

Ranch's clients receive only the best quality beef. Dave helped develop the "Partnership for Quality" which was created in response to consumer demand for consistent, high-quality beef. The program now consists of about 70 families, all of whom are dedicated to the highest quality genetics, management practices and calf process and verification strategy. Individuals like Dave Woods have helped make America's beef industry one of the most trusted in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication my good friend, Dave Wood, has demonstrated over the past 40 years. His passion and diligence speaks to his character and truly exemplifies the best of what America has to offer. I congratulate Mr. Wood for this great achievement and ask that you join me in wishing him continued success.

HONORING DAVID SPELLICH

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge David Spellich upon his retirement after 14 years of service with the Livonia Public Schools.

After graduating from Belleville High School in 1970, Dave attended Eastern Michigan University. As often happens, he left EMU to pursue gainful employment. In 1987, Dave returned to Henry Ford Community College where he continued his education, transferring to Eastern Michigan to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in 1990.

Dave began his career as an educator by becoming an instructor in Livonia's Adult Education curriculum and went on to teach in Ferndale, Michigan's alternative education program. He encouraged his students, most of whom had a difficult path to education, to become more than they were. He organized a student prepared annual Thanksgiving Day dinner to be shared with their families and educators.

In 1998, Dave became a Social Studies instructor at Livonia Stevenson High School. He took on the roles of sophomore class sponsor and Chair of the Social Studies Department where he launched the AP Government program in the Livonia Public Schools. Dave then moved to Franklin High School in 2008, becoming the Student Activities Director. While serving in this capacity, he developed the freshman orientation/mentoring program. Returning to teach AP Government Stevenson High School in 2010, Mr. Spellich encouraged his students to contact elected officials to better understand the process of governing and legislation.

Mr. Speaker, David Spellich has faithfully served the students of Livonia, Michigan. As he enters the next phase of his life with Linda, his beloved wife of 38 years and his son Jason, perhaps he will continue to avidly travel beyond the 50 states of this great Nation, all of which he has visited. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David Spellich upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

HONORING DR. AARON SHIRLEY
FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE
TO THE CAUSE OF HEALTH
CARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the original pioneers of rural and adolescent health care in the state of Mississippi, Dr. Aaron Shirley. Dr. Shirley has always worked to provide quality and accessible health care for the poor and underserved populations in the state of Mississippi.

Dr. Shirley was born in Gluckstadt, Mississippi on January 3, 1933. In 1951, he began his undergraduate studies at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1955. He received his Medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1959 and later interned at Hubbard Hospital before completing his residency in pediatrics in 1967 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Shirley began private practice in 1960, and for 15 years, practiced general medicine in Vicksburg, Mississippi. From 1963 to 1967, he helped to organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and served as chairman for Warren County. Following this, Dr. Shirley was the director of the Mississippi Action for Progress, an organization which provided health care and education to children. From the beginning of his career, he has been committed to health care in Mississippi and was a pioneer in providing volunteer health services to Head Start centers at a time when Head Start was a budding program.

In 1970, Dr. Shirley, along with others, developed the largest community health center in the state of Mississippi, which now serves more than 40,000 low income patients annually. In 1979, he initiated a comprehensive health clinic within an inner city school to provide comprehensive health and counseling services for teens. He placed special emphasis on reducing teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, drug abuse, teenage violence, and mental health problems. This program has since served as a model for other school-based clinics nationwide.

Dr. Shirley's commitment to quality health care led him to be active in the development and/or organization of various agencies and projects which shared his dream of quality, affordable health care for all individuals. Some of those agencies included Mississippi Action for Progress, the Mississippi Association of Community Health Care for the Poor, the Medgar Evers Community Health Center, the Tufts Delta Health Center, and G.A. Carmichael Community Health Center.

Dr. Shirley has served as a member of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, Georgia, the Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health, the National Health Insurance Advisory Committee, the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., the Field Foundation in New York City, New York, and most notably, Dr. Shirley served as a working group member with President Bill Clinton's Health Care Reform Task Force in 1993.

During that same year, Dr. Shirley received the MacArthur Fellows Award which recognizes devotion, dedication, and strides made in one's field. He is the recipient of many outstanding awards both locally and nationally.

Currently, Dr. Shirley serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Director of Community Medical Services, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi. His efforts are focused on developing and implementing innovative measures to access quality healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Mississippi. Dr. Shirley is working closely with the State Division of Medicaid as well as with hospitals and other not for profit agencies to reduce health disparities for Mississippians.

His model for Hinds County is currently being reviewed for possible statewide and national replication, through the Robert Wood Johnson's Communities in Charge Program. In 2005, Dr. Shirley was honored with the endowment of Chair for the Study of Health Disparities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and he was selected to serve as a member of the Citizens Health Care Working Group which was mandated by Congress to hold hearings and community meetings across the country on health care coverage and cost issues, and to produce a "Health Report to the American People."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Aaron Shirley for his tireless commitment and service to the cause of health care throughout the state of Mississippi and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on February 15, 2012 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54. If present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 50 and 51, and "yea" on rollcall votes 52, 53, and 54.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Turlock Irrigation District as it gets ready to celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Established in 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) was the first publicly owned irrigation district in the state. Organized under the Wright Act, the District operated as a special district under the provisions of the California Water Code. In 1893, TID and the neighboring Modesto Irrigation District built La Grange Dam to divert water into their canal systems; and in 1900, Henry Stirling was the first farmer to receive irrigation water from TID canals in Ceres.

Beginning in 1923, TID began a system of expansion to provide electric retail energy, as

new dams and powerhouses were constructed. Since then, TID has been able to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to a growing retail customer base, which has expanded to include over 98,000 residential, farm, business, industrial and municipal accounts in portions of Stanislaus, Merced, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties. 2003 was a monumental year for TID, when they purchased a 225-square-mile electric service territory from PG&E and designated it the Westside Service Area. In 2005, the Turlock Irrigation District became certified as an independent control area and opened the Walnut Energy Center, a natural gas-fired plant, in 2006. The most recent development occurred in 2009, when TID purchased the Tuolumne Wind Project, a wind generation facility capable of producing 136.6 megawatts, and began installing SMART Meters in its service area.

Currently, TID provides irrigation water to more than 5,800 growers in a 307-square-mile service area that incorporates 149,500 acres of Central Valley farmland. The Tuolumne River is the District's primary source of water, originating at Mt. Lyell in Yosemite National Park. Water for irrigation and hydroelectric power production is kept at Don Pedro Reservoir—about 50 miles east of Turlock in the Sierra Nevada foothills, near the historic gold rush era town of La Grange.

On February 24, 2012, the Turlock Irrigation District will be hosting a VIP showing of the documentary film they helped to produce entitled, *The Irrigationist: The Story of the Turlock Irrigation District*. The documentary will serve as an educational tool to inform people of all ages about the District's rich history and is a wonderful way to involve TID customers in celebration of the District's 125th anniversary, which occurs on June 6, 2012.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Turlock Irrigation District on the release of the new documentary film and the upcoming 125th anniversary of athis pioneering institution.

CONGRATULATING
COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the swearing in of my hometown's newest Los Angeles City Councilmember—Joe Buscaino.

A native son of San Pedro and a first-generation Italian-American, Councilman Buscaino learned at an early age the importance of hard work, family, community and service. His dedication to these values led him to the Los Angeles Police Department, where he protected and served the community he loves so well for almost 15 years.

There he created the LAPD's first Teen Community Police Advisory board, a program breaking down barriers between teens and the police by bringing youth's perspectives on problem solving to the police department. The program has since been expanded to the whole city—and I am confident this will not be the last innovative initiative he has to share with the City of Angels.

Now Councilman Buscaino's commitment to public service has led him to the chambers of

the Los Angeles City Council, where I know he will serve the people of my home Council District 15 and the city of Los Angeles with honor and distinction. We are fortunate to have such an advocate.

HONORING WILLIAM H. "BILL"
GRAY, III FOR HIS COUNTLESS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION
AND THE BLACK AMERICAN
COMMUNITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true public servant, educator, community activist, spiritual leader, and my dear friend, William H. "Bill" Gray, III. For nearly five decades, Bill has served the Philadelphia community, African American community, and the American people as a whole in numerous capacities. From education and the ministry to government and the business world, his influential leadership continues to this day.

Bill was born on August 20, 1941 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is the second child of the late Dr. William H. Gray, Jr. and Hazel Yates Gray, and has an older sister, Marion. Bill attended Franklin and Marshall College, where he earned a B.A. in 1963, and received a master's degree in divinity from Drew Theological Seminary in 1966 and a master's degree in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1970. He has served as a faculty member and professor of history and religion at St. Peter's College, Jersey City State College, Montclair State College, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Temple University. The heir to a legacy of education leaders, his father served as the president of two Black colleges, Florida A&M University and Florida Memorial College. Furthermore, Bill's mother was a dean of Southern University and his grandfather a professor at another historically Black college.

Hailing from a family of ministers as well as educators, Bill began his service in the ministry in 1964, when he pastored his first church, the Union Baptist Church of Montclair, New Jersey. For 35 years, he was pastor of the 5,000-member Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, as were his father and grandfather before him since 1925. In 1970, Bill became a community activist while living in Montclair, after winning a housing discrimination suit against a landlord who denied him an apartment because of his race. He founded the non-profit Union Housing Corporation in Montclair to build affordable homes for low- and moderate-income tenants and co-founded the Philadelphia Mortgage Plan, an organization that helped people in low-income communities obtain mortgages. In 1971, he married Andrea Dash, a marketing consultant. They raised three sons: William IV, Justin, and Andrew.

From 1979 to 1991, Bill served in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his 12 years in Congress, he remained a staunch supporter of education. As the first African American to chair the House Budget Committee in 1985, Bill was a leading advocate for strengthening America's education system. He went on to

break further barriers as Chairman of the Democratic Caucus in 1988 and as Majority Whip later that year, becoming the highest-ranking African American ever to serve in Congress. In May 1994, Bill served as the Special Advisor to the President on Haiti. In that role, he assisted the President in developing and carrying out policy to restore democracy to Haiti, and received the Medal of Honor from Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1995.

In 1991, Bill became the president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), America's oldest and most successful Black higher education assistance organization. During his tenure, he led the UNCF to new fund-raising heights while increasing educational assistance to minority students and support of historically Black colleges and universities. In particular, Bill spearheaded a number of bold initiatives to relocate UNCF's headquarters to the Northern Virginia area; develop a new technology center to link UNCF offices and member colleges electronically and thereby facilitate the sharing of scholarship and donor information; and develop the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute to compile and analyze data on a host of issues affecting African American students from kindergarten through graduate school.

After retiring in 2004, Bill's contributions to public policy were far from over. He went on to serve as Chairman of the Amani Group and, beginning in 2009, Co-Chairman of the consulting and advisory firm GrayLoeffler, LLC. Today, Bill chairs Gray Global Strategies, Inc., a global business consulting and government affairs strategies firm. He also sits on the board of directors for several companies, including Dell, Inc., JPMorgan Chase, Pfizer, and Prudential Financial. Bill's many years of public and community service have earned him numerous awards and distinctions, such as the prestigious Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom of Worship Medal. In December 2009, he was listed in *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 "Most Important Blacks in the World in the 20th Century." Additionally, Bill has also been awarded more than 65 honorary degrees from America's leading colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize one of our own, former Congressman Bill Gray, for his tireless dedication to advancing education and opportunity in this country. His pioneering efforts have paved the way for future generations of American government, business, and community leaders. Bill's leadership and strength of character are a true inspiration to us all. I am so pleased to pay tribute to my dear friend, and wish him great success for many years to come.

HONORING THE NAI

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of the National Academy of Inventors, NAI. The NAI was founded at the University of South Florida, USF, in 2010, and has since become an institution that recognizes researchers who