In her stint as Director of the Family Health Center, Mrs. Trice ensured the provision of high quality, accessible health care to more than 60,000 residents of Liberty City, Hialeah, Brownsville, Little Haiti and other areas northwest of Miami-Dade County. During those harrowing times of cutbacks in health and social services funding at the federal, state and local levels, the Miami Times recalled, ''. . . Mrs. Trice's innovative and uncompromising commitment enabled it to maintain its critical services, while leading efforts to ensure effectiveness and a caring approach were not compromised.''

Mrs. Trice truly represents an exemplary community servant who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted up by those who have been blessed with life's greater amenities. As a gadfly among Miami-Dade County's health care professionals, she is wont to prod her colleagues toward ensuring that both political and bureaucratic leadership find a way to develop programs in and of the community, despite the risks.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to those living in public housing projects, Mrs. Trice thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. She sagely exercised them, alongside the mandate of her conviction and the wisdom of her knowledge. The crucial role she played all these years in developing affordable quality family health care evokes a genuine humility as she is wont to say that ''. . . the accolades are not important. What is important is that my community receive the recognition of its strength, despite the adversity, and help for the disproportionate share of the problems it confronts everyday.''

Her word is her bond to those who dealt with her, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of the poor turn their lives around, but also in her resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable caring community.

Tonight's tribute is genuinely deserved! I truly salute a very dear friend in behalf of a grateful community and I bid her Godspeed.

HONORING KATHLEEN MARY O'CONNELL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of the 105th Congress, I want to recognize Kathleen Mary O'Connell who served on the Committee on Ways and Means staff from May of 1991—until her recent death from cancer on August 29, 1998.

Kathleen's fine reputation and professional skills are well known to all. She was smart, dynamic, charming, quick, a fabulous staffer, an excellent economist, and, most important, a good friend.

Our great sense of loss for Kathleen will continue each day. We always will remember Kathleen fondly.

Kathleen was a graduate of Smith College, and received her master's degree in economics from Duke University. Thereafter, she worked for fifteen years for the Congressional Budget Office, and then for more than seven years for the Committee on Ways and Means.

Kathleen cared about our Federal Government, its programs, and its policies. Most important, Kathleen wanted to make a difference and she did. Kathleen was key staff to all of the tax bills pending before the Committee during her tenure. She provided thorough and critical analyses of the economic, tax, and budgetary implications of legislation under consideration. She argued for fairness and policy decisions that benefitted the average American. Kathleen was a public servant who all of us are proud to have known.

On behalf of the Members and staff of the Committee on Ways and Means, I want to say that we will miss you always, Kathleen.

TRIBUTE TO DANTE FASCELL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we wish good health to one of the most distinguished retired members of this body in recent history, former Congressman Dante Fascell.

For 38 years, Congressman Fascell proudly and effectively represented the 19th Congressional District of Florida, rising to become the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

His deliberative, thoughtful manner brought Dante great respect from his colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike.

He left his stamp not only on domestic policies, but particularly on a wide range of foreign policy initiatives where he promoted the American values of freedom, democracy and justice.

Congressman Fascell was instrumental in the passage of the landmark legislation, The War Powers Act, that assures that Congress has a say before our fighting men and women are sent to harm's way.

His fight for freedom and democracy also extended to the suffering people of Cuba.

For decades, Dante was a leading voice condemning the violation of human rights on the island committed by the Castro dictatorship.

All of us from South Florida who cherish his friendship hope that soon Chairman Fascell will be back on his feet enjoying his beloved grandchildren and all his family.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN'S DEFORMITIES ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treatment of Children's Deformities Act, legislation that prohibits insurers from discriminating against children born with deformities by denying coverage of reconstructive surgery. Children should not only be provided reconstructive surgery to improve the function of a part of the body, but also should be given the opportunity to face the world with a normal appearance. Insurers would like for you to think that such surgery is merely cosmetic—parents of children dealing with the physical and psychological effects of such deformities would beg to differ.

Today, approximately seven percent of American children are born with pediatric deformities and congenital defects such as birth marks, cleft lip, cleft palate, absent external ears and other facial deformities. A recent survey of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons indicated that over half of the plastic surgeons surveyed have had a pediatric patient who in the last two years has been denied, or experienced significant difficulty in obtaining, insurance coverage for their surgical procedures.

Some insurance companies claim that reconstructive procedures that do not improve function are not medically necessary and are, therefore, cosmetic. America's physicians recognize an important difference between reconstructive and cosmetic surgery to which this bill calls attention. The American Medical Association defines cosmetic surgery as being performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve the patient's appearance and self-esteem. They define reconstructive surgery as being performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease.

The Treatment of Children's Deformities Act acknowledges the importance of the AMA's definitions and requires that managed care and insurance companies do the same. The problems that Americans across the board are experiencing with various managed care companies who place cost over quality care is infuriating enough, but when it affects the physical and emotional well-being of children, Congress must be willing to put our foot down.

Please join me in defending the needs of children with deformities and congenital defects and their families by cosponsoring this important bill.

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a speech given by Carol LaGrasse of the Property Rights Foundation of America to the Eagle Forum National Conference on September 12, 1998 in Arlington, Virginia. This speech is one of the most insightful discussions about the dangers of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative which my bill, H.R. 1842, would terminate. I encourage my colleagues to read this outstanding speech and share it with their constituents.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS PROGRAM—A THREAT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss President Clinton's American Heritage Rivers program, a new federal executive program of designating selected major rivers supposedly to preserve their natural, cultural and historic resources.

INTRODUCTION

The American Heritage Rivers program, if successful, promises to diminish local representative government and private property rights. The program is also justifiably opposed because it involves many of the same