

VALLEJO FIGHTING BACK
PARTNERSHIP

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vallejo Fighting Back Partnership's selection as the 2001 Outstanding Coalition Award by CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America).

In the late 1980s, residents of Vallejo, California, became concerned about the city's growing crime rate—a problem blamed mainly on the prevalence of drug and alcohol use in the community. In 1988, city officials began to examine programs and strategies that would help reduce drug and alcohol use, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's plan to start more than a dozen Fighting Back Partnership coalitions across the nation. The coalitions, which would be established in mid-sized communities to reduce the demand for drugs and alcohol, were going to be given funding for a two-year planning period, followed by a \$3 million grant to carry out a five-year strategic plan.

Although more than 400 communities sent in applications to start a Fighting Back coalition, in 1989 Vallejo emerged as one of the original 14 sites. One of the pivotal moments in Fighting Back's history occurred in the mid-1990s when the coalition—with the help of its partners—developed a sophisticated five-year strategic plan that focused on substance abuse reduction in relation to three areas: neighborhoods, treatment and youth. Fighting Back's primary goals in each area were—and still are—as follows: Revitalize neighborhoods that have deteriorated because of alcohol and drug-related crime and violence; increase the availability for treatment, especially for those with no money or health insurance; work with schools and organizations to reduce the demand and availability of tobacco, alcohol and other harmful substances among youth.

To date, there are several indicators that Fighting Back has made significant progress in achieving its goals. In 1997, the Robert Wood Johnson extended the coalition's funding for another five years—an unprecedented move by the foundation at the time. Meanwhile, recent community reports and surveys show across-the-board reductions in neighborhood crime and drug use in Vallejo. Furthermore, the number of residents in certified treatment facilities has increased from 690 to 729, according to the latest statistics available. To date, more than 30 organizations and thousands of individuals have partnered with Fighting Back to develop strategies, aimed at reducing substance abuse in Vallejo. Generally speaking, Fighting Back serves as a neutral convener as opposed to a service provider—especially in the areas of substance abuse treatment and counseling. More than anything, Fighting Back exists because of its many partners. The coalition, which could be described as a vehicle for collaboration, is grateful for the large contingent of partnering agencies and individuals who help create and carry out strategies in the community. In fact, Fighting Back's good standing in the community is evident by the vast number of agencies and individuals who are willing to partner with the coa-

lition on an ongoing basis. Fighting Back's partners include individuals and agencies in the field of healthcare, law enforcement, community service (churches, neighborhood volunteers, etc.), public education, substance abuse treatment, and public and private businesses.

I know I speak for all the members when I congratulate Vallejo Fighting Back Partnership for its effective efforts to reduce substance abuse and for its selection as the 2001 Coalition of the Year by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America.

AMERICA MUST RETURN TO ITS
HISTORIC ROLE AS NATION OF
HOPE

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the needs of the poor in America. We have distorted the meaning and purpose of our programs for the poor—our purpose should not be to get people off of public assistance, but to assist them in becoming economically secure and self-sufficient. When they become self-sufficient, they will be off the roles and make an economic contribution to American society. In this way, they pay us back for their opportunity.

At present, the measurement of TANF is in the number of people removed from the welfare roles—it should be the number of people who have been trained and have become self-sufficient. Any other measure is not only inadequate, but self-defeating.

I have long said that education is the key to the future, and TANF absolutely must accept education as an allowable work activity. Participation in educational training should “stop the clock” on expiration of benefits, because the jobs they would get in the future would pay society back many times.

America must return to its historic role as the nation of hope, not the nation of dead ends.

RECOGNIZING ADAM VINATIERI

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adam Vinatieri, kicker for the World Champion New England Patriots, and his clutch performance in Super Bowl XXXVI.

Adam's rise to fame began in my home state of South Dakota, where at Rapid City Central High School, he lettered in soccer, track, wrestling and football, earning first team all-state honors in 1991. From there, he attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, where he was a four-year letterman, earning first-team all-conference honors in three of those seasons. He finished his collegiate career as the school's all-time scoring leader with 185 career points, having converted 104 of 114 PATs (.912) in 1992 and kicked a 51-yard field goal twice.

In 1995, Adam took his game international, playing for the Amsterdam Admirals of the

World Football League. There he converted 9 of 10 field goals and was perfect on four extra point attempts for a team-leading 31 total points, while finishing ninth in the league in scoring.

Adam signed with the New England Patriots as a free agent on June 28, 1996, where he set a rookie franchise record with 120 points. He also kicked 25 consecutive field goals without a miss over a span of two years to finish just six kicks shy of the NFL record. Adam became the third Patriot to amass 500 points during his career. Amazingly, he has totaled 575 points in his first five seasons in the NFL. This is the third most proficient start to an NFL career in the history of the game.

Mr. Speaker, until Sunday, these accomplishments had gone virtually unnoticed. However, by kicking the first game-winning field goal in Super Bowl history as time expired, Adam catapulted himself into the annals of sports. Adam is just one of the many South Dakotans who have made their hometowns proud by excelling as professional athletes. I applaud the commitment and character of Adam Vinatieri and all of the athletes from South Dakota, both past and present.

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN AFRICAN
AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the crisis in the African-American community in regard with the devastating disease HIV/AIDS. Nearly half of all new sufferers of HIV/AIDS are African-American.

Worse yet, 63 percent of all new cases are among African-American women, representing a massive epidemic. Racial minorities now make up over half of new cases of HIV/AIDS and over half of those living with AIDS.

This disease does not seek out people of color to infect—African-Americans are targeted due to poverty, social oppression and the continuing emotional burden which remains from slavery and segregation. This makes the fight against HIV/AIDS a civil rights battle and it must be seen as that.

The Apostle Paul pointed out that “we fight, not flesh and blood, but powers, principalities.” This is clearly true—HIV/AIDS is not just a problem of the flesh and blood, but of social injustice. We must recognize this or we will not be successful in combating it.

This war must be fought by doctors and nurses and community health advocates. But it must also be fought by ministers and churches, by companies that need to hire African-American workers at living wages, and by neighborhood integration.

We must provide hope as well as health, and life more abundant as well as life itself.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH BROWN
CALLETON

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of California's