

For example, there is no excuse for 9 million children to be without health insurance in this country. Almost 90 percent of these children live in working households, most in two parent-families. Parents are working hard, sometimes taking on two jobs to provide shelter and food for their children. These parents often have to make the choice between feeding their families and taking them to the doctor or to the dentist. These 9 million children belong to all of us. How they are is everyone's responsibility.

Nine million children. That is more than the entire population of states like Georgia, Virginia, Indiana, Arizona, Minnesota, or New Jersey. That is more than the total population of almost any single city in this nation. These 9 million children come from rural, urban, and suburban communities. These 9 million children represent all races and are of every age under 18.

“. . . And How are the Children?” We can do something to help make them better by joining the Healthy Child Campaign to cover all children with health insurance this year. Get involved.

Sign the Call to Conscience and Action at <http://www.childrensdefense.org>.

HONORING GIL COLYER

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Gil Colyer, a resident of my district, who is retiring from the Hardin County Sheriffs Office this month after a remarkable 52-year career.

Gil Colyer first joined law enforcement in 1953, serving as a military policeman during his service in the Army. In 1955, he was assigned to the Louisville Police Department, where he would spend the next 21 years. Upon retirement from the Louisville PD in 1976, Gil moved back to Elizabethtown, his home town, and took a job as an officer in the Elizabethtown Police Department, where he remained for an additional 20 years before taking his current position as bailiff for the Hardin County Sheriff's Department.

Gil's dedication to the Hardin County community over the years has been a true inspiration to all who know him. Attorneys, police, and even prisoners maintain an abiding respect for Mr. Colyer. His vast knowledge, work ethic, and attention to detail exemplify true professionalism, a standard appreciated by his fellow officers and members of the public.

I would also like to congratulate Gil and his wife, Alma, as they are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary next week. I join countless other neighbors in Hardin County in wishing them a very happy and healthy retirement.

It is my great privilege to recognize Gil Colyer today, before the entire House of Representatives, for his lifetime of service to Hardin County. He is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

APPRECIATION OF FAIR HOUSING/ FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, April is both National Fair Housing Month and National Financial Literacy Month, and I rise today to acknowledge both of these important goals and to highlight a serious issue that both of these areas address—home foreclosure.

Many of us have seen the recent reports of a skyrocketing increase in the number of foreclosures and of people losing their homes. Across the country thousands of families have had the American dream of homeownership snatched away.

In the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, which I am privileged to represent, many of my constituents have fallen victim to increases in adjustable rate mortgages, high-cost home equity lines of credit, and predatory loans which have made their dreams of home ownership turn into nightmares.

Homes in Chicago have entered into foreclosure at an alarming rate: currently, Chicago homeowners are in foreclosure at more than twice the national average. One in every 471 homeowners is in foreclosure: that compares with 1 in 1,030 for the Nation.

In 2006, Cook County, Illinois had 19,522 foreclosures, up 35 percent from 14,506 in 2005 and above its peak of 18,612 in 2002.

These are staggering statistics and they have a devastating effect on our neighborhoods. As foreclosures rise our communities diminish, local property values drop, people move out and vacant homes become magnets for crime.

Madam Speaker, we must find solutions to the problem of home foreclosures that are in the best interests of lenders and financial institutions, local and state governments, and most critically, our families and communities.

Homeownership is one of the principal tools by which families build generational wealth. If done wisely, a person may use their home to leverage financial dreams of entrepreneurship, property acquisition, and paying for higher education. But, in order to achieve these goals, consumers must have the tools of financial literacy.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, Congress must put the tools of financial literacy into the hands of all people and create fair housing policies, that protect consumers from the pitfalls of financial ruin and foreclosure.

I encourage my colleagues to use Financial Literacy and Fair Housing Month as a catalyst for immediate passage of federal predatory lending measures that put people before profit.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. PATSY SPIER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents,

Ms. Patsy Spier of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Spier, a former Peace Corps volunteer, was recognized by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance with the "Strength of the Human Spirit Award," as well as by the U.S. Department of Justice with the "Special Courage Award."

Ms. Spier was among a group of school-teachers who were attacked while based in Indonesia in 2002. Patsy and several others were severely wounded in the attack, while three were killed, including her husband Rick. When investigators concluded that there was a strong possibility that the Indonesian military had been involved, Ms. Spier began to lobby Members of Congress and the Departments of State and Defense to gain attention to her fight for justice. Working with several legislators, including myself, she was twice able to successfully block U.S. funding toward a military training program for the Indonesian military. Having gained the support of the Indonesian president, she was also successful in her pursuit of a life sentence for the leader of the attack.

Patsy should be commended for her bravery, determination and commitment to justice. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE AND NICK VITORI

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituents Grace and Nick Vitori. Nick and Grace are a testament to the innate goodness of human nature, the overwhelming positive effect individuals may have on the community and the can-do spirit of America.

For sixty-one years Nick and Grace have been the owners of Vitori's Marketplace in Middletown, Ohio and in less than a month, after some seventy-eight years in business, this landmark grocery, this priceless slice of Americana will close its doors. Nick and Grace are as much a Middletown landmark as the grocery they own. After serving in World War II Nick left college to take over Vitori's from his ailing father, Pasquale, also known as Patsy, who opened Vitori's in 1929. Nick and Grace have been watching over Vitori's ever since. Undoubtedly Middletonians will miss Nick's famous ham salad, Grace's smiling and kind face behind the cash register, and their trademark red jackets.

Through good and bad, Nick and Grace and Vitori's Marketplace has loyally, thoughtfully and generously served their neighbors. Few in Middletown can say their lives haven't been touched by Nick and Grace, and their retirement is certainly well earned.

Grace and Nick Vitori are a testament to the American ethos, to the spirit of community and a devotion to others. I consider it an honor to represent Grace and Nick in Congress, and I wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.