

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

deepest condolences go out to her parents, Ira and Magic Love; her sisters, Bridget and Crystal; her brother, Stephen; and her grandparents. April's legacy and spirit will live on in those whose lives she touched.

REMARKS ON RYAN WHITE CARE
ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Congress will stand by and allow the Ryan White CARE Act to expire. While this does not signify the end to the program, it does underscore our responsibility to conduct hearings and vote on its soon overdue reauthorization. We must act swiftly to ensure that this landmark program, which provides lifesaving treatment to more than half a million persons living with HIV/AIDS each year, be strengthened to meet the changing needs of their care.

New York City has always had a special respect for the opportunities the Ryan White CARE Act affords the city in serving the needs of our HIV/AIDS population. New York City comprises three percent of the nation's population, but more than 16 percent of the nation's AIDS cases. As of December 31, 2003, there were 142,085 cumulative AIDS cases in NYC, and 88,479 City residents diagnosed as Persons Living With HIV/AIDS. Although Ryan White CARE Act is widely considered the payer of last resort for people with HIV/AIDS, it fills much of the void in providing treatment and support services for those who either are uninsured or underinsured, without the necessary resources to access desperately needed care.

We must do better by CARE Act funding. This program has been virtually flat funded for years, and its AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP) only received a ten million dollar increase in this year's House Labor-HHS bill. Many very low-income people continue to be shut-out from ADAP programs due to states' varying income eligibility levels, which can range from 125 percent to 500 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Without early, aggressive treatment people living with HIV/AIDS can experience rapid and often irreversible disease progression. Additionally, if care is interrupted drug resistance can develop, which compromises their ability to properly control their health. Now, more than ever, the President should release emergency ADAP funding to help host states care for the estimated 8,000 victims of Hurricane Katrina, who have been displaced from their homes and networks of care.

The President's Principles for Ryan White CARE Act Authorization include some troubling provisions which could have devastating results for communities' ability to provide consistent, appropriate care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The proposed Severity of Need for Core Services Index will change funding formulas to take into account the availability of other resources, like state and local funding streams. This is bad public policy as it punishes states that have taken responsibility for their local HIV care and creates a powerful disincentive for other states to prioritize funding for HIV funding in future years, if they think

the federal government will just cover the gap. No state spends more than New York does to care for its residents with HIV and AIDS—over \$3 billion last year. New York has always viewed this funding as a partnership between the state, cities and federal government and should not lose out on future federal funding for being at the forefront of providing progressive services and treatment.

Secondly the President's proposal for a minimum of 75 percent of Ryan White CARE Act funding to be spent on core medical services should be seriously revisited. While there is no question that appropriate funding should be directed towards medical care, localities that benefit from comprehensive state funding for medical care, might better serve patients with using the funding for transportation to medical visits, emergency housing assistance for homeless patients, and other key services. This hard number fails to reflect the different resources that cities like New York utilize to care for their patients, and the changing needs of the HIV/AIDS patient population.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I look forward to holding hearings on the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. We must work together with the Senate to strengthen and preserve the foundation of the Ryan White CARE Act program with the compassion and thoughtful consideration it deserves.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH
AMENDMENT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate a true milestone in our Nation's history, the 85th anniversary of our Constitution's 19th amendment, guaranteeing that "the rights of citizens to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The efforts of pioneers in the fight for women's suffrage such as Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, served not only to advance women's rights, but also promoted equality for all Americans.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by Business and Professional Women/USA during the suffrage movement, most notably the organization's oldest Michigan chapter, located in Saginaw. These women were dedicated to protecting and defending human dignity. Those beliefs remain today with the current members of BPW, who continue to strive for the betterment of women in society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in recognizing the 85th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. It has helped make our country a better place in which to live.

INTRODUCING THE PUBLIC
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL
EQUITY ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend, Representative HILDA SOLIS, and Senators KERRY and DURBIN to introduce the Public Health and Environmental Equity Act.

It has been 5 weeks since Hurricane Katrina devastated the lives and landscapes of the gulf coast region. The floodwaters that ravaged Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi in the last month have finally begun to recede and America and the world have become all too aware of the losses suffered by the citizens of these areas. They have lost family and loved ones. Most have lost homes, jobs, and businesses. And in their greatest hour of need, they were left abandoned and forgotten. Our own President was forced to admit the shortcomings of the so-called "relief" effort.

While nothing can ever make up for the misery endured in the first days of the storm, there is plenty we must do to alleviate additional harm as rebuilding begins. Understandably, residents are anxious to get back to their homes and to their lives. Anxious contractors with a different agenda have vowed that such a mission can be fulfilled sooner rather than later. They want us to believe that homes, buildings, and schools fully submerged from weeks of raw sewage, pesticides, solvents, decaying corpses, and teaming with mold will magically become clean and safe to move into.

How will they accomplish such a feat? Their plan: Have the EPA completely waive every environmental mandate that has protected us for 35 years. Simply put, this means that anyone involved in Katrina rebuilding will be allowed to dump where they want, pollute where and when they want, and contaminate for as long as they want. It's a quick-but-dirty solution for cleanup and reconstruction with no regard for maintaining clean air, water, or soil. Once in place, environmental loopholes attributed to Katrina recovery in the gulf region will also be the excuse for any company to create toxic breeding grounds anywhere in the country. Your backyard could be next.

Mr. Speaker, waiving these long-standing environmental regulations is an irresponsible and unconscionable way to jump-start the rebuilding process. What we'll end up with are toxic residues that will sicken these communities for years to come. Residents who return to their homes under such EPA waivers will face a lifetime of illness and uncertainty about the water they drink, the air they breathe, and the soil they walk on every day. Failure to fully implement current environmental health and safety regulations jeopardizes every human and ethical standard we claim to hold dear. Loosening these environmental safeguards will further victimize those still struggling to regain their lives.

We know what Katrina's victims look like; we know their income level; and we know why they've been ignored. To roll back highly regarded environmental protections will add insult to an already festering injury of racial and social injustices. The citizens of the gulf coast