

only need love and an opportunity to grow. The heartwarming stories of hope and love at PICC can be found on their website and in homes across this country. PICC provides safety, education, and a helping hand to those who need it and don't ask for much in return. PICC succeeds on a shoestring budget and a lot of hard work and dedication. Kent is a better place because of PICC. The Eighth District is a better place because of PICC. The state of Washington is a better place because of PICC, and our nation is a better place because of PICC.

In the end, why does Barbara Drennen do it? Why do the staff and volunteers at PICC spend countless hours holding babies, working in the community, and educating? Because everyone at PICC believes in their mission: protecting and serving the least among us. They believe in a purpose bigger than themselves. I'm so happy that mission and that purpose is still alive and well 20 years after it was conceived by Barbara Drennen and Barbara Richards. PICC's mission and purpose is Emma and Briar and the thousands of other children that enrich our lives every day. We're all thankful for that.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Chair, I applaud Chairman PAUL RYAN for his bold leadership in finally addressing solutions to our debt crisis in terms of deficit reduction and entitlement reform. There is no question that our health care entitlement programs are on an unsustainable path, and bold action must be taken if we are going to improve our nation's financial stability and preserve these health safety nets for future generations. Medicare costs are growing twice the speed of our economic growth, and elected officials who choose to turn a blind eye to our nation's economic distress are doing current and future beneficiaries an enormous disservice.

Chairman RYAN's budget plan shows a clear vision of our choice between two futures. I believe he has found innovative solutions to curb the unsustainability of Medicare and Medicaid, balance the budget, and pay off the debt, without raising taxes. Our social safety net is clearly ripping at the seams and reforms must be made if we intend to protect our most vulnerable populations. Many governors have urged Congress to instate block grants for their state health programs in exchange for more flexibility and freedom to find efficient, effective ways to cut Medicaid costs without denying essential health care services for those most in need.

Health care is clearly not a one-size-fits-all issue. In my home state of New York, Gov-

ernor Cuomo has already shown leadership and found innovative ways to control Medicaid costs in his Medicaid Redesign Team. New York has an extremely diverse demographic in our Medicaid pool, and transforming the federal government's role into a solid Medicaid block program could seriously hamper efforts by state agencies that are already working hard to redesign the program and cut costs on their own. A block program in New York could result in additional cuts in Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals and physicians, and possibly cut services to institutions that serve the disabled. In the last two years, the state has cut Medicaid reimbursement by \$5.3 billion, and further cuts would only create more hurdles in their efforts to provide quality health care to New Yorkers who need it.

If a block grant is adopted, I believe states should have the ability to opt out of the program in exchange for benchmarks to cut costs. New York should have a chance to continue their efforts to fundamentally redesign the Medicaid system. If New York is forced into a block program, the state may not have time to truly fix the system for the long haul. Nearly 686,000 hospital and health system jobs fuel New York's economic activity in communities across the state. Officials must balance the need for reform, and pragmatic approaches to secure services for current Medicaid beneficiaries.

HONORING MRS. MARSHA MORRIS
FOR HER RETIREMENT AFTER 23
YEARS OF EDUCATING THE
YOUTH OF ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marsha Morris as she retires after 23 years of exemplary teaching in Illinois School District 101. Educators like Mrs. Morris are responsible for shaping America's youth, and her passion for her profession has contributed to the development of countless students into civic-minded Americans. With great pride, I honor her today for her tireless dedication to public service.

In her 23 years as a Western Springs educator, Marsha Morris has been instrumental in the growth of students in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. After earning her undergraduate degree at Benedictine University, Mrs. Morris pursued graduate studies at Aurora University, graduating with a Master of Arts in Teaching. As an educator at Forest Hills Elementary School, and later as the Library Learning Center Director for Forest Hills and Field Park Schools, Mrs. Morris encouraged students to engage their curiosities, explore their creative sides, and above all, she encouraged every student to read. As an educator, Mrs. Morris channeled her love of books into the classroom where, by sharing her favorite stories with students, she inspired them to discover favorite stories of their own.

Mrs. Morris' excellence in teaching has encouraged and inspired many young men and women of Cook County to embrace and engage with the world around them. The Western Springs community has been fortunate to have Mrs. Morris, who dedicated her career to enriching the lives of children.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois and all those whose lives she has touched, I am proud to honor Mrs. Marsha Morris for her years of excellence in District 101. I thank her for dedicating her career to students aspiring to leadership and civic accomplishment, and I wish her a long and happy retirement. Mrs. Morris will be greatly missed by the students of District 101, but I know she will continue to be an asset to her community.

HONORING THE METROPOLITAN
FIRE SPRINKLER, LLC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, LLC, as the 2011 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year, and its founder and president, District of Columbia native Walter "Merrill" Smith.

After working in the fire protection industry for over 30 years, Merrill Smith started his own business, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, in 2005, and in only a few years, has built one of the fastest growing and most successful small businesses in the District of Columbia. Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, a minority-owned D.C. business, installs fire protection systems in buildings throughout the Washington metropolitan region. Most recently, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler was successful in competing to install sprinkler systems in the vast Coast Guard building now under construction at the site of the future U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) headquarters, located on the old St. Elizabeths grounds. Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler had already established a stellar track record on large projects, including the National Naval Medical Center, Gaylord National Harbor, and the Washington Nationals Stadium garage.

Merrill Smith sought to establish his own business not only for entrepreneurial reasons, but also because he wanted to provide jobs for residents in his hometown. His initial sources for employees are the District's Department of Employment Services, which serves D.C. residents seeking jobs, and the Road Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 669. Merrill Smith has embraced union labor and is about to train his first female apprentice.

Merrill Smith first built his own skills, and then built a business based on his first-hand knowledge of the industry. In the process, he has become an inspiration for young people and unemployed residents, and a model for the community for what hard work, with high quality, can accomplish.

Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler is rendering outstanding service to the larger community, to the small business community, and to individuals in our community, all at the same time. Merrill Smith's company makes important contributions to the District of Columbia economy. In competing successfully for contracts, particularly high-quality federal contracts such as the DHS project, Merrill Smith has become a living example for local small businesses that aim high. In searching for minority and union laborers, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler is both

training and employing a high-quality workforce.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, LLC for its outstanding accomplishments as the 2011 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year, and its founder and president, Walter "Merrill" Smith.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACK IN MOROCCO

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the terrorist attack that took the lives of at least 16 innocent people and wounded 23 others on April 28, 2011 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The Argana Café, the site of the bombing, overlooks the city's bustling Jamaa el-Fnaa square, which is a lively hub of cultural exchange and celebration. Moroccan, French, and British lives were lost in this senseless act, indicating that this was not a protest of local concerns, but of global ideals.

This disgraceful demonstration of ill will is considered an attack not only on Moroccan, French and British civilians, but on the human right to freedom, security, and happiness. No human being should have to live in constant fear of such needless violence, and I firmly stand with the people of Morocco as they strive to cope with this blow. I would also like to express my most heartfelt sympathies to all who have suffered from this tragedy, whether through their direct presence on the scene or indirectly through the suffering of a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, acts of cowardice and violence must not be allowed to prevail. It is my hope that the people of Morocco and the victims of this attack find peace and healing, and that we continue to work toward a global society that values every human life.

HONORING MRS. LINDA WINFIELD FOR HER RETIREMENT AFTER 33 YEARS OF TEACHING

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Winfield, one of Illinois School District 101's most beloved teachers, who will retire at the end of this school year in May. For 33 years, Mrs. Winfield has blessed the Forest Hills community with her compassion and her commitment to educating children.

Raised in the small town of Assumption, Illinois, Mrs. Winfield understood the importance and lasting impact of education in small town communities. After graduating from nearby Millikin University, she began her career as a teacher at Forest Hills. In 1990 she became the kindergarten teacher at Forest Hills Elementary after spending several years in other teaching roles. Her ever-present smile and dedication to elementary school education have made her a favorite teacher in her local community. Her love of music, which she in-

fuses into each class by singing and playing the piano, has endeared her to parents and left lifelong impressions on her students. Mrs. Winfield has made a tradition of the kindergarten students hosting a Mother's Day tea for their mothers; this event is truly one of the highlights of the year for Forest Hills kindergarten families.

Mrs. Winfield's engagement with her students and their families always lasted long after the ring of the school bell. Active in the local community, Mrs. Winfield set a positive example for her students and neighbors within and outside the classroom, teaching extra-curricular music lessons.

I ask you to join me in honoring Mrs. Winfield on her retirement after 33 years of teaching in District 101. Mrs. Winfield will be greatly missed at Forest Hills Elementary by parents, students, and co-workers alike. Her contributions to the community exemplify her commitment to her students and their families. May she enjoy a long and productive retirement, and continue to put a smile on the faces of those around her.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT JEFFREY HAWTHORNE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the life of Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Hawthorne. Staff Sergeant Hawthorne was a true patriot who exemplified the honor and valor of our Armed Forces. His passing is an enormous loss for Northwest Florida and the United States Army.

Staff Sergeant Hawthorne was a native of Chumuckla in Santa Rosa County, Florida. His love for his country was unparalleled. As a junior at Central High School he signed a commitment to serve his country in the U.S. Army. Immediately following his graduation in 1995, Staff Sergeant Hawthorne enlisted, serving 16 years on active duty until his recent passing.

As a member of the Army, Staff Sergeant Hawthorne served with honor and distinction, receiving numerous medals and commendations. He served as a military policeman throughout the U.S. and in Korea. He also served as a special agent with the protective services detachment at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The United States of America is a bastion of liberty and freedom, and it is because of the indefatigable dedication and professionalism of servicemembers like Staff Sergeant Hawthorne, who put themselves in danger to protect our country, that we continue to prosper as the world's greatest nation. Staff Sergeant Hawthorne has gone home to the Lord; however, his dedication and service to our nation will not be forgotten.

Staff Sergeant Hawthorne is survived by his parents, Joseph and Ruth Hawthorne; sisters, Cynthia Bloyd and Diane (John) Marceau; nephews, Kevin and Sean Carroll; aunts, Marian Hendrix, Loretta McCrory, Ann Blanton, Cora Abel and Irene Joyner; uncles, Ralph Jr. Bailey and James Hawthorne and many other nieces and nephews and his military family,

and he remains in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my deepest condolences to Staff Sergeant Hawthorne's family. Staff Sergeant Hawthorne was a true patriot, and his willingness to serve our nation will endure as an example for our community. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Hawthorne family.

IN HONOR OF EDITH WILKIE EDWARDS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edith Wilkie Edwards. Most often known as Edie, I am honored that I have this opportunity to recognize such a caring, giving and loving woman.

Edie's tireless and dedicated work towards making the world a safer and more humane place is remarkable. She was an activist on peace and arms control issues, a former congressional staff member and wife of former Congressman Don Edwards, (D-CA). Edie passed away in Carmel, California at the age of 64. She had cancer and pulmonary disease.

Edie will forever be remembered as one of Capitol Hill's most talented, driven and selfless individuals. She directed Congress' bipartisan and bicameral Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus from 1978 to 1995. In that role, she worked to halt the development of new nuclear weapons, strengthen congressional support for the United Nations, end funding for proxy wars in Central America and expand and encourage human rights around the world. Prior to directing the caucus, she served as chief of staff to Reps. Fortney (Pete) Stark (D-CA) from 1975 to 1978; and Ogden R. Reid (R-NY) from 1968 to 1975.

Additionally, Edie served as president of the Peace Through Law Education Fund, a spin-off of the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus, where she co-authored two reports examining the views of key military leaders on peace operations. The reports, "A Force for Peace" (1999) and "A Force for Peace and Security" (2002), foresaw the increasing need for U.S. troops to participate in multi-lateral peace operations in failed states.

Edie was also an active board member of the Ploughshares Fund, the San Francisco-based foundation that is the largest U.S. grant-making organization focused on peace and security issues; Council for a Livable World, a leading nuclear arms control lobbying organization in Washington; Peace-PAC, which supports arms control activists seeking election to the House of Representatives and the Center for International Policy, an organization started after the war in Vietnam by former diplomats and peace activists to promote human rights and international cooperation. She was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

In 1981, after 11 years together, she married Rep. Edwards, the 32-year Member of Congress from San Jose, CA, who chaired the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. They were