

has been done to acknowledge our country's victory and our debt to those who make it possible.

During the 104th Congress, my resolution honoring Americans who served during the cold war passed the House of Representatives by a unanimous vote. Unfortunately, the resolution did not come up for a vote in the Senate.

It is now time to recognize all Americans who served during the long, demanding years of the cold war. We are worthy of preservation as a great nation because so many of our most talented and dedicated citizens did their part for so long in a conflict that seemed endless.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman FRANK PALLONE, for sponsoring this special order this evening. I am pleased to join FRANK and others as we discuss an issue of great importance to the Congress and this Nation. The issue under discussion is that of children's health.

I want to use the time allocated to call attention to the millions of children who are uninsured. Just recently, the Democratic caucus children's health care task force convened a hearing which focused on the problem of uninsured children in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 10 million children across the nation, or 13.8 percent of all children under the age of 18, are uninsured.

The rate for African-American children without any health insurance at all is even higher, at 15.3 percent. Statistics further indicate that 2.9 million of those children are eligible for Medicaid but are not enrolled.

Mr. Speaker, the urgency to insure these children lies in the fact that uninsured children are less likely than insured children to get much needed health and preventive care. The lack of such care can have adverse effects on these children's health for the rest of their lives. In my home State of Ohio, nearly 300,000 children are without health insurance. It is estimated that as many as a quarter of all children in Ohio may have been uninsured for at least 1 month over the last 2 years. While the overall rate for the State is 9.6 percent, slightly less than the national rate, far too many children still remain uninsured.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, I know that the problem of uninsured children is taking a toll on many families across this Nation. The Congress must make this issue a top priority. We must be willing to explore the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, and reforms of outreach and service delivery systems in order to provide access to comprehensive health care services for uninsured children.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said on many occasions that our children represent our future. It is time for the Congress to take action on behalf of our Nation's youth. I join Congress-

man PALLONE and members of the Democratic children's health task force in urging our colleagues to move forward to insure and protect America's greatest resource—our children.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO ENACT LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS LAST

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to ensure that the legislative branch appropriations bill is the last appropriations bill we enact. My resolution would amend the rules of the House to postpone final action on legislative branch appropriations for any fiscal year until all other regular appropriations for that fiscal year have been enacted. By doing so, we would both avert another shutdown and restore responsibility to the appropriations process.

This resolution adds new points of order under House rules governing appropriations to prohibit final action on the regular legislative branch appropriations bill unless all other regular appropriations bills for the fiscal year are enacted. Similarly, a continuing resolution could not contain legislative branch appropriations unless it also included continuing appropriations for the same period for all other regular appropriations bills not already signed into law.

Unless all other appropriations bills were signed into law, this means that there could not be final action on the conference report for legislative branch appropriations. It would not preclude the Appropriations Committee or the House from considering the legislative branch appropriations bill before other bills; the House simply could not vote on final passage of a conference report, a motion on a Senate amendment or a continuing resolution, if we have not first, or concurrently, provided appropriations for the other twelve bills.

This resolution would demonstrate our commitment to govern responsibly and to put the American people before ourselves. By enacting our own funding bill last, we may be more likely to find common ground on the other bills and to avert another Government shutdown. We must never again shut down the Federal Government; it devastated our constituents who depend on Government services, our Federal employees, contractors and their families, and our communities. By linking our own funding to the enactment of all appropriations bills, we would ensure that we would take our responsibility seriously and work to find common ground.

During the November 1995 shutdown, Congress made the mistake of passing the fiscal year 1996 legislative branch appropriations bill before taking care of all of the other bills. The President vetoed it—not because of its content, but because of its timing. When it was enacted later that year, legislators lost that extra motivation to negotiate the remaining bills during the prolonged Government shutdown—after all, their salaries and their staffs were secured.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representative TOM DAVIS and me in putting the American people first. Please help me to en-

sure that before we pay ourselves, we meet our obligations to take care of Government agencies and the public that we are here to serve.

TRIBUTE TO VANDERGRIFT FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the George G. McMurtry Vandergrift No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department of Westmoreland County. The fire department was founded on November 29, 1897 and is celebrating its centennial with several festivities throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to join the citizens of Vandergrift in congratulating the volunteers, both past and present, for 100 years of outstanding public service to their community.

The Vandergrift Fire Department is made up of dedicated individuals who risk and sacrifice their personal safety every day as volunteers in their community. They have careers independent of their volunteer service. They have families and daily responsibilities. However, when the emergency call sounds, the members of the Vandergrift Fire Department put their own lives on hold to provide safety and emergency services to the citizens of Vandergrift. They have proven that by joining together they provide an invaluable service to the entire community.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I would like to wish the George G. McMurtry Vandergrift No. 1 Volunteer Fire Department another 100 years of successful public service. They have protected the lives of their families, their property, and the spirit of their community with dignity. Their service represents a local heroism which has guided a community for a century—with honor, courage, and self-sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES A. HAYES

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM L. CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our former colleague and my dear friend, Charles Hayes—a leader, a visionary and a man of the people. Charlie passed away on April 8, 1997, in Chicago, IL.

Charles Hayes was a crusader for justice, fairness, and decency. He began his quest to make the world a better place before most Members of this body were born.

Emerging from the fiery furnace of the Great Depression as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, he learned the importance of work and fairness early on.

At the young age of 20, Charlie stood up against racism and discrimination in the workplace. He organized a group of black carpenters in a flooring plant and formed a local union to secure fairer wages and better working conditions for the employees. He was elected president of that local and began his