

This fall, just as Medicare premiums go up, temperatures in South Dakota will be going down. Seniors will sit at their kitchen tables, reading through the bills, and they may wonder yet again how they are going to make it through the month. We owe it to them to do better. I will work to see that we will.

FREEDOM FOR VIRGILIO  
MARANTA GUELMEZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Virgilio Maranta Guelmes, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Maranta Guelmes is a pro-democracy activist and a delegate of the 24th of February Movement. The movement is named for both the commencement of the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue movement were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictator's fighter jets. The 24th of February Movement desires and struggles for freedom in Cuba.

Because of his belief in freedom and democracy, Mr. Maranta Guelmes has been a constant target of the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to Amnesty International, he was arrested and imprisoned in the totalitarian gulag on December 6, 2002. On May 19, 2002, he was again detained and interrogated by the dictatorship. In that interrogation, he was told to abandon his activities with the 24th of February Movement.

Mr. Maranta Guelmes, knowing full well the heinous repression that awaited him if he continued to advocate for freedom for the people of Cuba, never wavered in his convictions. Unfortunately, on May 18, 2004, in a sham trial, Mr. Maranta Guelmes was sentenced to 3 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Maranta Guelmes is locked in a dungeon because he desires freedom for Cuba. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that anyone, anywhere, is imprisoned in sub-human gulags simply for their belief in truth, freedom and democracy. At the dawn of the 21st century, mankind must no longer tolerate prisoners of conscience in any form, in any place, in any country. My colleagues, we must cry out for the immediate and unconditional release of Virgilio Maranta Guelmes and all prisoners of conscience in the totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL PEPE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about

a remarkable, courageous man who has dedicated himself to improving the lives of those around him. Dr. Paul Pepe is a fine member of my home community of Dallas, Texas, and I am proud to announce that he has been recognized for his contribution in emergency medical services from the American College Emergency Physicians. The award, presented by U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona in Washington, D.C. on Monday, September 26, 2005, recognized Dr. Pepe for his achievements during a 30 year career that included education and service to numerous city, state and federal agencies.

Dr. Pepe, a protégé of Drs. Leonard Cobb and Michael Copass from the University of Washington in Seattle, may be best known as one of the lead authors of the initial 1991 American Heart Association publications.

Dr. Pepe co-authored a comprehensive Early Childhood Center curriculum for K through 12 school children, and he championed statewide training of middle school students using high school seniors as instructors in both CPR and automated external defibrillator use. In addition, he helped to forge the exact language and subsequent passage of one of the most liberal Good Samaritan Laws ever enacted in any state regarding AED use by bystanders. Translating all of these ambitious CPR initiatives into major media events—and ultimately thousands of lives saved—Dr. Pepe has been labeled in some educational circles as a "Mentor to Millions."

Dr. Pepe has been a longstanding member of the National Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support committees of the American Heart Association. He has also served on national ad hoc committees for various AHA activities including its upcoming National Mass CPR Training Day initiative.

In addition to his AHA duties, Dr. Pepe also serves as the Emergency Medicine and Trauma Consultant to such diverse entities as the White House Medical Unit, ABC News and the National Basketball Association Trainers. Most recently, he trained the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, and several dozen of his highest ranking senior staff members in CPR and AED use.

A ubiquitous and popular world-wide lecturer and author of hundreds of published scientific papers and abstracts, Dr. Pepe has been featured routinely in many network and prime-time broadcasts. He has won multiple health policy, community service, academic and professional society awards, both here and abroad, and he has provided consultation for multiple foreign governments regarding the coordination of emergency health services.

Dr. Pepe is a dedicated community servant, activist, and leader. He is a tremendous asset to Dallas, and through his tireless work, my home town has become a better place to live and a safer place to grow up. I am proud to join his family, his colleagues and the North Texas community in congratulating Dr. Pepe on a job well done.

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA  
BUTLER

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and distinguish one of America's fin-

est—United States Marine Lance Corporal Joshua Butler of Altoona, PA. Butler, who dreamed of being a U.S. Marine since he was four years old, protected hundreds of his fellow comrades from suicide bombers mounting an attack with trucks, explosives and no regard for human life.

Butler was stationed in Iraq along the Syrian border, and while guarding the base's perimeter from a lookout tower his post was attacked. Butler sprayed the first suicide bomber with 20 or 30 rounds causing him to veer off at the last moment to miss his target. The truck, filled with explosives and manned by a suicide-mission insurgent, crashed through the improvised barrier the Marines had built up along the edge of the base. After being knocked down by the blast, Lance Corporal Butler remained focused, alert and ready. Through the smoke of the blast, he saw a red, suicide-driven fire engine coming toward the base. Butler fired 100 rounds onto the vehicle. After the truck was hit by a grenade, launched by Pfc. Charles Young, its explosives were detonated outside of the base but within 50 yards of Butler. Debris from this blast sprayed the length of 4 football fields and knocked down soldiers as far as 200 yards away. But no Marines were seriously hurt, including Butler.

Lance Corporal Butler's actions saved the lives of hundreds of his fellow Marines and marked a significant victory against the insurgents in Iraq. The suicide bombers mission was thwarted by Butler's courageous and timely reaction. An estimated 21 insurgents were killed that day while 15 were reported wounded.

Lance Corporal Butler—You are a U.S. Marine and a hero, and across the country Americans are proud of your leadership. Thank you for serving when your nation called.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
APRIL RENETTA LOVE

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of April Renetta Love of Hope, Arkansas. April was born on May 1, 1985 in Texarkana and passed away this month in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I wish to recognize her life and achievements.

A 2003 honors graduate of Hope High School, April was a junior at the University of Arkansas and was majoring in Political Science, Communications, and African-American Studies.

April was extremely active in a wide array of campus organizations at the University of Arkansas. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Order of the Eastern Star Youth Fraternity and Young Democrats. Her interest in politics extended beyond campus and she spent the summer of 2005 interning for the Congressional Black Caucus in the nation's capital, when I had the privilege of meeting this bright and talented young woman. April was also an accomplished musician and served as the church pianist for seven years.

April will forever be remembered for her contagious smile, her leadership and for her commitment to furthering her education. My