

Canada in 1948. A gifted musician, Yank enjoyed 27 years in the music industry as a singer, composer, arranger and producer. His career began in 1965 as the lead singer of the Footprints, singing *Never Say Die* and in 1967, he became the lead singer of the touring Kingsmen, best known for *Louie, Louie*. He has enjoyed success in the field of advertising jingles including Kellogg's Raisin Bran, Dr. Pepper, Kodak, Red Lobster and General Motors.

Barry pioneered the first quadraphonic album—now known as surround sound—along with Robert Lifton and Ben Lanzarone at Regent Sound Studios in New York in 1970. In 1971, he recorded the rock opera "The Diary of Mr. Gray", which put him on the cover of many trade magazines and produced the Broadway show "Let My People Come" at the Imperial Theater in 1979. He has also appeared on the *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The Merv Griffin Show*, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* and *The Sally Jessy Raphael Show*. And in 1975, Yank was commissioned by the White House to write and compose "Welcome Home P.O.W.s".

In 1990, Yank developed Vitapro, a dehydrated soy-based meat-replacement product. While traveling on business, Yank witnessed desperate living conditions that touched his heart. He started donating some of his food product to various charities and NGOs in Canada and the U.S. Soon Yank's dear friend Muhammad Ali joined Global Village Champions and they brought food, medical supplies, clothing and educational tools to refugee camps, orphanages and areas stricken by disaster all over the world.

In 1995 Yank Barry founded the Global Village Champions Foundation which has been used as a vehicle through which Yank, Muhammad Ali, Evander Holyfield and numerous other World Class Champions have provided nearly a billion meals to people in need across the globe. Celine Dion, Michael Jordan, Buzz Aldrin, King Mohammed VI of Morocco and Dr. Michael Nobel are only a few of the exceptional people who have joined Yank as he strives for "A Day Without Hunger" on a global scale.

As a result of his ongoing Fight Against Hunger, Mr. Yank Barry has received nearly two dozen awards since 1995 including the India Humanitarian Service Award 2008, Bahamian Red Cross Humanitarian Award, the Cote D'Ivoire Humanitarian Peace award and the Juarez, Mexico Hands of Love and Hope Award for his determined efforts to deliver food and bring hope to hungry people around the world. In November of 2010 Yank received the Gusi Peace Prize for Social Services, Philanthropy and International Humanitarianism in Manila, The Philippines. Yank was also named Philanthropist of the Year at the GLA 2011 Awards in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This award was presented by The Leaders Magazine and the American Leadership Development Association. The most recent acknowledgement of Yank's humanitarian efforts is his nomination for the 2012 & 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. These awards are a byproduct of Mr. Barry sharing his good fortune in a tangible way.

Most recently, Yank Barry and the Global Village Champions Foundation along with Evander Holyfield have freed more than 50 Syrian refugees, many of them children who are now beginning new lives in Bulgaria. The

families, who fled Syria, are getting a chance at a fresh start and living. Yank's goal is to provide these refugees with stable living conditions and food.

Working hand-in-hand with local agencies and NGOs, he has helped countless people in their time of need, often traveling to politically unstable areas when very few would lend a helping hand. Yank's goal is to have delivered 1 billion meals by Dec. 31, 2013.

RURAL AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that there is nothing that is wrong in America that can't be fixed by what is right in America.

Clearly, there are very significant difficulties in this body. There is turmoil in our health care system. The paralysis in Washington, a sluggish economy, and a fractured culture all lend themselves to a search for deeper ideals and for something to cling to.

Mr. Speaker, we are quite fortunate where I live in Nebraska to maintain a strong tradition and connection to the past, which gives guidance for the time in which we live. But we don't often reflect upon our strength. In the final analysis, it really is our land, it is our people, and it is our values.

Recently, in the heart of America's farm country, I had the pleasure of speaking with very attentive and engaged high school students eager to discuss the issues before our Nation. We discussed the proud history of our country, the Declaration of Independence, the ties that continue to define us as a Nation, and the debates that will define us as to where we go as a country.

Mr. Speaker, an essential part of regaining our balance as a Nation is to understand, celebrate, and enhance America's rural heritage. As Americans are more and more removed from farm life, we don't think about the contribution rural life makes to the country as a whole.

Production agriculture remains a key strength of America's economy. Exciting new opportunities are emerging. Expanding domestic food markets such as those for natural and organic foods grown within local food systems provides new opportunities for young and beginning farmers. There is also a new bio-based economy that converts, for instance, corncobs to pop bottles and livestock waste to electricity, while bringing about a new kind of American manufacturing based upon the resources of rural communities.

Another notable point is this, Mr. Speaker: young men and women from rural areas of America serve in the military in much more significant numbers.

Farm policy has an important role in growing new opportunities in rural America. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a farm bill. The arduous process of rec-

onciling House and Senate versions of the farm legislation is now taking place.

It is important for all Americans to understand that the farm bill is not just about farms or food; but it is also a jobs bill, a trade bill, an energy bill, a conservation bill, and even a national security bill. One out of every 12 jobs in the United States is related to agriculture.

In the House version of the bill, I strongly support initiatives that help beginning farmers and ranchers start their agriculture operations. I support initiatives to promote the development of local food markets, tighten payment limitations, and enact reasonable reforms to the SNAP program while also protecting those with food security needs. I am hopeful that the final bill written will retain the important reforms that actually help save taxpayer money and ensure farmers receive important risk management tools.

Mr. Speaker, a recent University of Nebraska survey showed that a majority of students desire to move home to their rural hometowns, given the right opportunity to provide for themselves and raise a family. In recent years, our State, through hard work, personal responsibility, and responsible governance, has distinguished itself as an ideal place to live, work, and to raise a family. More than any one piece of legislation, these are the deeper values that we need to nurture and protect.

Those of us in farm country have a great story to tell. We have the resources and sensible stewardship to use them responsibly. We have a great tradition of values that keeps us tethered to an honorable past, which also serves as a guide for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this will help America find her way.

PUERTO RICO'S TERRITORY STATUS IS THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, over the last several months, the press has been filled with stories about the severe economic problems in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. These economic problems have aggravated social problems like crime, have generated anxiety for individuals and institutions that have invested in Puerto Rico's bonds, and have caused island residents to relocate to the 50 States in unprecedented numbers.

The statistics are staggering. In recent years, Puerto Rico's population has fallen by more than 4 percent, while the number of Puerto Ricans living in the States has increased by over 45 percent.

As Puerto Rico's representative in Congress, it pains me to read media accounts of the island's troubles, especially because I know that my constituents are just as capable and industrious as their fellow citizens in any other jurisdiction. Puerto Rico has enormous potential, but the reality is that this potential is not being fulfilled.

Although the island's problems have certainly grown worse in recent months, it is critical for policymakers and the American public to understand that these problems are not of recent vintage. To the contrary, for at least four decades, Puerto Rico's economic performance—and by extension, quality of life on the island—has been far worse than any State, according to every indicator, including unemployment, average household income, and the ratio of government debt to economic production.

In other words, Puerto Rico's difficulties have endured in more or less the same form, regardless of who holds power in Washington and San Juan and irrespective of the public policies they formulate.

To be sure, fiscal mismanagement at the local level and insufficient attention at the Federal level have both been factors contributing to Puerto Rico's problems, but the record clearly establishes that they are not the main factor.

What, then, is the principle source of Puerto Rico's longstanding woes?

In a recent editorial, *The Washington Post* correctly identified the culprit, noting that the territory's economic problems are "structural—traceable, ultimately, to its muddled political status." Curiously, *The Post* then asserted that "there will be time enough to debate" the status issue later and that Puerto Rico, for the time being, should concentrate on fixing its finances.

As I observed in a letter to *The Post's* editor, this is like a doctor recommending medicine to alleviate a patient's symptoms but doing nothing to treat the underlying disease.

As long as Puerto Rico remains a territory, deprived of equal treatment under critical Federal spending and tax credit programs, forced to borrow heavily to make up the difference, and lacking the ability to vote for the President and Members of Congress who make our national laws, the island will be in a position merely to manage, rather than surmount, its economic problems. This is the only reasonable conclusion to draw from decades of empirical evidence.

A majority of my constituents understand this, which is why they voted to reject territory status in a referendum held 1 year ago. The Obama administration recognizes this as well, which is why it proposed the first federally sponsored status vote in Puerto Rico's history to resolve the issue once and for all.

And, finally, Members of Congress from both parties comprehend this,

which is why 125 of them have cosponsored legislation I introduced that provides for an up-or-down vote in Puerto Rico on the territory's admission as a state and outlines the steps the Federal Government will take if a majority of voters favor admission.

There are many reasons to oppose Puerto Rico's territory status, which is unequal, undemocratic, and un-American. One of the most important reasons why Puerto Rico must discard this status in favor of either statehood or nationhood is because the current status has failed—and will continue to fail—to provide the island's 3.6 million American citizens with the economic opportunities and the quality of life they deserve.

Those who refuse to acknowledge this fundamental truth for ideological reasons are doing a great disservice to the people of Puerto Rico. They are on the wrong side of history.

OBAMACARE IMPACT ON HOSPITALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there has been much documented and published about the problems resulting from the Affordable Health Care Act. Millions of Americans are waking up to the cancellation of health insurance policies that they have depended on to meet their families' needs at an affordable price. There are skyrocketing premiums and deductible increases under the pressures of paying for coverage mandates they do not want, cannot afford, or may even have a moral objection to.

One area that has received little attention so far in this debate is what the impact will be on our hospitals, where much of the needed health care is provided by caring and competent professionals.

As a health care professional who served in rural hospitals for nearly 30 years as a therapist and a manager, I am confident that the future of rural and underserved urban hospitals is not good under the pressures and the mandates of ObamaCare.

While some point to tens of millions of Americans who were uninsured and now having some type of coverage—a plus for the bottom lines of hospitals—I would encourage a closer and more thoughtful look.

First, the CBO has estimated that, even after full implementation, there will still be tens of millions of Americans uninsured. Based on current reports from across America, this may include a lot of middle class Americans who find themselves, for the first time, unable to afford what ObamaCare dictated.

For hospitals, that ensures the continuation of bad debt and charity care that hampers their balance sheets. For lower-income individuals now insured

under expanded medical assistance, it is true that hospitals will be paid, but they are going to be paid 40 to 60 cents for every dollar of care that they provide—not exactly a sustainable margin. More accurately, it is a pathway to bankruptcy for hospitals when coupled with the new-found population of uninsured.

Mix this with the cost of compliance that will be rolling out from the Obama administration of the approximately 130 new regulatory agencies founded under the ObamaCare legislation.

Today, the cost of compliance with government mandates, including Medicare billing and HIPAA, account for a significant part of any hospital's overhead expenses. Multiply this by 100 under the yet-to-be-administered mandates and the costs of care will have to dramatically increase just to keep the doors open and the lights on for every hospital.

The human resources cost of providing health care coverage for hospitals, whose number one asset is a qualified and trained employee, will increase as the ObamaCare employer mandate is finally implemented just a year from now.

Finally, consider the fees and taxes imposed on hospitals in 2014, just weeks away.

Earlier this week a hospital CEO from my district reported:

We're going to have to pay close to \$200,000 next year, as will every hospital.

Hospitals will see various new fees, including a \$5,000 levy so the government can do research on the effectiveness of hospitals working within the plan. Additionally, hospitals will pay a \$19,500 health insurer's fee and a \$160,000 transitional reinsurance fee that will go into a pot to protect insurance companies against the risk of winding up with numerous high-risk customers.

These are added costs for the hospitals that Americans rely on for access to health care. I have to wonder what now is so affordable about the Affordable Care Act. Bankrupt hospitals serve no one.

Americans deserve better.

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THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. I was lucky. I had excellent doctors who detected the cancer by chance in stage 1. I underwent radiation treatment for 2½ months. Because of the grace of God and biomedical research, I stand here today, and I am fortunate to say that I have been cancer free ever since.

I can tell you for a fact that access to preventive health care saved my life. If