

became an in-house writer for the Federal Reserve Bank District 10. Afterward, she worked for the Kansas City Conventions and Visitors Bureau and the Kansas City Globe (an African-American Daily). Her journalism and broadcasting career was booming, until the twins helped her change careers and she became a Language Arts Teacher for four years. The frustration of teaching children who were dirty and hungry led her to become a social worker and work to improve the lives of youth. After working as a social worker for more than 10 years, she realized her specialty was working with adolescents from 16–23 years old. She assisted over 200 youth to obtain housing, GEDs, employment and vocational training to better their lives. Finding services and advocating for the youth was a God-given vocation for her, which Monica had to recently give up due to surgical complications.

Monica is currently a real estate sales associate for Coldwell Banker-Five Star Realty and serves on the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board. She is on the Advisory Board for Building Blocks Child Care Center, Board Advisor for the NYS Office of Children and Family Services—Pyramid Reception Center, Bronx, and a consultant for the Caribbean Carnival Bands and Activities. Monica also attends Christian Cultural Center, which is pastored by the Rev. A.R. Bernard.

Mr. Speaker, Monica Gill has significantly improved her community through her work as a teacher, social worker, and now as an advisor to advocacy organizations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PRESENTING A TRIBUTE TO THE
LIFE OF WILLIE PEARL ESTERS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker: Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters was born on April 22, 1915, in Scottsville, Louisiana, she was the third child of Charlie and Lucille Graham; and was affectionately called "Pearl". She spent her early life in Bossier City and Shreveport, Louisiana where she attended public schools; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and was baptized at the Bright Star Baptist Church in Scottsville, Louisiana. She met and married Herman T. Walker and to that union two daughters were born, Maxine W. and Joyce Ann Walker; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, in 1936 moved with her family to Los Angeles, California where she united with Bethlehem Baptist Church, later she joined New Hope Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and was a member of Choir #2, and the Mission; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, in 1949 met the man who was to be her life-long spouse, Everson Boyd Esters, and after a brief courtship they were married and from this union was born a son Everson B. (Chuck) Esters; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters was always looking out for the welfare of her children and left no stone unturned to expose them to the

beauty of the arts, culture and the world of music. She would not settle for what was common, but she gave them her best in the hope that they would comprehend and excel. She surrounded them with a loving home and a rich family environment; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, with her family in God's hands, caught the fire of the holy spirit and followed her husband into the ministry. She grew a large circle of love by serving the needy and encouraging others to challenge what they weren't sure they could do. As a result, she developed a number of leaders and singers in the church, she expanded her circle and achieved State and national recognition for her voluminous work in service to others; and

Whereas, Willie Pearl Esters, after lengthy illness passed on, leaving us to humbly acknowledge the living legacy of her love of her husband, Everson B. Esters, her children, Maxine Swan, Joyce Walker and Chuck Esters and other relatives and friends. She will be missed in the lives of all those she has touched, and . . .

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD proudly recognizes this woman of faith, leadership, dedication, courage, persistence and wisdom and her distinguished service to her church and our community.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTH
CARE (HEALTH) ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4280. This bill gives us the wrong solution to a complex problem.

The bill will limit the rights of patients, it will harm low-income Americans and it will do nothing to lower the cost of health insurance.

This bill proposes to cap non-economic damages at \$250,000. That is fine if a victim of poor medical care is a business executive, because they will receive economic damages as compensation. But what happens to the minimum wage worker or the stay-at-home mom? They rely on non-economic damages to receive adequate compensation.

This bill shows that the life of a wealthy American is worth more than that of a new immigrant working in a restaurant or a stay-at-home mother who raises her children.

We're all searching for a way to lower the cost of health insurance for all Americans. But this bill won't help. The Congressional Budget Office found that this bill won't do anything to help bring down the costs of health insurance.

Even if the cost of malpractice insurance goes down, those savings will not be passed along to Americans who try to purchase health insurance. They will still face the high cost of health insurance without any help.

This bill does not help patients and it does not help Americans. The Republicans have given us a bill that does nothing to solve the real problems with our healthcare system.

I oppose this bill because it does nothing to lower healthcare costs. And it does nothing to protect patients' rights.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DALE SHELTRON

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an extraordinary public servant and community leader, State Representative Dale Sheltroun. Dale is currently serving his third and final term representing the 103rd District of the Michigan House, which includes Roscommon, Missaukee, Iosco and Ogemaw Counties. Dale's record of leadership in public office, business and his community stands as a shining example of a citizen legislator.

Dale Sheltroun was born on Election Day, November 5th, 1940, foretelling a lifelong commitment to public service and political leadership. His father, Ed Sheltroun, served for 35 years as Township Supervisor, and two of his five siblings are also elected officials.

Dale has been a lifelong resident of Ogemaw County, and after earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agriculture from Michigan State University, he began his successful business career. From 1965 to 1974, Dale owned and operated his own dairy and beef farm. From 1974 to 1976, he was a sales manager at the John Deere dealership in West Branch, Michigan. Since 1976, Dale has been a partner with Century 21 Horizon Realty in West Branch.

Dale recognized long ago the importance of giving back to the community that had been so good to him. He was elected to serve on the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners from 1974 to 1982 and from 1988 to 1998. From 1986 to 1988, he was the Township Supervisor and Assessor in Edwards Township, Ogemaw County, Michigan. Dale's dedication and leadership has also been recognized by his appointment to the Michigan State Commission on Aging from 1980 to 1990.

On November 3rd, 1998, Dale was elected to his first term in the Michigan House of Representatives. In the years since, he has served with distinction on the Agriculture and Resource Management Committee, the Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Committee, and the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. Dale has spearheaded efforts in the Michigan House to control the Bovine Tuberculosis epidemic that has hurt so many farmers in Northeast Lower Michigan. He has also been a leader in the State's program to award high school diplomas to veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

Dale Sheltroun's exceptional life of public service and community leadership provides ample reason for this recognition, but Dale's commitment to his family is one of the things I respect most about him. Dale and his wife Lori have four grown children and four beautiful grandchildren that he never misses an opportunity to talk about. It is clear to me that whatever else Dale might be doing in his life, his family always comes first.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Sheltroun's commitment to his family, his community and the State of Michigan serves as an example to all of us, and I ask the House to join me in honoring him.