

former member of the Coast Guard Reserve, and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus, I know full well the vital role that Auxillarists carry out. They are an integral and valued part of the Coast Guard family.

I commend to my colleagues the following article from *The Navigator*, which showcases the dedicated efforts of Auxillarists like the men at Air Station Cape Cod.

[From the *Navigator*, Spring 2005]

VALUED SERVICE

CAPE COD.—Members of Auxiliary Flotilla 11-08 DiNR just surpassed the one year milestone in their volunteer service to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

A dedicated team of seven Auxillarists has been providing an extremely valuable service in the Aviation Engineering Department of Air Station Cape Cod since November 2003.

By performing administrative tasks, which require meticulous attention to detail and frequent repetition, they freed up over 300 work hours that would have otherwise been a burden on the over tasked active duty workforce.

Aircraft maintenance technicians, who also serve as flight crewmembers, are frequently task-saturated with flying duties related to search and rescue, law enforcement, and Homeland Security missions.

When they are not flying, the active duty workforce is fully employed with HU-25 and HH-60 maintenance responsibilities. The regular presence of trained volunteers to assume critically important administrative functions has had an extremely positive effect on aircraft and crew readiness postures.

Working together in cohesive teams, Auxiliary volunteers dedicate as much as 15 hours per week to administrative tasks related to aircraft maintenance.

One of the first and most successful projects this team took on was the monthly audit of the aircraft maintenance logbooks for the eight aircraft assigned to Air Station Cape Cod.

Working teams of two, these Auxillarists compared the computer printed configuration reports of all installed components to the detailed component history reports. Ensuring that the lists of installed components matched the component history reports was an arduous task requiring great attention to detail.

An accurately performed logbook audit required that each component be cross checked for the proper serial number and part number against two computer generated reports for all major airframe and engine installations. With over 240 such components per aircraft, this monthly review normally consumes eight to ten man hours per month.

Another vital maintenance support role that the Auxiliary recently performed was a comprehensive audit of the technical publications library.

Semi-annual audits of the technical publications library are required to ensure that vital technical publications are updated with the latest revisions. Not only did the dedicated Auxiliary team complete the audit, they also performed several page changes to aircraft technical manuals that are used by technicians on a regular basis.

The Auxiliary team drew from their diverse work experience to develop processes that increased the efficiency of each hour dedicated to administrative actions. In the classic case of working smarter to avoid the need to work harder, they created a photographic archive of all tools requiring calibration and cataloged them in an easy to use binder. This made tracking tool locations and calibration intervals much easier.

With aircraft tools and avionics test sets distributed among five different shops and

two separate hangars, the Auxiliary team had a daunting task ahead of them.

Fortunately, their previous work experience lent itself well to the arduous task and they made great progress. One of their first initiatives was to catalog each tool according to its location and function in a binder complete with digital photographs which they took themselves. This greatly eased the burden of sorting through the Precision Measurement Equipment Lab (PMEL) report which lists the items that were due for calibration.

By relieving active duty members of certain administrative functions, the Auxiliary team has significantly enhanced productivity and morale. Auxiliary members committed over 400 hours in direct support of aviation maintenance activities. Representing a significant departure from the traditional uses of Auxiliary members at air stations, the innovative management practices of this Auxiliary team made it possible for active duty members to be relieved of support roles and assigned to maintenance or flight related tasks.

This was only possible because the highly talented Auxiliary team gained the skill and ability to act autonomously within the scope of their responsibilities after receiving initial training and guidance from active duty members.

The Auxiliary members also represent a degree of continuity that, as a result of frequent job rotations within the enlisted workforce, has historically resulted in frequent learning curves. Realizing the impact of their commitment, technicians on the hangar deck accept the Auxiliary members as part of the team that makes Air Station Cape Cod one of the best units in the Coast Guard.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce legislation to provide assistance to Native American entrepreneurs throughout the country. This bill authorizes grants that Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) can apply for to provide assistance with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians.

I introduced this legislation during the 107th and 108th Congresses and it passed the House overwhelmingly both times but it did not pass the Senate. I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today and wish to thank Small Business Committee Chairman MANZULLO, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, as well as Representatives OBERSTAR, CASE, GRIJALVA, ABERCROMBIE, McDERMOTT, REYES, HONDA, HASTINGS, PALLONE, YOUNG, TOWNS, MATHESON, HERSETH, CUBIN, MCCOLLUM, and MORAN for their support.

While economic data shows much uncertainty for our national economy, the effects from our struggling economy are desperate on our Native American lands. The unemployment rate is over 10 times the national average on Native American lands and Native Americans and Native Alaskans have almost

double the poverty rate than the national average.

There is, however, a bright spot. Small business creation has drastically increased on tribal lands, which has led to job growth in these areas. In fact, in recent decades, Native American business growth and gross receipts have dwarfed overall small business growth rates and total gross receipts. You can see why there is a reason to be optimistic. As we all know, small businesses are the fuel for the engine of economic growth. That is why it is so imperative that we take steps to help ensure that small business development reaches the places in this country where economic prosperity has yet to be realized.

My bill ensures that Native Americans, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians seeking to create, develop and expand small businesses, have full access to the counseling and technical assistance available through the SBA's SBDC program. The business development tools offered by the SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

Additionally, this legislation requires a state receiving a small business development center program grant to request the advice of the governing bodies of Indian tribes, corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as appropriate, on how best to provide assistance to such members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide—such assistance. This ensures assistance from the SBDC that is culturally sensitive and appropriate.

It is clear we can do more to aid Native American entrepreneurs. Not enough has been done to assist Native Americans in building their businesses, which in turn helps benefit their communities. I hope to change that with my proposal.

I look forward to passage of this bill, and to the day it is signed into law.

ON THE PASSING OF MS. BRENDA PILLORS, CHIEF OF STAFF TO REP. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my deepest condolences and prayers to the family, friends and colleagues of my good friend Brenda Pillors, especially to her partner Mr. Marwan Burgan and my good friend and colleague Congressman ED TOWNS from New York.

I first met Brenda at the very beginning of her congressional career over 25 years ago when I was a congressional staffer to my predecessor Representative Ronald V. Dellums and she was a Congressional Black Caucus fellow. Her legacy of service to this institution, the CBC, and the 10th Congressional District of New York is one of the most memorable careers during a truly historic era. Serving as legislative assistant and eventually as legislative director, Brenda was instrumental

when former Representatives Shirley Chisholm and Walter Fauntroy traveled to visit Haitian refugees in detention camps. My recollections of their great work continue to inspire my activism for rights of Haitians.

As one of the last two Chisholm staff still working on the Hill, Brenda played a leadership role, in coordinating the Congressional Black Caucus memorial service that Congressman TOWNS and I organized earlier this year. Brenda and I sat next to each other during Shirley Chisholm's funeral in Florida, and I will always remember those moments, sharing our grief and our memories of Chisholm's legacy. Looking back at that time, I never imagined that we would be mourning another great woman only six months later.

Brenda Pillors was solid as a rock. Humble, caring, wise and considerate, the knowledge, presence and spirit of Brenda will be missed by all. And her respect, her dignity, and her beauty will be remembered by many. My thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved her.

PATIENT NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH,
AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I'd like to begin by commending the distinguished Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. BARTON. Mr. Chairman, I am most grateful for your leadership on and commitment to moving this important legislation forward.

I'd also like to extend a special thanks to my friend and colleague, Mr. BOB MENEZES. He has been a great partner over the last few years as we've worked on this initiative together.

We represent different parts of the country and belong to different political parties, but we have put any differences aside and have joined together for a great purpose here today.

We join together because we understand that cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases can affect anyone in any part of the country, of any race, of any income level.

Because even with the tremendous advancements we have made in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, we understand that in far too many communities across this country, navigating the health care system can be a significant barrier to gaining access to quality and affordable health care services.

I also want to highlight the American Cancer Society, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Rural Health Association, and other organizations for their tireless efforts to educate our colleagues about this important issue and advocate for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, today Congress is taking a significant step forward to insure that our friends and neighbors across America have the tools and resources they need to make good decisions about their health and the health of their children.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet two gentlemen who pioneered the con-

cept that this legislation is based on—the “patient navigator” concept.

Dr. Harold Freeman and Dr. Elmer Huerta are two of the most humble, kind gentlemen I have had the good fortune of getting to know. Let me tell you a little about what they do.

First, they recognized from their own work as doctors in underserved communities that navigating the health care system can be an insurmountable barrier for many people, especially when they are poor, under-insured, or uninsured. All we have to do is step out of our homes and into our communities to find families and individuals who struggle to find and access the health care services they need—both preventive services and treatment.

Enter Dr. Freeman and Dr. Huerta's patient navigator concept. Patient navigators are the angels who guide individuals through the health care system. This is truly one of the most creative and innovative ways to address the health care needs of these individuals who may otherwise avoid seeing a doctor when they're healthy and getting the treatment they need when they're sick.

Whether based at hospitals, community health centers, or cancer centers, these programs literally put in place patient navigators to help individuals find their way through the often complex health care system.

These navigators, like Leka Murdock who I met during my visit to the Ralph Lauren Cancer Center in Harlem, assist people who come through their doors with obtaining coverage through Medicaid or other sources, obtain cancer screenings or counseling about disease prevention, or make referrals for treatment or clinical trial options should an abnormality be detected.

For people who may otherwise not know how or be able to access health care services, patient navigator programs offer them the tools and resources they need to make good decisions about their health and the health of their children. They help break through the red tape that often prevents them from even getting the information they need to find a doctor or get treated.

I know that walking into a facility that is even associated with cancer is a daunting challenge in and of itself. To see the words cancer screening or chemotherapy this way is just terrifying. But the fact of the matter is, we still live in a world where people suffer from cancer. And while we are waging the war on cancer, but we have not yet won.

So until that day comes, we must commit to offering our family members, friends, and neighbors, both young and old, insured and un-insured, the best care in the best facilities we can create. Dr. Freeman's Ralph Lauren Cancer Center and a similar program right here in D.C. at the Washington Hospital Center run by Dr. Huerta are model programs that should be commended and emulated.

That's why Congressman MENEZES and I partnered together to introduce, garner support for, and move forward this legislation that will create innovative demonstrations projects in communities across the country based on the patient navigator concept.

This bill will link sustained health promotion outreach efforts with patient navigation programs. Specifically, the bill will make funds available to community health centers, cancer centers, rural and frontier serving medical facilities, and other eligible entities to increase and promote chronic disease prevention

screening, outreach and public health education, as well as provide patient navigators to help patients overcome barriers and complexities around the health care system.

It is my hope that this legislation will serve as a springboard for launching many more patient navigator programs, like those of Dr. Freeman and Dr. Huerta. These extraordinary programs are making a real difference in the lives of people who suffer from cancer and other diseases.

People who may not otherwise even know they're sick.

Or if they do, people who may not do what is necessary to get proper treatment and care.

These are the people we need to reach and this bill is a healthy start.

By furthering this collaboration between the private and public sectors, we will maximize our resources and close in on that day when cancer and other chronic diseases no longer threaten the lives of our loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE TWENTIETH
ANNUAL IMAGEN AWARDS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 17, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the efforts of the Imagen Foundation. Today, the Imagen Foundation will host its Twentieth Annual Imagen Awards and will bestow special achievement awards to a distinguished group of Latino talent for their outstanding contributions to the entertainment industry.

For the past twenty years, the Imagen Foundation has raised awareness, increased knowledge and encouraged positive portrayal of Latinos and the Latino culture in the media. Under the strong leadership of its founder and president, Helen Hernandez, the Imagen Foundation has fostered countless career opportunities to inspiring Latino actors, writers, and producers.

It is with great pride that I highlight two distinguished individuals who will be recipients of Imagen's special awards tonight. Nina Tassler will be the recipient of Imagen's 2005 Career Achievement Award. As the first Latino to head a major television network, CBS, Nina Tassler has built a remarkable career. She oversees the network's entertainment programming and uses her heritage as a tool to help her be more proactive in showcasing diverse talent. Jose Rivera, a prominent Latino writer, will receive the Norman Lear Writer's Award. He is the author of the Oscar-nominated screenplay, “The Motorcycle Diaries,” and a two-time Obie Award-winning playwright whose works have been translated into seven languages.

Through groups such as the Imagen Foundation and people like Helen Hernandez, more doors are opening for Latinos in the entertainment industry. Although we have seen significant progress, there is still much to be done and we need to continue to work together. I was proud to join the Imagen Foundation in hosting a workshop in my district to inform talented Latinos about the entertainment industry and how to break into it. With institutions such