

Quovadx, Inc., an information technology provider for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She is also an internationally renowned poet. Gloria Edwards is a retired secretary for pediatric clinics at MUSC. Susie Manning is Director of Adult Treatment Services for Richland County Behavioral Health Center of the Midlands, LRADAC. The youngest, Leon Williams, is a retired Warehouse Manager for the Columbia, South Carolina Housing Authority.

Mrs. Brown has been active with the NAACP, the Senior Citizens program in Union Heights, and an avid Voter Education and Participation activist. This granddaughter of slaves has demonstrated with great fervor, her commitment to her family, her community and her God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting this great woman on her 90th birthday. Her unbounded love and extraordinary maternal sacrifice and dedication are legendary. This granddaughter of slaves has demonstrated with great fervor, her commitment to her family, her community and her God.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL EDWARDS S. JONES, USAF AFTER 29 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding career of Colonel Edward S. Jones who is currently the Comptroller for the Defense Commissary Agency at Fort Lee, Virginia. Colonel Jones will retire after 29 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Air Force and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his selfless service to both the Air Force and to the United States of America.

Commissioned in 1974 as a Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Colonel Jones has served in comptroller positions at all levels of the Air Force: wing, major command, headquarters, unified command, and finally, defense agency.

Colonel Jones' list of prior assignments includes: Director of Financial Management, Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Deputy Director of the Operations Center and Deputy Director of Resource Management, Headquarters, Defense Commissary Agency, Fort Lee; and Chief, Integration and Accounting Branch, Comptroller Division, Directorate of Acquisition and Resources, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., and Executive Secretary to the Air Force Commissary Service Board of Directors, the Pentagon, Washington, DC.

A graduate of the Valdosta State University, Ga. holding a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Colonel Jones also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. His military education includes the Air War College, Armed Forces Staff College, Professional Military Comptrollers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Squadron Officer's School.

Colonel Jones' awards and decorations include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal

with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters, American Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbons, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with five oak leaf clusters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Jones' many friends and family in saluting this distinguished officer's lifetime of service. Colonel Jones is the very embodiment of patriotism and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honors him on this day.

COMMENDING ISRAEL ON THEIR ELECTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on H. Res. 61. However, I would have voted yes.

As you know, I have always been a strong supporter of Israel. As the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a beacon of liberty and a model for her neighbors. As a country under siege and in an almost constant state of war against terrorists, Israel also serves as an inspiration for the United States as we continue our war against terrorists.

HONORING THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA WASHINGTON DC INTERNSHIP AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise today to pay tribute to Flinders University of South Australia Washington, DC Internship Program. The Flinders University program is to be commended for providing five Australian college students with the opportunity to experience the American political process first hand, while at the same time, furthering the already strong relationship between the United States and Australia.

For the past six weeks, I have had the privilege to participate in the Flinders University program. The intern assigned to my office, Ms. Tamera Gale, has been an incredible asset to my staff and me. I have learned from her, and I certainly hope that she has learned from me.

Tamera is a third year college student at Flinders University in her hometown of Adelaide, Australia. She is majoring in American Studies. When speaking with her recently, Tamera expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to intern in my office. But as I told her then, I truly appreciate the opportunity to have her working with my staff and me.

During her time in my office, Tamera has assisted in the drafting of a resolution hon-

oring the long-standing U.S.-Australia relationship, as well as educating herself and others on the rich history of African Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces. The fruit of Tamera's labor has been passed on to my colleagues in the House of Representatives through my African American History Month Dear Colleague letters honoring the lives of a different African American military hero each day.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a good country filled with opportunity and good people. However, we venture outside of our borders all too little. The Flinders University of South Australia Washington, DC Internship Program provides Australian students with the opportunity to travel to the United States and view our democracy and life in our country. Equally, the program provides Members and staff with an opportunity to learn about the political process and life in Australia, a country and continent that too few of us visit.

It has been an honor to have Tamera intern in my office, and I wish her and her fellow interns good luck and fortune in all of their future endeavors. I look forward to participating in the Flinders program next year and urge my colleagues to do the same.

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to help recognize February as American Heart Month.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition I am well aware of the seriousness that cardiovascular disease plays in the lives of approximately 62 million Americans today. The statistics are staggering:

One million Americans die from some form of cardiovascular disease each year—one American every 33 seconds.

Heart disease is the number one killer in the United States, topping cancer (549,000 deaths), Alzheimer's Disease (44,536) and HIV/AIDS (14,802).

Women in particular are greatly affected, with one in five having some form of cardiovascular disease.

Heart disease and stroke are expected to cost the U.S. over \$350 billion in 2003.

We should not be without hope, however, since cardiovascular diseases can be treated aggressively with a variety of procedures. Various treatment options include medicines for high blood pressure—a leading risk factor of heart disease and stroke, medicines that lower cholesterol, clot-buster medicines that can save the lives of heart attack patients and medicines that can prevent repeat heart attacks.

These means of combating heart disease are not cheap. This is why I have co-sponsored legislation in the past that will add more benefits to Medicare recipients, covering procedures such as cholesterol screening and medical nutrition therapy. I am looking forward to re-introducing the Medicare Wellness Act in the 108th Congress.

Even with the improved access to medical procedures and medicines, the American people still need to be educated on the issue of

cardiovascular disease and its prevention. The U.S. Surgeon General considers over 61 percent of the American public overweight. We must continue to stress the need for including a healthy diet and regular exercise into our daily living. Education will lead to increased prevention.

Healthcare will be an important issue facing Congress this year. We must continue to provide funding for preventative education programs in addition to funding for research to stop the number one killer of Americans this year—cardiovascular disease.

I will continue to work as Co-Chair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition in order to increase the awareness of strokes and heart disease among the Members of Congress and the Administration.

IMPROVING CALCULATION OF FEDERAL SUBSIDY RATE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 141, and to commend Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership in bringing this much needed legislation to the floor.

Passage of S. 141 will be the first step in correcting the SBA lending problems plaguing our nation's small businesses. This measure encourages the Administration to use a 7(a) subsidy rate model that would more accurately reflect the true cost of the small business loan programs to the taxpayer. Specifically, it permits the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to use a recently completed econometric model to calculate the credit subsidy rate for the 7(a) small business loan guarantee program.

Once enacted into law, this measure will allow SBA's flagship loan program to meet the borrowing demands of our nation's small businesses. Without this legislation, the program would limit 7(a) loans to less than \$5 billion for FY 2003. Currently, the 7(a) program is operating at a very reduced capacity, with a loan size cap of \$500,000, to avoid exceeding the program limitations. According to a recent GAO study, the current model has also resulted in overcharges or taxes of \$1.5 billion over the last 10 years. By limiting the 7(a) guaranteed small business loan program, we are unnecessarily restricting capital for America's small businesses to expand and create jobs.

In 2002, this crucial program backed 51,666 loans worth over \$12 billion to small firms nationwide. Last year, 21 different financial institutions in Rhode Island approved 932 7(a) loans for a total of over \$75 million to Rhode Island's small business community. In fact, 7(a) loans make up nearly one-third of all long-term loans made to U.S. small businesses. This program is important to every small business in America and deserves our continued support.

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 98 percent of the jobs in the state. As a proud member of the Committee on Small

Business, I have been extremely concerned about the ability of small businesses to start and grow in the current economic climate. Now more than ever, Congress must support the growth of America's small businesses and help stimulate the real engine of this nation's economy. For these reasons, I rise in strong support of passage of S. 141 and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

TRIBUTE TO LETTY L. CARPENTER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary career of Letty L. Carpenter of Jefferson, Maryland, on the occasion of her retirement from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) after 30 years of Federal service. At a time when the need for dedicated public service to our nation is more critical than ever, it gives me great pleasure to honor the commitment Letty has demonstrated to such service, particularly for the low-income and vulnerable populations served by the Medicaid program. Her commitment is even more impressive when you realize that Letty regularly has arisen at 4:00 am to make the long commute from her home in lovely, rural western Maryland to her position with CMS in Washington, DC.

Letty was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois, and a Masters of Arts in Geography, as well as a Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Letty entered Federal service as a volunteer and later a recruiter for the Peace Corps, serving from July 1965 to May 1968. As a volunteer in Senegal, she introduced aural-oral techniques of language instruction to local schools to replace traditional rote teaching methods, wrote instructional materials, and also participated in laying the groundwork for a maternal and child health outreach program through the local hospital. As a recruiter in the United States, she conducted advertising and advance work for the Peace Corps recruitment drives at 40 midwestern universities and colleges. From 1970 to 1974, she worked for the University of Michigan, first as a Community Coordinator then later as a Research Assistant.

Letty continued her Federal career in Washington, DC, in 1974 when she was selected for the Management Intern Program with the Department of Health and Human Services (then HEW). Through this program, she had several rotational assignments to different agencies throughout the Department. From 1977 to 1979, she was a program analyst in the Medical Services Administration of the Social and Rehabilitation Services agency in HEW.

Letty started in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (formerly the Health Care Financing Administration) in the Medicaid Bureau in January 1979 and has worked for CMS until the present time. She has worked in the Office of Legislation for the last 23 years, where she has played a critical role in the passage of legislation through her assistance to senior managers in HHS, OMB and

the White House, as well as Members and staff of Congress and their support agencies.

During her tenure in CMS, Letty has served nine agency Administrators and ten Department Secretaries all of whom have recognized her contributions with numerous awards, including Administrator's Achievement Awards and the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service.

Letty is recognized nationally, within and outside the government, as a renowned expert in the intricacies of Medicaid law, regulations and policies, particularly those related to the extremely complex area of Medicaid eligibility requirements. She possesses exceptional abilities to skillfully analyze complex situations, focus attention on the key issues, develop practical options to address them, and explain it all in clear, concise and understandable language.

Letty has also skillfully trained numerous current and former colleagues in the complexities of Medicaid policy and part of her legacy in CMS will continue through the knowledge she has imparted to the current employees of the Office of Legislation and other parts of the Agency. Many people call her from around the country, from Federal, State, and local government agencies, as well as the private sector, for assistance because of her expertise in the Medicaid program.

All of Letty's colleagues in CMS and HHS will sorely miss her knowledge, insight, and can-do attitude, as well as her encouragement and lively sense of humor. Letty always has taken her responsibilities to the low-income and other vulnerable beneficiaries of the Medicaid program very seriously, but not herself. I join her colleagues and friends in congratulating her on her impressive achievements and wishing her well as she retires from Federal service. We expect that she will continue to be a valued participant in many important issues, as well as an even more active member of the Jefferson, Maryland, community, where she and her husband, Jim, have long resided.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALT RIVER PROJECT

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, in the sun-soaked regions of Arizona, the most precious natural resource is not gold, nor is it silver. It is a priceless commodity, whose worth is not determined by its luster or quality, but by its volume and quantity. Even the world's most talented scientists are unable to replicate it, and it cannot be manufactured by machine.

It is water that sustains us and shapes our future to come. Without this gift of life, in the form of summer monsoon rain and high-mountain snowmelt, our lands would be uninhabitable and our lives impossible.

The Salt River Valley, which runs from eastern through central Arizona, is a main artery that carries within it the life-blood of the state. More than 2000 years ago, its lush banks were the home of the first people of Arizona, the Hohokam, who created an intricate network of irrigation canals that gave life to their communities.