

Alivio Medical Center, a bicultural nonprofit health center and extremely respected advocacy organization, she has dedicated over 25 years to expanding the reach of health care to low-income residents of Chicago. Because of Carmen's determination and perseverance, regardless of income, insurance, or ethnicity, over 20,000 individuals have received the best quality care in the greater Chicago community in over 6 clinics with plans for two new health clinic sites this year.

Coming from a family of hardworking Mexican immigrants, she became a social worker, community organizer, and bilingual education specialist after earning degrees from both Loyola University Chicago and the University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico. As a member of Chicago's Board of Education, she saw firsthand the disparities in both education and health for Chicago's neglected Latino population. In 1988 Carmen found herself in a muffler shop parking lot, marking the beginning of her campaign to raise \$2.1 million for the construction of her first of many health clinics. One year later, Carmen's passion manifested in the first Alivio Medical Center and she has been serving the otherwise unrepresented and overlooked community since.

Carmen has been recognized on numerous occasions for her renowned work, including recent recognitions at halftime by the Chicago Bears and the National Football League's Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, the MALDEF Lifetime Achievement Award and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership Award. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has honored her as the Latino Heritage Month "Trailblazer of the Day."

It is an understatement to say that Carmen Velasquez is a true champion for Chicago's Latino community. Her undying fervor, commitment, and care for giving back to the low-income and at risk groups have had profound effects on the health and wellbeing of Chicago. On behalf of all who have benefited from her initiative and the entire medical community, I'd like to thank and congratulate Carmen for her lifelong dedication to others and wish her well in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, I missed four votes as I was returning home to Arkansas to continue my work in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating storm that hit my district over the weekend, including a scheduled tour of the affected areas in Mayflower and Vilonia with the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, who subsequently postponed his visit.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 184, "no" on rollcall vote No. 185, "no" on rollcall vote No. 186, and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 187, for final passage of H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 181, I was unable to be in town for votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MORTON AND ALYCE SPECTOR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Morton and Alyce Spector who are being honored at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner for their devotion to bettering the Jewish community of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Spector have committed their lives to improving the community for their friends and neighbors. Mrs. Spector, a former teacher and executive director of the National Kidney Foundation of Central PA, and Mr. Spector, a founder of D&H Distributors and current co-owner of Design Kitchens and Appliances, have worked with dozens of boards and organizations across the Harrisburg region and are known by all for their "can do" attitude and willingness to lend a hand whenever it's needed. The Spectors credit their parents as their role models, instilling in them the importance of charitable efforts from an early age. Today, they themselves have become role models and are credited with raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, tonight as the Harrisburg community honors the Spectors at the 2014 Susquehanna Tzedakah Society Dinner, I join in thanking them for their outstanding commitment to bettering the Jewish community, and I commend them and their families for their hard work and dedication.

HONORING RICHARD DAVID KANN MELANOMA FOUNDATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida. The foundation will recognize Melanoma Awareness Day on May 5, an important opportunity to raise awareness of skin cancer prevention and treatment.

Malignant melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. In fact, one American dies from Melanoma every fifty minutes. In Florida, residents are especially vulnerable to excessive exposure to the ultraviolet radiation of the sun. Unfortunately, our sunny state has the second highest incidence of the cancer in the country.

That is why it is critical that Floridians, and all Americans, take steps to reduce their likelihood of developing melanoma. These include

avoiding peak sunlight hours when the sun's rays are most intense, seeking shade, applying sun block with an SPF of at least 30–50+ every two hours, and wearing protective clothing such as long-sleeved pants and sunglasses.

In honor of the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation, I am proud to recognize Melanoma Awareness Day. I would also like to thank them for their tireless work in preventing and detecting skin cancer and wish them the best as they continue this daunting but important endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, I was predisposed at the time.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 183, I was unable to make votes due to a personal conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Lupus Awareness Month. Each May, we recognize lupus as the cruel, mysterious autoimmune disease from which an estimated 1.5 million Americans suffer.

Lupus comes in many shapes and sizes and does not discriminate against only one part of the body. The chronic disease can affect nearly any part of the body including the skin, lungs, heart, joints, kidneys, and brain. Lupus is often misdiagnosed several times over several months before an accurate diagnosis can be made. This is because lupus is known as the "great imitator," mimicking many other illnesses and no single test can diagnose a patient.

Treatment for lupus can be very expensive because of its multi-faceted nature. Annually, lupus costs our nation about \$31.4 billion. The annual cost for treatment for an individual with lupus is an estimated \$20,000 and for an individual with lupus nephritis, kidney inflammation caused by lupus, could be as high as \$62,000 per year.

Lupus is far more common in women and in men, particularly among African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. The cause for lupus' prevalence in minorities is unknown and extensive research is

necessary. Without additional research dollars, scientists searching for causes and treatments will inevitably be delayed.

This May, we must promote lupus awareness. Nearly three-fourths of Americans aged

18 to 34 have never heard of lupus and those who fall in that age bracket are at the highest risk. We must build awareness for this chronic condition and simultaneously work to increase funding for research to improve the diagnosis

of this disease that disproportionately affects minorities and women in the prime of their lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lupus Awareness Month.