

patients with ovarian cancer and those from unaffected individuals.

However, despite the success of this preliminary research, it is only the first step in the testing process. It is incumbent that we find out as soon as possible whether protein screening is an effective preventive health-screening tool for this devastating disease. Therefore I am introducing legislation which will instruct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human to immediately conduct or support research on the effectiveness of the medical screening technique of using proteomic patterns in blood serum to identify ovarian cancer, including the effectiveness of so using proteomic patterns in combination with other screening methods for ovarian cancer.

If the testing finds the test effective, this legislation would require that Medicare cover the cost of this preventive health-screening tool. Medicare will treat proteomic screening at the same reimbursement rate and under the same rules and restrictions as a Pap smear test.

Therefore, Medicare will cover this test for all women starting at the age of 50 once every two years and will reimburse health care providers at exactly the same rate as pap smears.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have been elected to Congress have been entrusted with enormous responsibility and enormous power. We must use our power wisely, for the common good. There is no issue of more importance to the people of the United States than health care, and no more poignant issue than the health of our women. Ovarian cancer is a heartbreaking disease that strikes surreptitiously and long before any symptoms are manifest. Waiting for symptoms means our mothers and sisters and daughters are extremely vulnerable to unacceptably high fatality rates. By detecting the disease in Stage 1, we will save thousands of lives. In the development of national priorities, can there be anything more important than saving lives? I think not. Let us proceed with the research, and if successful, let us implement effective early screening for ovarian cancer.

Mr. Speaker, this is medical breakthrough. Now let us breakthrough government and bureaucracy and start saving lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes Tuesday or Wednesday, due to official business in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Tuesday, March 5, 2002: "Yea" on H. Con. Res. 305, Permitting The Use Of the Rotunda For A Ceremony To Present A Congressional Gold Medal To Former President Ronald Reagan And Nancy Reagan.

Wednesday, March 6, 2002: "Yea" on the Journal vote; "nay" on House Resolution 354, the rule for considering seven suspension bills, because I believe we should be passing meaningful unemployment insurance relief for laid-off workers first; and "Yea" on S.J. Res. 32—Congratulating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point On Its Bicentennial Anniversary.

HONORING RICHARD GONZALES,
2001 RECIPIENT OF THE YMCA
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, my congressional district in Riverside, California is extremely fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated group of community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give of their time and talents to ensure the well-being of our cities and county. These individuals work tirelessly to develop voluntary community action to improve the region's economy, its education, its environment and its overall quality of life. One individual, who is a member of this group, is Richard Gonzales. He has been active in so many community groups and activities that it is hard to imagine how he found the time to become a career law enforcement officer with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), as the Chief of Police for the City of Corona, a husband and a father of two.

On the 9th of March, Mr. Gaonzales will be honored with the Ira. D. "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Award by the Corona-Norco Family YMCA. The award is given in memory of my father, "Cal" Calvert, and his innumerable philanthropic gifts to the community and his efforts to encourage others to serve their community in a similar fashion. The award recognizes Mr. Gonzales for his exceptional devotion to developing community volunteerism.

Richard's career with the LAPD lasted for an impressive 26 years where he commanded many divisions. During those years, he served as a police officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant and captain. After retiring from LAPD, Richard was named the police chief of Corona in 1998. Richard holds a Master of Arts in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, both from California State University, Long Beach. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and holds a POST certificate for Command Development. He is also an adjunct professor at Golden West College, where he teaches a POST Discipline course at the Criminal Justice Training Center.

With all of these career and family commitments, Richard's unselfish giving of time and energy to volunteering is all the more impressive and serves as a model to his community, neighbors and own children. His strong commitment to the Inland Empire is displayed in his participation in the Corona Police Community Partnership, Coalition for Family Preservation, Corona Rotary, as a board member for UNITY which deals with community youth sports and the Corona-Norco YMCA. Chief Gonzales has actively instituted partnerships with our local school district, ministerial groups and other services in keeping our community safe and raising the quality of life in Corona.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank Richard Gonzales for his dedication, influence and involvement in our community. I know that we will continue to benefit from his longtime experience in the 43rd congressional district and deep commitment to the region. It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate Richard on his outstanding career with the LAPD and his lifelong devotion to the community.

IN MEMORY OF MICHELE MILLS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a wonderful woman who was taken from us well before her time. Michele Mills was called home on Monday, November 12, 2001. She was aboard American Airlines flight 587, from New York to the Dominican Republic, which seconds after take off tragically fell out of the sky and crashed into a residential neighborhood in Queens, New York.

Michele Mills was born to Priscilla and Eugene Mills on June 4, 1955 in St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn. Michele remained a proud resident of Brooklyn for many years living in Red Hook and Crown Heights. After graduating from the Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in 1973, she continued her education at the Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in merchandising/buying. With encouragement from her sister, Tricia, Michele moved on to an aviation career working for Overseas National Airlines. In 1978, Michele joined American Airlines. She worked there for her remaining twenty-three years.

Michele always kept her priorities in order: God, family, work and hobbies. She realized God's presence in her life at a very early age and joined Brownsville Community Baptist Church, where she served as a faithful member. She was a very spiritual person who routinely began her day with meditation and spiritual readings.

Michele's family and friends were an extremely important part of her life. Her home was a gathering place for festive occasions. She took great pride in graciously serving others and did so with a warm smile. Her colleagues became her extended family.

Michele was an avid reader, a gourmet cook, an interior decorator and a thrifty shopper. She was rarely seen at work or around the house without her "book of the week," nearby. She became well known by her JFK co-workers, family and friends for her famous, "Michele's Fried Chicken." Every aspect of her life was orderly; and her attire was always impeccable. She took little to nothing for granted.

Michele is survived by her parents, Priscilla and Eugene Mills; her siblings, Tricia and Kenneth Mills; her fiancée, Henry Ray; two uncles: Bob Mills of Edison, New Jersey and Freddie Holmes of Columbia, South Carolina; five aunts, Albertha Bell of Brooklyn, New York, Dezel Mallory of North Carolina, Doris Mills of Edison, New Jersey, Lysine Holmes of South Carolina, Irene Holmes of Brooklyn, New York, a great aunt, Lucille Wilkins of Brooklyn, New York, one god-daughter, Stephanie Holmes of Brooklyn, and a host of cousins and friends throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Michele Mills was a woman who enjoyed her religion, her family, her work, and her hobbies. She worked hard, no matter which part of her life was her focus at any particular moment. As such I hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of this woman who was at the beginning of a truly remarkable life.