water or sewer services; fighting to bring health care coverage to the working poor; convincing the Texas Legislature to match federal dollars the Children's Health Insurance Program, ensuring that children in families up to 200% of the poverty line would have access to health care; securing millions of dollars in funding for after-school enrichment programs that keep children learning in safety instead of roaming the streets; providing job training for workers that lead to good jobs at good wages; and assisting eligible immigrants in acquiring English skills as well as assistance in preparing their application to become citizens.

The Metropolitan Organization in Houston has been at the forefront of these efforts. They have participated in voter registration drives that helped register record numbers of new voters. They have also worked tirelessly to obtain funds for street improvements, parks and recreational centers, and libraries in low-income neighborhoods. Moreover, they have provided aid for those seeking to become homeowners, encouraging people to put down roots and contribute to the revitalization of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like The Metropolitan Organization and the Industrial Areas Foundation Southwest Network that make our nation great. I commend them for their twenty-five years of hard work, and wish them success in their continuing effort to make democracy work for all citizens of our Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEW LEADERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that is vitally important to our society as a whole. The New Leaders is an organization committed to empowering the African American community. Many challenges lie ahead in addressing the concerns of people of color. This organization brings young professionals together to tackle the social, economic, and political problems facing people of color. For five years, this organization used the collective resources of these young professionals to shape public policy.

Using fresh and innovative perspectives that we as policy makers desperately need, this organization has become a part of several youth education and training partnerships. The New Leaders has worked continually to increase African American leadership opportunities and to foster an environment of youth empowerment. As a member of their generation, I realize the importance of looking at our young people as assets and resources.

The New Leaders have made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing scholarship money to students, and sponsoring the highly successful and effective Take a Youth To Work Day.

Not only are The New Leaders ahead of the curve in advocating youth empowerment they also support a fair and accurate census. Historically, minorities have been under-counted and The New Leaders are committed to Census 2000 in order to ensure equal representation and ample funding to combat some of the growing concerns in the African American community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts and the achievements of The New Leaders. I also submit a position paper presented to The White House by The New Leaders for the RECORD.

THE NEW LEADERS

1999 POSITION PAPER ON YOUTH, LEADERSHIP AND THE CENSUS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

PRESENTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

The New Leaders (TNL) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization committed to empowering the African American community. For the last five years, TNL has been comprised primarily of Black professionals dedicated to addressing the social, economic and political issues facing people of color. We believe by leveraging our combined resources with a fresh, innovative perspective, our goal of shaping public policy will result in the organization attaining a value-added level of influence in this country.

Building upon the success the Clinton Administration has had in fostering mentoring, expanding investments in youth education and training, and creating the GEAR-UP initiative, TNL recognizes that several partnership opportunities lie ahead. Therefore, TNL recommends that the Administration put forth initiatives that further promote our young people to become actively involved in leadership and government. Additionally, these initiatives will help remedy the misrepresentation of Blacks that resulted from previous under-counts of minorities in past national census counts.

OBJECTIVE FOR INCREASING AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATION

TNL encourages the Clinton Administration to expand existing initiatives and/or create a new initiative design to invest in the development of governmental leadership within African American communities across this nation. To formulate a model that could be duplicated, TNL proposes the development of a demonstration project that creates a leadership institute to train and prepare African Americans to take an active role in government.

CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF BLACKS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Extreme apathy exists among a massive pool of untapped voters across this country. This apathy is prevalent in the Black community, especially among our youth. While reasons vary as to why eligible young voters are so far removed from the political process, we must find a way to reengage these individuals. Our failure to successfully address this issue will result in continued inadequate resources for undeserved minority communities.

TNL'S COMMITMENT TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Over the past few years, TNL has touched the lives of thousands by addressing the social, political and economic state of the African American community. One of TNL's primary interests has been and continues to be our youth—equipping and instructing them to assume responsibility for their own lives and the future of their communities.

TNL has made significant strides in this area by designing a leadership development program for middle school students, providing $88,000 in scholarship moneys through Texas Southern University (TSU), and most importantly, sponsoring our annual Take a Youth to Work Day. Every year this milestone event pairs African American males between the ages of 13 and 18 with professional Black men for a day of mentoring. By partnering with the current administration, TNL seeks to expand our outreach efforts. We will achieve this through continued advancements in technology, creation of charter organizations, and drawing upon the expertise of African American leaders both past and present.

THE HISTORICAL UNDER-COUNT IN THE PAST CENSUS & THE IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICANS

Since the inception of the census count, Blacks have been consistently under-counted. As a result, the Black community has been grossly misrepresented and ample funding has not been secured. One area of vital importance is health care. In this area, a new generation of African Americans continue to lead in the disparity of diseases such as: infant mortality, diabetes, cancer screening and management, heart disease, AIDS and immunizations (diseases identified by the Administration's initiative to end racial and ethnic health disparities). As we move towards a new millennium, an under-count in Census 2000 will have an enormous impact on the reapportionment efforts in this country. These efforts in turn could jeopardize minority political representation on the local, state and federal levels.

REMEDYING PAST UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

It is the contention of TNL that one glaring example of the apathy and distrust of government deals with the under-count of Blacks in the census. While it is understood that federal moneys have been set aside to actively outreach underserved communities, TNL believes that additional steps are needed to address this long standing problem.

TNL recommends that the White House introduce an initiative similar to the one introduced by the Kennedy Administration that encouraged Americans to join the Peace Corps. This initiative would focus on training and empowering young people to become active in government. TNL believes that such an initiative will not only address the issues of inadequate reapportionment, but also concerns regarding reparations as well as the equitable treatment of Black Americans caught up in this nation's burgeoning criminal justice system.

CONCLUSION

In their purest form, true leaders empower the constituency they represent, they take control of adverse circumstances, and they assume the responsibility for a better way of life. The best way to instill this ideology is to train and equip individuals that have been consistently and systematically denied the liberties this country has afforded other citizens.

Therefore, TNL believes that the most effective way to tackle these issues begin with empowering every African-American to become motivated and actively engage in the principals of democracy. If we can accomplish this, we will balance the scales of justice, ensuring fairness and equitable treatment for all, irrespective of race, creed, or color.

A new era. A new America. The possibilities are endless.

FORMER SENATOR PAUL SIMON COMMENTS ON MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

[From Parade Magazine, Sept. 12, 1999]

''I HAD NO SYMPTOMS OF HEART ATTACK . . .''

(By Paul Simon)

As I look back on my 22 years in the House and Senate, I realize I would like to change a few of the votes I cast. Most people—and politicians probably more than most—hate to admit they are wrong. I was wrong though, and that was brought home to me recently in a most dramatic way.

It started when I happened to read a magazine article on a new device for measuring blockage of the heart arteries. The device takes a type of picture of the heart and coronary arteries (called a ''heart scan,'' something like an X-ray) that can pick up hidden problems. I had no symptoms of heart trouble, such as chest pain or shortness of breath, but the article noted that about 20 percent of those over 60 (I am 70) who have a heart attack or stroke have no advance warnings.

I set up an appointment for a heart scan at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago on Nov. 10 last year. The scan took 10 minutes, but the results were startling: I was headed for a heart attack or stroke. As a result, last Jan. 5 I had a six-way heart bypass operation.

Today, I'm doing fine. It turns out that the heart scan—developed as a result of research done by Douglas Boyd at the University of California at San Francisco—probably saved my life. Sadly, I had to admit to myself that supporting funds for medical research was not something I devoted much time or effort to when I served in the Congress. I felt other issues were more important. Now I know how wrong I was. All around me are others—former colleagues and friends—who have benefited from medical research:

The TV talk-show host Larry King, who has had serious heart problems and undergone bypass surgery, often says, ''Because of research, I'm alive today.''

Sen. Ted Stevens (R., Alaska) and former Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kan.) had successful surgery for prostate cancer thanks to the benefits of medical discoveries.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D., Conn.) has been successfully treated for ovarian cancer.

But I also think of those who lost their battles or still struggle because not enough research has been done:

Jay Monahan, husband of the Today host Katie Couric, died at age 42 from colon cancer, because we don't yet have enough weapons against that disease.

Rep. Morris Udall (D., Ariz.) died of Parkinson's disease, another illness for which we're still seeking a cure. I watched Udall—a brilliant legislator with a great sense of humor—gradually decline in health. What a waste of talent that could have been prevented with more research!

My first memories of Christopher Reeve are of a dynamic, vibrant actor interested in public affairs. He is still vibrant and dynamic but more focused in his public-affairs interest as he presses with an understandable zealotry for research in spinal-cord injuries.

Rachel Mann, a marvelous young woman and family friend, had cystic fibrosis, the largest genetic killer of children. Because of her, I did push for additional funds for research into this disease when I was in Congress, but she ultimately lost her battle at age 25.

WE CAN DO BETTER

A century ago, the average U.S. citizen lived to be 48. Now we live to an average of 76—thanks in large part to medical research. Pharmaceutical companies do an excellent job in research, and they increased their research spending from $2 billion in 1980 to $20 billion in 1998. But we can't rely on them for basic research efforts. That's why funding for the National Institutes of Health, which does basic research that can benefit us all, is so important. Its funding has doubled in the last 15 years—to $15 billion. But while $15 billion is a sizable sum, it is inadequate when compared to what we spend on legalized gambling ($638 billion in 1997), alcohol ($95 billion) and cigarettes ($50 billion). Two-thirds of Americans agree that funding for medical research should be doubled, according to a poll taken last year by the nonprofit advocacy group Research! America. Yet, for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, President Clinton has asked for just a 2.1 percent increase—barely above the inflation rate.

That's not nearly enough. We must do more. Greater focus on research would be a marvelous gift to future generations of my family and of yours. I know. It already has been a marvelous gift to me.

MATTYDALE, N.Y. SCHOOL CELEBRATES ''VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK''

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives today the patriotic and noble intentions of students at St. Margaret's School in Mattydale, New York, in my home district. These young people, by way of Ms. Kimberly Arnold's Social Studies class, have taken it upon themselves this year to institute a new celebration honoring veterans of U.S. military service.

On November 8, 1999 the students will celebrate the first Veterans Awareness Week. The program will include patriotic songs by the school choir, essay contest readings, distribution of ribbons and special recognition by children to veterans in their immediate families.

This is a remarkable and worthy celebration of the sacrifices made by veterans in the United States. Worthy, because of the great service veterans have given our nation and the free world. Remarkable, because these young people have taken the initiative to recognize veterans in a time of peace. That their young lives include sensitivity to the fact that freedom is not free is wonderful tribute to our armed forces, past and present, and to the Founders of the United States of America.

THE SAINT GEORGE SOCIETY: A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON BAY COUNTY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Saint George Society who has served the citizens of Bay City, Michigan, since 1887. One does not often find, in our relatively young country, an organization with a continuous history of serving their fellow citizens for 112 years. The Saint George Society, however, has consistently carried out their mission to serve their community without hesitation and with much devotion.

Members of the Saint George Society have always vigorously upheld their pledge to aid the sick and needy among them. Although jobs were scarce and times were difficult in the early years of the society, they successfully raised money in order to help those in need. As their membership grew, the society was able to both rent space for their meetings at Pulaski Hall and continue to help the community in many significant ways.

In the early 1920's, the Society gave 25 dollars to returning war veterans who had been members of the organization before leaving for the War. Also, as a result of the Society's exclusively Polish membership, they made substantial efforts to buy Polish War Bonds in order to aid Poland. By 1959, the Society had weathered the great depression, two wars and a changing world. In spite of this, by the end of the year they were able to expand their services to care for mentally disabled children. On August 23, 1981, they opened the doors of a new facility which allowed them even greater opportunity to serve and be a part of the community.

On July 11, 1999, the Saint George Society celebrated many years of accomplishment by burning the mortgage on their property. As you can imagine, this was a very meaningful event for this organization which has given so much to Bay City. For them, burning this mortgage was more than just destroying a piece of paper, but was an event that represents many years of accomplishment, dedication, sacrifice and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the Saint George Society has been a source of strength and pride for many years in the Bay City area. I know that they will continue to be a vital part of Michigan's Fifth District. For that reason, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in wishing the Saint George Society many blessings for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS A. BUTTS, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas A. Butts, Associate Vice President for Government Relations and Executive Director of the University of Michigan's Washington, D.C. Office, who is retiring from the University after 35 years of distinguished public service.

Mr. Butts has served as the University's liaison to Congress and federal agencies for almost two decades. In addition to opening the University's Washington Office in 1990, he has logged thousands of miles commuting between Ann Arbor and Washington as together we've labored to strengthen higher education in the United States.

Mr. Butts' success as an advocate for higher education emanates from his great personal warmth, his many contacts in government and academe, and his professional expertise, particularly in the area of student financial aid. Over the years, Mr. Butts has contributed enormously to the deliberations resulting in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. He