

As we look to improve the quality of care while addressing high costs, we can learn from effective programs like USFHP, which provides managed care and includes a focus on preventative care and managing chronic illnesses to improve the lives of our service members and potentially creating savings in the long run. Transferring beneficiaries to Medicare will only shift costs, rather than improve the quality of care for those who have served our country.

In light of this, and the success this program has had in providing for those who have served in uniform, I wish to reiterate my support for USFHP. I hope we can avoid major alterations to the US Family Health Plan and continue to offer this service to all eligible beneficiaries, including those over the age of 65, who I believe have earned a right to this high quality program through service to our country.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she

used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."

IN HONOR OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT (RET) LEWIS JAY STACK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, MGy Sgt (Ret) Lewis Jay Stack. Mr. Stack is being honored by his church, the Avalon United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia this Sunday. Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack was born on April 21, 1914, and recently celebrated his 97th birthday.

Spurred by a love of country and selfless sacrifice, Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack joined the United States Marine Corps on February 28, 1937 at the age of 23. He served admirably with the 1st Marine Division for several campaigns in World War II, which included Guadalcanal, Cape Gloster, Pllilieu and Okinawa. Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack also served one tour with 1st Marine Air Wing in Japan.

He was stationed at Intin during the Korean War and later served a tour in Vietnam. His final station in the military was at Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia on March 1, 1971. For his service to our country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Navy Achievement Medal, Nine Good Conduct medals, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

He has been married to the lovely Ruth Stack for 65 years. They have four children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He has been a member of the Avalon United Methodist Church for almost 47 years.

GEN Douglas Macarthur once said that: "Duty, Honor, Country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be." Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack did his duty by serving his country, and he did it with honor and dignity because of his deep and unwavering love of his country.

Because of him and thousands of brave men and women like him, millions of Americans and billions more around the world are able to taste the fruits of freedom. God Bless Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack and God Bless the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me

in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, to be held in Washington, DC on May 26–30, 2011.

The DC Black Pride celebration is a multi-day festival featuring music, dance, films, a poetry slam, a church service, community town hall meetings, and a health and wellness expo, among other things. The DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The DC Black Pride celebration has deep roots in the DC community, dating back to 1975. It grew out of the Club House's annual Memorial Day weekend celebration, called the Children's Hour. After the Club House closed in 1990, local individuals and groups kept the tradition alive by organizing the first DC Black Pride celebration on May 25, 1991, at Banneker Field. The celebration has grown from a few hundred people to the thousands expected for the 2011 celebration.

The DC Black Pride celebration fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Pride celebrations on three continents.

Fittingly, the DC Black Pride celebration's organizing body, Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a local affiliate of the International Federation of Black Prides, chose "21 Years and Legal!" as the theme for this year's celebration. The theme reflects the 21 years DC Black Pride has fulfilled its mission to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender African-American community, as well as support for organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth and families.

DC Black Pride is led by a volunteer Board of Directors, which coordinates this annual event and smaller events throughout the year. We are pleased to also recognize DC Black Pride 2011 board members: George Birdson, Jimma Elliott-Stevens, Earl Fowlkes, Jr., and Danielle King.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, and to welcome its attendees.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC). For the past 30 years, the MSAC has served as a champion for low- and moderate-income seniors, achieving gains in promoting the rights and well-being of seniors.

Since its first meeting in April 1981, the MSAC has brought together thousands of area seniors to participate in public meetings, rallies and government hearings and has succeeded in bringing necessary services to seniors in need.

Shortly after its inception, the MSAC restored local bus routes, established medical