

Tom's leadership, D-MORT teams have responded to numerous disasters, including the September 11th attacks and the Oklahoma City bombings.

Mr. Speaker, directing these teams during such tragic situations is a daunting task. However Tom handled them with ease. He was always looking to help others while controlling the situation with his calm and collective demeanor. His leadership will certainly be missed.

It is truly an honor to recognize a man who's work has had such a positive and beneficial impact on so many lives. Mr. Shepardson leaves behind his wife Jacqueline, daughter Laura and two sons Peter and Christopher. Certainly they will miss Tom greatly, as will D-MORT and its members.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. HORTENSE
RIDELY TATE ON HER 104TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Mrs. Hortense Ridely Tate on her 104th birthday.

Born on March 9, 1899, Mrs. Tate was aware at an early age of the importance of education in her life. Upon completing high school, Mrs. Tate enrolled in Washburn College where she began her studies to become an English teacher, inspired by her father who was an elementary school principal. After completing college in 1921, Mrs. Tate took her first job at the Montclair YWCA in Montclair, New Jersey as Director of Cultural Programs. Over the next seventy-five years, Mrs. Tate made the YWCA her home away from home, serving as a committee member, board member, and eventually its President.

In addition to her involvement at the YWCA, Mrs. Tate took a position in 1930 as a teacher at the Robert Treat Junior High School in Newark, New Jersey. While there she rose to the position of head guidance counselor and was an early mentor to me as I started my teaching career at Robert Treat Junior High School.

While being extremely involved in the education community, Mrs. Tate also has a long history of community activism. She was a founding member of the National Council for Negro Women started by Mary McCloud Bethune as well as the Montclair Public Library and Human Relations Council, the League of Women Voters, her church, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Through her community service as well as her dedication to educating our country's children, Mrs. Tate has always been an active member in the 10th congressional district of New Jersey. It was a distinct honor and privilege to have worked with her and I wish her the very best on this momentous occasion. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me today on wishing a very happy birthday to Mrs. Tate and in wishing her health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
HAMPDEN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 125th birthday of Hampden, Massachusetts, March 28, 2003.

Hampden is located in the core of the 2nd district congressional district of Massachusetts. At the time of separation from Wilbraham in 1878, industries were becoming active in Hampden. There is evidence that Hampden could have well turned into one of the many New England factories or industrial towns. However, it underwent an agricultural period that ultimately resulted in the establishment of Hampden as a residential town.

Throughout the course of Hampden's history many key points have characterized the town and helped it to retain the essence of its founders. Elizabeth Sessions, a prominent founding member of Hampden, is part of a four-generation legacy. The Sessions resided in Hampden from 1790-1933, and provided the present day town hall that is utilized by the town of Hampden. Also, the parents and siblings of Foster Fiercely, the Governor of Massachusetts, resided in the town of Hampden and made it a point to invite the residents to his inauguration. Additionally, in the early industrial days of Hampden, Edwin Marcus Chaffee (1806-1872), invented the mill and calender, which are used in the processing of Rubber. Andrew Jackson Davis became a multimillionaire copper king in Montana, but was born in Hampden during its industrial era. Another famous name to come out of Hampden is Thornton W. Burgess, an author of a variety of children's books. Furthermore, his home and land became part of the Audubon Society to preserve the legacy for future generations.

In celebration of the 125th birthday of Hampden, Massachusetts, the Hampden Historical Society is hosting a dual celebration. The March 28, 2003 event is dedicated solely to the presentation of all Proclamations received and the original petitions presented from 1878. On Memorial Day, additional festivities are being held, which will consist of a parade and fan-style celebration. In closing, I would like to honor the 169 people, who in 1877 set aside differences with neighboring towns to finally petition, and ultimately create, what is now known as the town of Hampden.

HONORING BROOKLYN CHINESE-
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION 15TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 15th anniversary of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association.

The Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA) has developed into the largest service and community development organization for the Asian communities of Brooklyn since its in-

ception in 1987. BCA addresses the needs and concerns of Asian Americans, which therefore enhances the strength and cohesiveness of our neighborhoods.

Since BCA's beginnings, Brooklyn's Asian-American communities have seen tremendous growth with recent estimates of more than 250,000 Asian-American residents. Sunset Park has seen such a significant increase that it is now called "Brooklyn's Chinatown." Due to this population boom BCA provides numerous services and programs to ease transition of recent immigrants.

These programs include three early childhood education centers, nine youth-oriented programs, comprehensive bilingual social services, crime prevention and victim services. BCA also organizes community events and economic development projects. One annual event BCA is proud of is the annual Chinese New Year's parade, which brings local residents together to celebrate their heritage and traditions.

In celebration of BCA's 15th anniversary, I would like to acknowledge their hard work and dedication to enhancing the lives of Asian Americans in Brooklyn. Over the years, BCA's achievements have enabled them to offer programs that bring great joy to many residents.

I hereby join the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association along with Asian-Americans throughout the city to celebrate BCA's 15th anniversary.

FREEDOM FROM UNNECESSARY
LITIGATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Meanwhile, earlier this year, surgeons in West Virginia walked off the job to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeopardized by the epidemic of large (and medically questionable) malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.