

Isaiah was born into the shadows of life. Leukemia could not overtake him, but the shadows could, and they did.

I am not blind to Isaiah's responsibilities; nor was he. He was embarrassed by his failures; he fought against his addictions, his disorganization, and his temptations. He tried. I know that he tried. To say that the cards were stacked against him is too glib; others might have been able to play his hand better. I know that; and he knew that.

But to ignore Isaiah's condition not of his choosing, the harvest of racism, the frailty of the safety net, the vulnerability of the poor, is simply wrong. His survival depended not just on proper chemotherapy, but, equally, on a compassionate society.

I am not sure when the moral test was put on hold; when it became negotiable; when our nation in its political discourse decided that it was uncool to make its ethics explicit and its moral commitments clear—to the people in the dawn, the twilight, and the shadows. But those commitments have never in my lifetime been both so vulnerable and so important.

You are not confused; the world is. You need not forget your purpose, even if the world does. Leaders are not leaders who permit pragmatics to quench purpose. Your purpose is to heal, and what needs to be healed is more than Isaiah's bone marrow; it is our moral marrow—that of a nation founded on our common humanity. My brother, a retired schoolteacher, tells me that he always gets goose bumps when he reads this phrase: "We, the people . . . We—you, and me, and Isaiah—inclusive."

It is time to recover and celebrate a moral vocabulary in our nation—one that speaks without apology or hesitation of the right to health care—the human right—and, without apology or hesitation, of the absolute unacceptability of the vestiges of racism, the violence of poverty, and blindness to the needs of the least powerful among us.

Now you don your white coats, and you enter a career of privilege. Society gives you rights and license it gives to no one else, in return for which you promise to put the interests of those for whom you care ahead of your own. That promise and that obligation give you voice in public discourse simply because of the oath you have sworn. Use that voice. If you do not speak, who will?

If Isaiah needs a bone marrow transplant, then, by the oath you swear, you will get it for him. But Isaiah needs more. He needs the compassion of a nation, the generosity of a commonwealth. He needs justice. He needs a nation to recall that, no matter what the polls say, and no matter what happens to be temporarily convenient at a time of political combat and economic stress, that the moral test transcends convenience. Isaiah, in his legions, needs those in power—you—to say to others in power that a nation that fails to attend to the needs of those less fortunate among us risks its soul. That is your duty too.

This is my message from Isaiah's life and from his death. Be worried, but do not for one moment be confused. You are healers, every one, healers ashamed of miseries you did not cause. And your voice—every one—can be loud, and forceful, and confident, and your voice will be trusted. In his honor—in Isaiah's honor—please, use it.

Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP

NAVY CAPTAIN HENRY  
DOMERACKI

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor United States Navy Captain Henry Domeracki. Captain Domeracki has made countless sacrifices throughout his 36 years of dedicated service to the defense of our great nation. He is an American hero who has received numerous medals and recognitions for his dedicated service. As such, I am proud of his achievements and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Captain Domeracki was recalled to active duty during the Gulf War in 1991, and served as a Counter-Terrorism Officer/Agent in Europe for six months. In 2004, he was mobilized again for Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the Chief of Operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority—Baghdad Central in Baghdad, Iraq. During this time, Captain Domeracki built the financial structure for the Baghdad Provincial government and reestablished financial operations for the City of Baghdad. He aided in rebuilding the country of Iraq by managing over \$100 million in business development projects and capital outlays.

In 2009, he was mobilized to fill the U.S. Army Civil Affairs' billet. He served as the Chief of Operations for the Multi-National Forces Iraq—Civil Military Operations Directorate and was in charge of the development and vocational training programs and projects for the entire country of Iraq. Captain Domeracki's actions also enabled thousands of militia-aged Iraqis to be employed. He was able to facilitate this through personally coordinating three international conferences and over \$2.1 billion in private sector funds from companies in the United Arab Emirates. These funds were invested in business development projects in the various regions of Iraq and enabled the building of ten vocational training schools with over 10,000 students enrolled. Additionally, over 70 agri-businesses and co-operatives, ranging from commercial milk processing to date production, and industrial-level honey processing, were created through these efforts.

In conjunction with his military achievements, Captain Domeracki has thirty-two years of municipal government management experience and has served as the Chief Financial Officer of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for the past twenty years.

Captain Domeracki's awards include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Commendations Medals (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Army Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize this great American. His selfless service and duty to this country are an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE SIGNIFICANT  
CONTRIBUTIONS OF TAMARA  
ZAHN TO THE CITY OF INDIAN-  
APOLIS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my gratitude to Tamara Zahn for her considerable achievements over the past two decades as President of Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. Her vision, leadership and tireless determination have helped transform downtown Indianapolis into a first-class destination for visitors and Hoosiers alike.

Our "Hoosier Hospitality," in combination with our well-deserved reputation as a premier location for sports fans, has made the City of Indianapolis a model for other municipalities looking to rejuvenate their image and grow their local economy.

Under the tenure of Tamara Zahn, our city has witnessed unprecedented growth and a staggering transformation of downtown Indianapolis. Our once sleepy, urban center is now an attractive and pedestrian friendly destination, complete with highly-regarded attractions like the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Victory Field, White River State Park, and the Eiteljorg Museum, along with first-class accommodations for visitors on any budget. Ms. Zahn's ability to communicate her vision helped make the construction of world-class facilities like Lucas Oil Stadium, Circle Center Mall, and the Indiana Convention Center a reality.

Tamara Zahn was one of the principal drivers of this remarkable transformation. Over the past 19 years, she has galvanized the respective talents and resources of private enterprise and federal, state, and local officials for the purpose of revitalizing our city.

Ms. Zahn's incredible success is testament to her skill and vision as an urban planner, leader and innovator. Her considerable achievements have not gone unrecognized. She has been named one of the "Most Influential Women in Indianapolis" and was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tamara Zahn for her exceptional service to Indianapolis.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF WEST TECH HIGH  
SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of West Tech High School.

West Tech opened its doors to 224 students on February 15, 1912. In 1931, with an enrollment of 4,000 students, West Tech was distinguished as the largest school in all of Ohio. West Tech graduated more than 40,000 students between 1912 and 1995, when it closed as an operational high school.

West Tech is known for offering the first driver's education classes and the first auto

mechanics, aircraft radio operations and repair metallurgy classes in the nation. Its newspaper, *The Tatler*, became a nationally and internationally recognized student publication.

The high school closed its doors to students in 1995, and the facility re-opened in 2004 as a 189-unit apartment building, named the West Tech Lofts.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary, West Tech will be opening up the public school for the first time since its conversion to the lofts. A week of celebratory events will be hosted between July 17th and the 21st and will feature memorabilia and special exhibits as well as tours and alumni speakers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of West Tech High School.

RECOGNIZING THE CROATIAN MUSICAL GROUP RUŽE DALMATINKE

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Croatian musical heritage group, Ruže Dalmatinke from Seattle, Washington, for being featured in the Homegrown Concert Series at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center.

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress sponsors various programs throughout the year to celebrate and present different cultural traditions to the American people. This summer, Ruže Dalmatinke performed Traditional Croatian Singing.

Lead vocalists and sisters, Binki Franulovic Spahi and Alma Franulovic Planchich, immigrated to the United States with their family after World War II. The sisters have sung together since their childhood and were inspired to form the Ruže Dalmatinke in 1981. The group has passionately shared their Croatian heritage, lifestyle, and music in Washington State since.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Ruže Dalmatinke for being featured in the concert series hosted by the Library of Congress. Ruže Dalmatinke has shown incredible devotion to Croatian musical heritage by performing and sharing all around the United States.

IN HONOR OF SEYMOUR "SY" POLLOCK

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Seymour Pollock, who was raised in Brooklyn, Connecticut in my Congressional District and turned 100 years old on July 8th. Known by his friends and family as "Sy," he is a straightforward man with a complicated backstory. Losing his mother as a young boy, he and his two brothers spent much of their childhood separated. The financial burden of caring for three sons forced his father to place his kids in foster homes, where

Sy suffered abuse. Continued domestic instability prompted Sy to leave home and stow away on a cruise ship when he was 16. When he was discovered hiding on board, the teenager told the Captain that his name was Seymour, to which the captain replied "Well, now you are going to see less." Sy worked in the galley until they returned to port.

During World War II, Sy served in the United States Army, where he cleaned and repaired semi-automatic weapons for the troops on the frontlines. His unit was responsible for setting up the coastal defense for what is now Battery Park in New York. After the war, Sy's father bought a building in the Bronx and opened up a business there selling and repairing cash registers. He and his brothers eventually ran that business together.

Sy retired to Florida at 82. He is the father of two daughters and a grandfather of two ambitious young men. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the extraordinary life of this man who exemplifies the American dream.

IN MEMORY OF L.A. CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WILLIS EDWARDS

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Willis Edwards who died on July 15, 2012, after waging a valiant battle against cancer. He was 66. For more than forty years, Willis Edwards served his community and the nation as a soldier in Vietnam, as an academic support specialist at the University of Southern California, as a civil rights activist and community organizer, as the long-time president of the Hollywood/Beverly Hills Chapter of the NAACP, and a trusted advisor to presidential candidates.

Born in Texas in 1946, Mr. Edwards was raised in Palm Springs and attended California State University at Los Angeles, where he was elected the first African American student body president in the school's history. After graduation Mr. Edwards was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star. Upon his honorable discharge, Mr. Edwards served as Director of Black Student Services at USC.

Mr. Edwards' political activism in national politics began with Robert F. Kennedy's historic 1968 presidential campaign. Through his dealings with the Democratic Party, he became a supporter and friend of Los Angeles' first black mayor, Tom Bradley, who later appointed him to the city's Social Service Commission in 1973.

In 1982 Mr. Edwards was elected president of the NAACP's Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch. He played a major part in getting the group's Image Awards, a gala that honored African Americans who worked in front of and behind the camera in Hollywood, televised on NBC. He also played a leading role in Reverend Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign.

Mr. Edwards played a major role in securing national honors for Rosa Parks; friends say that was his proudest accomplishment. He helped to arrange for the civil rights hero to be seated next to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clin-

ton during the 1999 State of the Union address. He also helped secure for her the Congressional Gold Medal, and for her casket to lie in repose in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

It is easy to forget that among all Mr. Edwards' accomplishments in the civil rights and political arenas, he was also battling a very personal struggle with HIV. The disease nearly took his life 15 years ago, but he miraculously recovered with the help of new drugs. In a 2001 speech to the NAACP he went public about his experience living with HIV. He helped to tear down barriers in order to have a frank conversation about the disease within the African American Community, where it was still regarded as a taboo subject by many.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Willis Edwards, this country has lost a great man and leader. My home state of California and county of Los Angeles has lost a champion and fighter for civil rights and equal opportunity. I have lost a dear friend.

I ask a moment of silence to honor the memory of Willis Edwards.

H.R. 5856—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will start debate on H.R. 5856, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2013. In this bill, \$388 million is to be appropriated for military bands and musical performances. This is a stunning amount of taxpayer funds to be spending on military music at time of fiscal crisis and tough choices. While the Pentagon's 140 bands and over 5,000 full-time musicians carry on a time honored and noble tradition of military music, this level of spending on a military function that does not directly enhance national security is unsustainable. At a time of trillion dollar budget deficits, Congress needs to act to significantly reduce taxpayer funding of military bands.

It is my intention to offer an amendment on H.R. 5856 to reduce Pentagon spending for military bands and performances for fiscal year 2013 from \$388 million to \$200 million. The \$188 million reduction would be applied to the deficit reduction account established in H.R. 5856.

Earlier this year on H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, the House approved an amendment I offered to limit spending on "military musical units." The amendment stated, "Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this Act for military musical units (as such term is defined in section 974 of title 10, United States Code) may not exceed \$200,000,000."

I do not want there to be any misinterpretation or mischaracterization of my intentions when I offer my amendment. My goal is to reduce military musical units, not military personnel in a role essential to our national security.

This is a time of tough choices. My House Republican colleagues have decided to protect and shield millionaires and billionaires from any increase in Federal taxes commensurate with their wealth to help reduce the deficit. Instead, they have targeted domestic programs