days.

Time magazine published the following description: "While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly 2 weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown."

The extent of the cruelty of this massacre against women, children and the elderly was unfathomable. Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in an important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the tragedy that occurred in the town of Khojaly.

HONORING WILLIE BUNTON

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Willie Bunton, a very instrumental person in the Mayersville community.

Mr. Bunton, Jr. was born on April 29, 1935 to Bertha and Willie Bunton, Sr. He was the son of a sharecropper who left school at the age of 15 to take care of his family because of the death of his father. Mr. Bunton worked tirelessly during the Civil Rights Era to register citizens to vote. He was also instrumental in integrating the schools in Rolling Fork and Mayersville. He met Louise Matthews, who later became his wife, and to this union were born 14 children. He and his wife owned and operated 14 & 1 Quick Stop for several years.

Prior to opening his own business, Mr. Bunton worked with the Delta Opportunity Corporation where he was a job developer and recruiter fulfilling the capacity of job placement for the unemployed. Around this time, Mr. Bunton gained an interest in politics, and then ran for Supervisor-at-Large of District 3 in Issaquena County unsuccessfully. He then