

Clinica's patients earn far below the federal poverty level and most lack private health insurance.

La Clinica's comprehensive services include pediatrics, chronic disease management, family medicine, health education, women's health care, adolescent services, school-based clinics, mental health services, dental and vision care, and tattoo removal as well as pharmacy, laboratory and x-ray services. To most effectively serve the diverse community, La Clinica's health practitioners come from the cultures and communities of the patients they serve. The practitioners speak a myriad of languages fluently including Spanish, English, Chinese, Hindi, Arabic and Amharic. More than 72 percent of La Clinica's patients require services in their native languages.

Since its founding in 1971, La Clinica has served hundred of thousands of individuals with a variety of health care services. Infants, children, expectant mothers, teens, seniors and families have benefited from these multi-service clinics.

The number of people needing La Clinica's services continues to grow. The organization saw a 68 percent increase in patients from 1998–2004. In 2005 alone, La Clinica provided more than 175,000 patient visits. More than half of these visits were for children and adolescents. Since 1990, La Clinica grew from 8 to 22 health care sites. One of these sites is scheduled for expansion in 2007 and is expected to double in operational capacity.

Congresswoman LEE and I salute La Clinica de La Raza's remarkable past, accomplishments and vision for the future.

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#### COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia's independence.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenia re-established its freedom in the South Caucasus region in 1991. Since then, Armenia has committed itself to becoming a modern and thriving nation-state. Despite many external threats, Armenia has fought to overcome trade obstacles and grow its economy. The Armenian Government has also remained a close ally to the United States and is even now providing personnel to the present war in Iraq.

The tragedies of the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1917 did not dampen the spirit of these persevering people. Armenia has thrived and its people carry on its rich culture and heritage all over the world. Today, over 1 million Armenian-Americans reside in the United States, and of that, more than 500,000 Armenian-Americans make my home State of California their home.

We in the United States do not take our freedom for granted and are committed to spreading democracy across the globe. As we celebrate the independence of Armenia, let us remember that freedom is a universal right that should be afforded to anyone, anywhere.

#### RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join with my colleagues in recognizing some of our Nation's most distinguished institutions of higher learning: America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The critical role of HBCUs in preparing our Nation's students for work and life is undeniable. Nearly 14 percent of our country's African American college students are enrolled at HBCUs. These young men and women are preparing to be our future community and civic leaders, business owners, teachers, artists, scientists, and scholars.

This year's HBCUs Week, which is themed "The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges," reminds us all of the important partnership between the Federal Government in ensuring access for all those who seek a higher education and the institutions that provide the opportunities for students to learn and prepare them for a competitive workforce.

HBCUs not only educate students, but they also conduct ground-breaking research and engage in community outreach—helping to ensure our Nation's higher education system remains the best in the world. It is critical that Congress continues to support the unique role our HBCUs play in our Nation's higher education system. I extend my sincere appreciation and regard for HBCUs and their faculty, staff, and students as we celebrate Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.

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#### JEWELERS OF AMERICA REACHES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker; 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of Jewelers of America (JA), the oldest national association for retail jewelers. Founded in 1906 in Rochester, N.Y. and now headquartered in New York City, Jewelers of America is both a center of knowledge for the retail jeweler and an advocate for professionalism and high social, ethical and environmental standards in the jewelry trade.

In the past century, Jewelers of America has established itself as a leader in the educational, social and political support of retail jewelers. Today, the association represents 11,000 member stores and has 42 state and regional affiliates.

Throughout its existence, the association has provided meaningful and relevant educational programs that reflect the changing technologies available to jewelers. Jewelers of America believes that recognizing members' knowledge and skills benefits consumers and the entire jewelry industry. To that end, JA has established certifications that evaluate jewelry sales associates, store managers and bench jewelers by a set of national skills standards. JA also provides educational scholarships for its members.

As a leader in the jewelry industry, Jewelers of America has worked with non-governmental organizations, fellow industry trade organizations and political leaders to establish responsible business practices for the national jewelry industry. JA was centrally involved in the 2002 adoption of the international Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, the landmark initiative aimed at stopping the trade of conflict diamonds.

Realizing that trust is a key component to the jewelry industry's growth, Jewelers of America created a standardized code of ethics in 1997 to reinforce consumer confidence in the professional jeweler. According to the code, JA members must maintain the highest possible ethical standards in their business dealings.

As Jewelers of America enters its second century, it remains committed to independent jewelers and the tradition of honest and fair business practices they uphold. Conscious that it represents retailers who help their customers celebrate love and commitment, Jewelers of America rededicates itself to these noble aims.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Jewelers of America.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION ACT

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help the San Francisco Bay Area to solve its water challenges. My bill, "The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006," will provide local agencies with the Federal partner that they need in order to implement an ambitious and forward-thinking regional water recycling program.

We put the tools for these Federal-local water recycling partnerships in place with the historic Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, which not only included my Central Valley Project Improvement Act but featured a provision now known simply as the "Title XVI" water recycling program.

Across the country—and especially throughout the West and California—people recognize the critical need for water recycling as a means of drought-proofing and increasing our reliable water supply. Accordingly, the Title XVI program has been embraced not only by policymakers, local agencies, and water managers but by many within the Bureau of Reclamation, from the staff level to regional directors.

Unfortunately, even though people on the ground understand the need for these recycling partnerships, the Bureau of Reclamation's official position is to oppose nearly every project proposed under Title XVI. As recently as this week, the Administration testified against two water recycling projects in the House Water and Power subcommittee.

This opposition from the Administration has made it very difficult for local agencies to get

the Federal support and funding that they deserve. Instead of providing Federal cost sharing and technical support to local water recycling projects, the Bureau has effectively let proposals under the existing Title XVI program pile up.

This is a shame. These projects are the future of water supply, and it's high time the Bureau joined that future. The best water recycling and reclamation projects are sustainable, scalable, reliable, and meet local needs with a local funding source. Unlike major dams and storage projects, water recycling projects do not have to cost billions of dollars, they don't destroy rivers—in fact, they can ease the pressure on natural waterways—and they don't trigger decades of litigation.

In addition, traditional storage projects based on major dams and reservoirs have to spend the last dollar, pour the last ounce of concrete, and line the last canal before a single drop of water comes through the tap. But water recycling is modular and incremental, meaning that as each piece of the system is put in place, you can serve more people and more industries; you don't have to wait years to see results, and you can build on your successes by easily expanding the infrastructure to meet new needs.

I hope that under the new Reclamation commissioner and the new Secretary of the Interior we will see a new commitment to the Title XVI program and to these clean solutions to water conflicts. It is very clear to me and to most others who follow these issues that the Bureau has struggled to keep pace in the modern era of water policy. In future Congresses, I am hopeful that we will review the agency's mission and its budget to determine that it is headed in the right direction.

There is increasing awareness in Congress regarding the importance of water recycling, and an increasing commitment to improving Title XVI so that it works for everyone. For instance, I am very glad that my colleagues, Representative NAPOLITANO, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator FEINSTEIN, have taken the lead in introducing legislation to reform the Title XVI program.

Their new bipartisan, bicameral proposal, entitled "Reclaiming the Nation's Water Act," is a wise one. First, their bill makes it perfectly clear that the Bureau of Reclamation's role includes creating new water supplies by reclamation and recycling. Second, as Senator FEINSTEIN summarized it in her introductory statement, the legislation "establishes firm deadlines, a clear process, and very specific criteria by which project reviews are to be conducted." This will help ensure that deserving projects don't get left on the shelf.

This legislation is sound, and I hope to work with my colleagues to implement it. And with the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006 that I am introducing today, I am applying the principles of the "Reclaiming the Nation's Water Act" to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program is a collaboration of public utilities that helps to meet our region's and state's growing water needs through a set of recycling and reclamation projects. As the program agencies wrote in a letter to me this summer: "The regional approach ensures that potential projects with the greatest regional and state-wide benefit receive the highest priority and support for implementation."

The projects in this coalition have been repeatedly vetted, both internally at the local level and by the Bureau of Reclamation. The 2004 CALFED authorization directed the Department of the Interior to assess these projects' feasibility under Title XVI. That report, released this-year, stated that many of the Bay Area projects "were very close to meeting the requirements," but that none passed all the Federal tests. Unfortunately, like other deserving Title XVI proposals across the West, that could have been where these projects stalled.

We need to encourage communities who are trying to meet water demands with innovative technologies. The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006, which is the result of a long process of deliberation and communication with those local agencies, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the six Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program projects that are closest to completion. Each community with a project will be eligible to receive 20 percent of the project's construction cost.

Constructing all six of these projects will bring online nearly 10,000 acre-feet per year of reliable dry-year water supply. To produce the same amount of water with a traditional dam and reservoir project, you would need a dedicated facility that stored 47,500 acre-feet of water.

Projects included in the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Projects Authorization Act of 2006 are located in the City of Palo Alto; in the Cities of Pittsburg and Antioch through the Delta Diablo Sanitation District (DDSD); in the North Coast County Water District; in Redwood City in partnership with the South Bayside System Authority; and in the City of Gilroy in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Although these worthy projects have supplied local funding, and secured matching State funding, they still need the Federal partner to step up. That's why my legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate in these six projects.

I know for a fact that Pittsburg, in my district, has worked diligently, along with Delta Diablo, to move through each step of the existing Title XVI process. This legislation gives them the assurance that the Federal partner will be there for them at the end to help implement their viable, feasible, and laudable project.

There is a clear Federal interest in these projects, as there is in the other successful regional recycling programs like those of Southern California. A good water recycling program stretches existing supplies and provides certainty to all of the water users in the area; conflict can be reduced even in a critically dry year. As we all know, a stable and reliable regional water supply makes good neighbors.

This very small Federal investment in the Bay Area Water Recycling Program will yield massive dividends to the Bay Area over time. Every gallon of recycled water that goes towards irrigating a golf course or highway median—or for commercial or industrial use—is a gallon of water that didn't need to be pulled from the troubled Bay-Delta.

These programs are a fiscal and environmental win-win, and encouraging them is sound federal policy. I'm glad to be able to help them with this new bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I again would like to commend Representative NAPOLITANO and Senators FEINSTEIN and MURKOWSKI for their leadership.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL STANLEY T. HOSKIN, RETIRED U.S. ARMY RESERVE, FOR BEING AWARDED THE DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce COL Stanley T. Hoskin's Defense Superior Service Medal order and citation into the RECORD. Colonel Hoskin recently retired on August 31, 2006, after 33 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army Reserve. I commend Colonel Hoskin's loyalty and dedication to his country and the American people. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Hoskin.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, COMMANDER, U.S. JOINT FORCES COMMAND,

Norfolk, VA, July 18, 2006.

USJFCOM PERMANENT ORDER 540-06  
Subject: Announcement of Award of the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Under the provisions of DOD Manual 1348.33-M, September 1996, the Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command has awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for exceptionally meritorious achievement to: Colonel Stanley T. Hoskin, USAR, U.S. Joint Forces Command (J02), 1 June 2004 to 31 August 2006.

E.L. SATTTERWHITE,  
Awards Administrator.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL, FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER, TO STANLEY T. HOSKIN

Colonel Stanley T. Hoskin, United States Army Reserve, distinguished himself by exceptionally superior service while serving as the Chief, Strategic Engagement Division, and as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Integration, Office of the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Joint Forces Command from June 2004 to August 2006. During this period, COL Hoskin was responsible for many "firsts" in the Command including the Transformation Advisory Group, Command-wide Liaison Officer Exchange Program, and the first series of U.S. Joint Forces Command Chiefs of Staff to Combatant Command Chiefs of Staff video teleconferences. He was also responsible for the conceptualization and development of numerous process improvements including a Tasker System for maintaining situational awareness and accomplishment of all new staff and production work coming into the command. He followed that with development and implementation of business processes and methods to inform the Chief of Staff, Deputy Commander, and Commander in making real time decisions about Command Level Objectives to support Combatant Commanders, Services, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Congress. These improvements resulted in savings of time and money, and the ability to accurately access all of the objectives about which customers were interested. Additionally, COL Hoskin instituted Command-wide training and mentoring for Objective Leads and Product Leads with greatly improved processes and analysis