

## RIALTO AIDS WALK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an important event that has occurred in my State of California. To honor World AIDS Day, the city of Rialto partnered with Brothers and Sisters in Action, BASIA, and First Chance/Youth-Community Health Outreach Workers to host the inaugural AIDS Walk Rialto on December 8, 2007. I am pleased to say that it was a success.

Since reported in 1981, HIV/AIDS has become the most significant communicable disease in San Bernardino County for African Americans. The rate of HIV among this group has increased dramatically since the first cases were reported. In 2005, 18 percent of the new HIV cases in San Bernardino County were in African Americans, yet African Americans represent only 8.5 percent of the population of the county. AIDS Walk Rialto aimed to broaden awareness of this disparity.

I commend the city of Rialto and the organizers of this event for the work that they are doing to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS infections on the local level. Better education and awareness programs can make a tremendous difference in stopping the spread of this disease, and I encourage an even larger parade next year.●

## HONORING THE LIFE OF VU NGUYEN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me as I honor the life of Sacramento sheriff's deputy Vu Dinh Nguyen, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on December 19, 2007.

Deputy Nguyen dedicated his career to law enforcement and public safety. He was a member of the Sacramento Sheriff's Department for 7 years, serving as a member of the gang unit for 3 years. Prior to his career with the Sheriff's Department, he was a probation officer for Sacramento County.

Vu Nguyen was born in Vietnam in 1970 and immigrated to the United States in 1975. His family settled in Modesto, CA, where he attended Burbank Elementary School, Mark Twain Junior High School, and Modesto High School. While attending Modesto High School he participated in several activities including football, yearbook, and student government.

Vu continued his education at California State University, Sacramento, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in criminal justice. He continued to excel at the Sheriff's Academy where he graduated with high honors.

Deputy Nguyen was married in April and is survived by his wife Phanh, parents, five sisters, and two brothers. His family, friends, and colleagues remember him as a humble man, a respected officer, and an ambassador for the Asian-American community where he often reached out to troubled youth.

Deputy Vu Nguyen's brave service and commitment to public safety will not be forgotten.●

## ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, America's first Greek-letter organization established by Black college women. It is with great pride that I join my friends Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, and Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON in extending our congratulations to all of its members on this tremendous occasion.

On January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded at Howard University in Washington, DC, by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, who envisioned AKA as a source of social and intellectual enrichment for its members. Over the past century, AKA has evolved into a nationwide organization of college-trained women working to improve the socioeconomic conditions in their cities, States, and countries throughout the world. Today, the sorority serves through a membership of more than 200,000 women in 975 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

In September 2005, along with my colleagues in the House, I had the pleasure of cohosting a reception on Capitol Hill for the House AKA leadership and nearly 100 members. I was reminded yet again of the remarkable strength and unwavering dedication of AKA to improve the lives of others.

AKA's significant contributions to the Black community and to American society over the past century are widespread. From election reform and safety to and health care and education initiatives, AKA has raised money for and spread awareness about issues that directly impact countless lives across the country. In addition to advancing these services, AKA maintains a focus on strengthening the quality of life for its members. AKA cultivates and encourages high scholastic and ethical standards, promotes unity and friendship among college women, alleviates problems facing girls and women, maintains a progressive interest in college life and continues to demonstrate the power of Ethel Hedgeman Lyle's vision a century later.

Today marks not only a moment for celebration but also a time to give thanks to all members for the significant contributions AKA have made to our communities and America over the past century.

AKA's members have built an enduring legacy of leadership and service that has made a profound contribution to our history and to our future. As the women of AKA celebrate this significant milestone, I add to the chorus of thanks and praise for your 100 years of groundbreaking achievement and the many accomplishments yet to come.●

## RETIREMENT OF MR. DAVID J. WILLIAMS

• Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I congratulate David J. Williams for his 30

years of service to the vaccine industry and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Williams was born in Scranton, PA, and received his accounting degree from the University of Scranton in 1973. He then joined Connaught Laboratories in 1978 as the manager of financial services. Mr. Williams was a member of the executive team and was named chief operating officer of Connaught Laboratories in 1989.

Mr. Williams steered the company through several mergers and acquisitions, growing the organization from 100 employees and sales of just over \$5 million in 1978, to the creation of today's Sanofi Pasteur, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer with 11,000 employees and more than \$4 billion in sales in 2007. Under Mr. Williams' guidance, more than a billion doses of Sanofi Pasteur's lifesaving vaccines are administered to more than 500 million people around the world each year, representing more than 25 percent of the global vaccine market.

Mr. Williams recognized his company's ability to address current and future public health needs by investing in a research and development program and a production plan for pandemic preparedness in the event that a public health emergency strikes the United States. Mr. Williams and Sanofi Pasteur have helped to build the domestic infrastructure necessary to protect millions of Americans from deadly diseases, while addressing public health around the world.

Mr. Williams has served as an advocate for the survival of the vaccine industry. I am told that in 1986, when the industry was being diminished by lawsuits, he served as the industry point person for negotiation of The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Act, which established the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund. In his dedication to the larger immunization community, he created the Vaccine Policy Committee of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and is a founding member of the Partnership for Prevention which includes public and private sector representatives who focus on preventative health care policies.

Mr. Williams served as the first liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which sets immunization policy in the United States. He has also served on the board of directors of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Hospital Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton. He is one of the founding board members of the Medical Education Development Consortium.