

1 million African-American men served in the Armed Forces, and at least 4,000 women also served the U.S.

African-Americans have also taken leadership roles and involved themselves in the politics of the nation. During the 19th century, many African-Americans were Abolitionists fighting against the injustices of slavery. Some examples of these great abolitionists included Frederick Douglass, a former slave and established writer, and Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, who helped organize the Underground railroad as well as their fight for the rights of women.

After the success of the Civil War, African Americans such as W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington fought to bring the lingering discrimination to its de facto conclusion. They wrote and spoke out against the Jim Crow laws of the south. Their intentions were furthered towards the latter half of the 20th century by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, both of whom fought for racial equality in a country that still had not reached its potential. Because of these accomplishments, there have been many African-American men and women serving in the United States Congress. We have had in our Supreme Court and still have African-American Justices, beginning with Justice Marshall and currently with Justice Thomas. And with the new administration that we have just ushered in, we have Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State, and Condoleezza Rice as our National Security Adviser.

African-American men and women have contributed greatly to other facets of our society, constantly improving it for future generations. They have been artists, musicians, athletes, educators and scientists. Jackie Robinson was the first African-American to play for a major league baseball team and will be memorialized as the man who broke the color barrier. Today, there are African-American athletic heroes like NBA star Michael Jordan and Marion Jones, member of the U.S. Olympic team. With the onset of the Harlem Renaissance musicians like Scott Joplin and Ella Fitzgerald flourished, leading the way for other African-American musicians. Writers like Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes led the way for contemporary writers such as Toni Morrison. Many African-Americans have taken great strides in science and medicine. Dr. Charles Richard Drew organized the concept of blood banks and ran the first full time blood bank during World War II. Several African-American men and women have worked with our Space Program including Dr. Mae C. Jamison, the first African-American female astronaut.

In my home in Orange County, NY, a recently published book entitled "Genealogical History of Black Families of Orange County" by local author Robert W. Brennan, traces the history of our local African-American families. It underscores the bittersweet truth that the crime of slavery was NOT, as many lead us to believe, an unpopular crime against humanity confined to certain southern states. In fact, the book makes clear that while slavery was abolished in New York State on July 4, 1827, the lingering residue of racial bigotry continued for many, many years afterwards—and, in some ways, right up to the present.

Black History Month is an appropriate time to look forward as well as to the past. We must continue to fight against inequalities. We

must continue to push all of our children to reach their potential and to achieve their goals.

Our society's strength rests within all its inhabitants. Today, and throughout this month we rightfully honor the African-Americans who have added to the strengths of our great nation as well as all of humanity. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to express their appreciation for the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation.

NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that I believe is vital to the safety of our children as they make their way to and from school. The introduction of this legislation is especially timely as we observe National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 12th–16th.

Each day, parents in this country send their children off to school believing their young ones will arrive safely. However, since 1985, close to 1,500 people have died in school bus related accidents. These numbers reveal the need for action to make school buses safer. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians gave their support and endorsement to identical legislation in the last session of Congress.

The basic design of the large yellow school bus has not been changed since 1977. While the design of high-back padded seats known as "compartmentalization" provides protection in head-on collisions, it does nothing to secure passengers during rear-end, side-impact and rollover collisions. In these situations, children can be thrown from their seats, into one another or into aisles, blocking quick evacuation.

My legislation would require seat belts on school buses by prohibiting the manufacture, sale, delivery, or importation of school buses without seat belts. In addition, the measure would impose civil penalties for those that do not comply.

Daily, 23.5 million children are taken to and from schools and school-related activities by roughly 440,000 public school buses. Since these buses travel nearly 4.3 billion miles each year with young people on board, it is imperative that every precaution be taken to ensure their safety.

Since I last introduced this legislation, the states of Florida, Louisiana, and California have joined the states of New Jersey and New York to require seat belts on school buses. I commend the action of these states, and I urge my fellow colleagues to support the legislation to help make the trip to and from school safer for all of our nation's school children.

MR. AMIGO 2000

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2000 "Mr. Amigo," Jorge Muñiz,

chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries. Their selection honors a man or woman who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" presides over the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities last for several days; this year they will be February 23–27 and will include parades and appearances by Mr. Muñiz. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area. As Mr. Amigo 2000, Muñiz will head the international parade of Brownsville Charro Days and Matamoros Fiestas Mexicanas festivities.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances, and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future. The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen.

The 2000 Mr. Amigo, Mr. Muñiz, is a singer and TV host. The selection of Jorge Muñiz, cohost of the weekly music TV show "Al fin de semana," comes almost 10 years after his father, another Mexican singer, Marco Antonio Muñiz, also served as Mr. Amigo. The realization that he followed his father with this honor was quite emotional for him.

He has recorded 12 albums over a 20-year span in the music and entertainment industry. Affectionately known as "Coque," Mr. Muñiz is one of the most liked and recognized personalities not only in Mexico but the rest of the continent. During his career he has shared the stage with well-known personalities such as: Marco Antonio Muñiz (his father), Cecilia Gallardo, and Alberto Vasquez. His theater credits also include projects with legends like Lucha Villa, Maria Victoria, and the late Paco Stanley.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Jorge Muñiz, the 2000 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING MAYOR GARTH G.
GARDNER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor a truly remarkable public servant in my

Congressional district. Mayor Garth G. Gardner is retiring as mayor of Pico Rivera, Calif., capping off a public career that expands nearly 50 years.

Mr. Gardner was born on September 25, 1922 in Carbon County, Utah, graduating from Carbon County High School in 1940. After attending Carbon County Junior College for two years, Mr. Gardner enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Based in New Guinea in the South Pacific, he flew 29 missions against the enemy in a B-24 liberator, with a crew of 10 servicemen. For his acts of bravery and honor during World War II, I presented Mayor Gardner with the Purple Heart Medal on Veterans Day, November 11, 2000.

Following his return to the United States, Mr. Gardner married Mary Ponti on December 30, 1945. Six days after his marriage, Garth was discharged from the U.S. Air Force and soon began pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, graduating in 1948. Following his graduation, Mr. Gardner settled in Pico Rivera, where he raised his three sons.

Mayor Gardner began his career working for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for 25 years and retired from the County in 1976. Elected to the Pico Rivera City Council in 1972, Mayor Gardner has been re-elected every four years and will serve until his retirement next month. Also, during his tenure on the City Council, Mr. Gardner served as Mayor in 1974, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1998 and 2000. Mayor Gardner has also served on numerous commissions and coalitions throughout his public career.

I am truly honored to know and have worked with Mayor Gardner during his illustrious career and wish him and his family much happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HAROLD NOVOG

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Dr. Harold Novog who will celebrate his 70th birthday on February 17, 2001. Dr. Novog is an outstanding member of the New York health community and a dedicated, caring physician.

A native of New York City, Dr. Novog attended this country's premier science high school, Stuyvesant High School, graduating with honors in 1948. He entered Queens College where he studied until he was called to active duty in the U.S. Air Force. He served in a medical unit at Fort Ethan Allen in Vermont and later at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. After completing his military service, Dr. Novog returned to civilian life to finish his education. Graduating from Queens College in 1953, he went on to attend Downstate Medical Center where he received his medical degree in 1957. He completed a 1-year internship at Meadowbrook Hospital in Hempstead, NY, and a 3-year residency in Internal Medicine at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. He was board certified in internal medicine in 1962.

Dr. Novog maintained a private practice while serving on the staff at Jamaica and

Booth Memorial Hospitals and at the Chapin Nursing Home in Queens, NY. During his tenure at Booth Memorial, he served on the staff of the hospital's first detoxification unit. As a result of his outstanding work at Booth Memorial, Dr. Novog, in 1984, was appointed the medical director of "Alive and Well," a private treatment center for alcoholics.

Dr. Novog left private practice to join the staff of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in 1987 remaining there until his retirement in July 2000. While at Columbia Presbyterian he became, in the truest sense, a "doctor's doctor," responsible for the health care of the hospital's staff.

Dr. Novog's exemplary service to the New York community is greatly appreciated. His dedication to medicine, his professional integrity and his commitment to the highest standards of patient care have earned him the acclaim and respect of staff and patients alike. As he commemorates this significant milestone, it is indeed an honor for me to join with Dr. Novog's family, friends and colleagues in conveying my warmest birthday wishes. Dr. Novog has my heartiest personal congratulations. I ask you to join me in honoring Dr. Novog for his distinguished career in serving others.

RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY STUDENT VOLUNTEER

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Illinois student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Allison Harms of Bloomington has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Harms is being recognized for her creation of "Sew On and Sew Forth," an organization that provides hand-sewn items such as quilts, teddy bears, pillows, and clothing to the sick and needy in her community.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Harms are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by the Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 6 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth

recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Harms should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Allison Harms for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

MEDICARE MENTAL ILLNESS NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Medicare Mental Illness Non-Discrimination Act, legislation to end the historic discrimination against Medicare beneficiaries seeking outpatient treatment for mental illness. I first introduced this bill in the 106th Congress, and I am pleased to again sponsor anti-discrimination legislation in the 107th Congress.

Medicare law now requires patients to pay a 20 percent copayment for Part B services. However, the 20 percent copayment is not the standard for outpatient psychotherapy services. For these services, Section 1833(c) of the Social Security Act requires patients to pay an effective discriminatory copayment of 50 percent.

Let me explain this another way: If a Medicare patient has an office visit to an endocrinologist for treatment for diabetes, or an oncologist for cancer treatment, or a cardiologist for heart disease, or an internist for the flu, the copayment is 20 percent. But if a Medicare patient has an office visit to a psychiatrist or other physician for treatment for major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or any other illness diagnosed as a mental illness, the copayment for the outpatient visit for treatment of the mental illness is 50 percent. The same discriminatory copayment is applied to qualified services by a clinical psychologist or clinical social worker. This is quite simply discrimination. It is time for Congress to say "enough."

U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D. recently released a landmark study on mental illness. The Surgeon General's report is an extraordinary document that details the depth and breadth of mental illness in this country. According to Dr. Satcher, "mental disorders collectively account for more than 15 percent of the overall burden of disease from all causes and slightly more than the burden associated with all forms of cancer." The burden of mental illness on patients and their families is considerable. The World Health Organization reports that mental illness including suicide ranks second only to heart disease in the burden of disease measured by "disability adjusted life year."