

of confidence in women's personal and professional lives.

The impact of cultivating confidence in the individual lives of women across America cannot be understated. Self-confidence, coupled with self-respect, are vitally important characteristics that empower women and help them to become successful in all areas of their lives.

When women are confident, society benefits. Our Nation's history has been shaped by women whose strong will, determination, and self-confidence has allowed them to break down barriers, speak their minds, and stand up for their beliefs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating National Women's Confidence Day on the first Tuesday in April. This momentous day will serve as a reminder for women to believe in themselves and remain confident every day; an opportunity for women to get involved in helping other women live more fulfilling lives and; a fitting tribute to women who contribute through education, self-empowerment, mentoring, and volunteer work to helping others gain confidence and self-esteem.

Again, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the YWCA USA, Queen Latifah, and others who support cultivating women's confidence. I invite everyone to join me in celebrating the positive impact confidence has on women's personal and professional lives this Spring, on National Women's Confidence Day.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization in Michigan that single-handedly brought dentistry from a journeyman's trade, as it was called, to a respected profession. The Michigan Dental Association, MDA, will celebrate 150 years of being the foundation for the education of dentists and professional development of their health care specialty on March 1 of this year. The MDA is the oldest continuous State dental society in the United States.

What began as 14 dentists venturing to Detroit on horseback through the harsh Michigan winter on January 8, 1856, would far surpass their dream of creating an association of dentists to elevate the significance of their medical profession. The MDA first pursued their dream by promoting education and professional standards by requiring all members to be graduates of dental school. Finding it difficult to demand such a requirement without a dental school in the State, they worked with the Michigan Legislature to appropriate funds to start a dental school at the University of Michigan.

In the MDA's endless quest to raise the reputation of the dental profession, they began working in 1867 toward legislation that would require dentists practicing in the State of Michigan to register with a State board of dentistry, weeding out those practicing unauthorized methods. In 1883, Governor Josiah W. Begole signed the first dental practice act to enact such requirements.

Membership of the MDA grew at rapid rates during the late 1800's and early 1900's due to annual meetings, the inclusion of local dental groups in the state and the publication of a monthly Journal, still in circulation today.

In the 1930's during the Great Depression, the dental industry was hit hard along with the entire economy. However, the MDA made a strong recovery by helping recruit dentists for military service as well as finding ways to ensure local communities had dental service. Throughout the 1940's and on into the 60's the MDA took up a number of causes including the promotion of community water fluoridation and promoting employer-paid dental coverage and third party plans, which eventually led to expanded dental coverage in Michigan.

The 1980's served as an opportunity to continue the MDA's pursuit of higher professional standards for their profession. A campaign began in 1984 to advocate the importance of dental care and to urge the public to visit their dentist every 6 months, a now widely accepted practice. The MDA worked to mandate continuing dental education for licensed dental professionals, further accomplishing their goal to promote education in the profession.

Mr. Speaker, the Michigan Dental Association has represented the profession of dentistry and the professionals it serves exceptionally well with foresight and vision over the last 150 years. They have successfully taught America that the importance of good oral health is key to overall health. With over 75 percent of Michigan dentists as members, the MDA continues to focus on their message of "Dental Care is Primary Care" and work with the State of Michigan to "promote professional ethics, dental coverage to the uninsured and disadvantaged, and to monitor in the disciplinary process." With those values in mind, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Michigan Dental Association and its 5,801 members—2005, on their sesquicentennial celebration of raising the standards of the profession of dentistry in Michigan and the United States. I wish them all the best in the future toward another successful 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX IZYKOWSKI

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Alex Izykowski of Bay City, Michigan. Alex is a member of the Men's 5,000 Meter Short Track Relay Team that won the Bronze Medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy on February 25th.

Alex, nicknamed "Izy," started speed skating at the age of eleven after watching the 1994 Winter Olympics from Lillehammer, Norway. His first foray onto the ice was on borrowed skates. Determined to succeed and one day become an Olympian he continued to practice and entered his first competition in 1995. One year later he placed fifth at the junior nationals. Always striving to do better, he set three state juvenile outdoor records in 1997 and in 2001, Alex was named to the U.S. Junior Short Track team at the U.S. Championship held in Walpole, Massachu-

setts. Competing with the team in Italy that year, Alex won the 1,000 meter race.

The following year he became the Junior American record holder in the 1,500 meter and 3,000 meter competitions in Calgary. As a member of the U.S. Junior World Cup team Izy won a Silver Medal as a participant on the relay team in 2003. Two years later he won a Bronze Medal in Beijing as a member of the U.S. World Championships Relay Team. After finishing second overall in the lap time trials at the Marquette Training Center, Alex was given a slot on the U.S. Olympic Team fulfilling his 1994 dream to become an Olympian.

He competed twice in the 2006 Olympics, first in the Men's 1,500 meter race and the second time in the Men's Relay. As an integral part of the relay team, Alex was able to pull the team from fourth place to third place during one of his laps around the track. Along with fellow teammates, J.P. Kepka, Rusty Smith, and Apolo Anton Ohno, Alex was able to maintain momentum during the fast paced relay and win the Bronze Medal with a time of 6:47.990.

A 2002 graduate of Bay City Western High School, Alex credits his entire family as his strongest influence and support. Many of his relatives were able to travel to Turin to watch him compete. In tribute to his parents, Alan and JoAnn Izykowski, Alex presented the bouquet given to him during the medal ceremony to his mother. He remarked, "Just showing some respect."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise to their feet and join me, the Bay City community, and the State of Michigan in welcoming home a tremendous athlete, an inspirational role model, and a fierce competitor, Alex Izykowski. Please join me in applauding his achievements as he takes his place in the history of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE NATION'S EYE BANKS DURING NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to bring attention to the fact that March 2006 is National Eye Donor Month. As a Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health and a recipient of organ donation myself, I am firmly committed to promoting organ, eye, and tissue donation.

I have been blessed with the same gift thousands of transplant recipients have received: the gift of life. Sometimes that gift comes in the form of a longer life. Other times, in the case of cornea transplant recipients for example, the gift is one of enhanced life, or the simple ability to continue every day activities. The recipient is allowed the opportunity to enjoy one of the things so many of us take for granted—a chance to see the world around us. Few of us know personally the challenges associated with lost vision, but the fact that our Nation's eye banks exist and have helped so many Americans is a testament to their good work. As our Nation's seniors live longer and vision issues confront the baby boom generation in record numbers, the challenge will grow

and the work of our Nation's eye banks will prove even more important. I know they are up to this new challenge and Congress must stand behind them.

The first successful transplant of cornea tissue was made more than one hundred years ago. Since then, advancements in medical technology have been phenomenal. Cornea transplants are now among the most common and most successful transplant procedures. More than one million people, ranging in age from nine days to 107 years old, have received eye tissue transplants.

All eye banks are not-for-profit organizations that are community-based and work with local philanthropic organizations, such as Lions Clubs, to educate citizens on the importance of donation. The community-based reach helps contribute to their success. Eye banks facilitate approximately 46,000 sight-restoring transplants each year. In my home state of Georgia, over 1,000 Georgians have been given the gift of sight with the help of the Georgia Eye bank and our ocular transplant physicians. Their success is a testament to their hard work but it also indicates that Congress must join eye banks in the struggle they face everyday.

The Eye Bank Association of America has been vital in advancing the cause of eye donation for the past 45 years. Their efforts to raise awareness and support for eye donation have done wonders for the development of safe and effective transplants. This year marks the 23rd anniversary of Eye Donor Month.

If you are not yet an anatomical gift donor, I encourage you to become one. I know all too well what may seem like a simple check on a card can mean to those awaiting a life-saving or life-enhancing donation. I continue my call and challenge to all Americans to discuss this issue with their families and consider becoming an organ, eye, and tissue donor. Such conversations must take place around the kitchen table, not after a loved one is gone. The process of becoming a donor takes just a few minutes, but its impact can last a lifetime for recipients. I also hope that people consider the merits of donating not just solid organs, but tissue and corneas as well. As our eye banks have proven, being able to give the gift of sight is truly a testament to our medical advancement.

As this month goes on, I encourage my colleagues to recognize the success of eye banks across our Nation and work to increase local awareness about corneal transplants and the importance of donation. Transplants that give the gift of sight change Americans' lives every day, and we must do everything in our power to support this effort. I, for one, will do my part and hope you will join me in saluting our Nation's eye banks during Eye Donor Month.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FULL FISCAL YEAR 2007 FUNDING OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM/RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in vehement opposition to the proposed elimination of National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) funding, contained in the President's Budget Request, for the second year in a row. I am concerned that some of my colleagues may not understand the severity of the situation that NYSP is facing. If Congress does not provide full FY07 funding for NYSP, the program will be forced to close its doors. This will result in 75,000 of our nation's most vulnerable youth, being left behind next summer.

NYSP uses sports instruction and competition, as a vehicle to enhance self-esteem and respect, among boys and girls from low-income households. Established in 1969, with a \$3 million funding commitment from the White House, NYSP has provided over 2 million participants with instruction in career and educational opportunities, and exposure to the college environment for nearly four decades.

Because I have witnessed, firsthand, the difference that the NYSP program has made in the lives of under served youth in my Congressional District I cannot, in good conscience, sit idly by as this essential program is dismantled. In my Congressional District, Morehouse College has done an outstanding job of running the NYSP program for nearly four decades, serving over 10,000 children throughout Atlanta. The Morehouse College NYSP program is unique, because it has taken great pains to maintain a balance between athletics and academics. Similar to NYSP programs throughout the nation, Morehouse College offers instruction focusing on sports. However, it also includes additional instruction in areas such as: nutrition, drug awareness and prevention, creative writing, and leadership development.

The NYSP program has a tremendous impact on the youth that it serves in my Congressional District. By placing NYSP participants in academic settings, where they receive hundreds of hours of exposure to the benefits of higher education, the participants begin to believe that they, too, can succeed in college and beyond. Furthermore, the mentoring relationships established between the teaching/coaching staff, college student volunteers, and NYSP participants, have resulted in hundreds of former NYSP participants returning to work in the program at Morehouse College as student volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, NYSP is not asking for a handout from Congress. In fact, in 2005 NYSP secured two-thirds of its operating expenses from other public and private sources, such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the 202 selected institutions of higher education with which it partners. The Administration knows that NYSP works. Congress knows that NYSP works. Institutions of higher learning in 47 states and the District of Columbia know that NYSP works. Most impor-

tant, over 2 million NYSP participants, and their families, know that it works.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues, especially those serving on the budget and appropriations committees, to reject the President's proposed elimination of the NYSP program, and provide full funding for FY07.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA S. SMITH

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw our colleagues' attention to the pending retirement of Marcia S. Smith from the Congressional Research Service after over thirty years of service to Congress. Marcia is one of the preeminent and most highly respected policy analysts in her field, and while she will remain an active figure in space and telecommunications policy at the National Academy of Sciences, her intelligence, expertise, objectivity and balance will be greatly missed on both sides of Capitol Hill.

Marcia Smith began her career at the Congressional Research Service in 1975, after graduating from Syracuse University with a degree in political science. She quickly became an accomplished and adept analyst in space and aerospace policy, rising to Specialist in Aerospace and Telecommunications Policy, first in the Science Policy Research Division, and then in the Resources, Science and Industry Division, of CRS. In her service to Congress, she has provided background and analytic reports, memoranda, committee prints and expert testimony to Members of Congress and committees of the U.S. Congress on matters concerning U.S. and foreign military and civilian space activities, and on telecommunications issues (and formerly on nuclear energy).

Marcia has been a mentor and advisor to over a dozen CRS analysts and researchers during her time in that organization. She was Section Head for Space and Defense Technologies from 1987-1991, and Section Head for Energy, Aerospace and Transportation Technologies from 1984-1985.

To give my colleagues an idea of how prolific and proficient Marcia Smith has been during service to Congress, she has authored or coauthored over 160 reports and articles on space, nuclear energy, and telecommunications policies and issues. She has testified as an expert witness before House and Senate Committees nearly 20 times, a significant number of those times in front of the committee I chair, the Committee on Science.

I would like to point out 2 instances in which Marcia has served both Congress and her country in an exemplary manner. In both instances, these were circumstances marked by tragedy—when the Space Shuttle *Challenger* was lost at launch on January 28, 1986, and again when the Space Shuttle *Columbia* was lost during re-entry on February 1, 2003. Within hours of the *Challenger* disaster, Marcia was briefing congressional staff and talking to Members of Congress about the technical, policy, and human costs of this accident. She was widely interviewed and quoted by the national and international news media. And in the painful months following the accident,