

Unfortunately, some of our friends on the other side of the aisle have mounted a misinformation campaign to scare and confuse America's seniors for their own political agenda. They say that prescription drug cards are too confusing and that they will not work.

Well, seniors have already decided that discount cards will work. The verdict is in, and these new discount cards will save seniors hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

For example, at current discount drug prices, my mother in Louisville, Colorado, will save just under \$400 on her prescription drugs and my father over \$900. That is about \$1,300 a year for my own parents. Those are real savings, money they can take to the bank, give to the grandkids or pay their own rent.

I encourage seniors to take advantage of this program to begin realizing these savings. Call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit www.medicare.gov.

PASS A REAL MEANINGFUL MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today the new prescription drug discount cards went into effect as part of the Republicans so-called Medicare bill that passed in December. Few seniors have signed up for these so-called discount cards because they provide little, if any, significant savings.

Under the new law, beneficiaries can only sign up for one card a year, but the drug companies who offer these cards can switch the drugs they cover every week. So a senior who signs up for one particular card just to save money on a specific drug may find that a week later that card no longer helps them, and many drug companies are starting to jack up their prices just so they can offer discounts without losing a dime in profits.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than this by our seniors. We should and must allow the government to use the purchasing power of 41 million seniors to lower the cost of prescription drugs, but the current Medicare law prohibits this from happening.

I urge my colleagues to pass a real meaningful Medicare prescription drug plan this year.

AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS ARE CHANGING

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, America's energy needs are changing, and our current situation is certainly different than the oil shocks that we all saw in the 1970s, because there has not been a disruption in supply but an increase in demand from emerging economies such as China.

And what kind of leadership on energy issues do we get from the Democrats and their Presidential nominee, Senator JOHN KERRY? Nothing but finger-pointing and continued bowing to the radical environmentalists that will not allow America to retrieve our own energy reserves.

The result of this lack of leadership is higher prices at the gasoline pumps, higher prices for families to heat their homes, and greater dependence on foreign sources of energy.

In ANWR, we have huge supplies of oil and natural gas that if we were to retrieve would have great benefit for America: greater energy independence, lower prices at the pump, lower prices to heat our homes, and hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

These policies from the Democrats do nothing more than to lead us permanently into high prices and greater reliance on Middle Eastern oil. These are policies that our Nation simply cannot afford.

REMEMBERING AUXILIARY BISHOP BENNIE ALLISON

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Auxiliary Bishop Bennie Allison, pastor of Corinthian Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago, passed away last week.

Bishop Allison had a long and distinguished career as both a religious leader and a civic leader. In addition to his religious duties, he was chairman of the Garfield Organization and founder of the Allison Foundation for Better Living, which provided social services and job development opportunities for residents of the West Garfield community.

I extend condolences to his wife and family and urge them to continue his great work.

FIGHTING THE WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during this past week, I saw firsthand our courageous service members in action successfully fighting the global war on terror in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, the Persian Gulf, Qatar, and Germany.

Led by Committee on House Administration chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), our delegation met with American military and coalition government officials. In every instance, my effort as a Congressman, Guard member, and parent of three service members, which was meant to encourage others, actually encouraged me.

I was particularly impressed by the courage of those wounded in the war on

terror that we met at Landstuhl, Germany. I was so touched by a female soldier who had just undergone extreme surgery. We immediately bonded as fellow National Guard members, and later I found out she was a star of the Notre Dame's women's basketball team. She lives Army values.

The war on terror is not just Afghanistan and Iraq. President Bush has been courageous in protecting American families by taking the war to the terrorists overseas and not waiting for a new September 11 on the streets of our communities. I know firsthand the new greatest generation of American servicemembers has the fortitude to win the war on terror.

In conclusion, May God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

DISCOUNT DRUG CARDS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today, the discount prescription drug cards Republicans have been touting take effect.

Over the last month, seniors faced the confusing task of shopping online between 73 discount cards for more than 60,000 prescription drugs.

The New York Times reported today that less than 1 million seniors have signed up, well off the Bush administration's prediction of 7.3 million.

Seniors should be skeptical. While the Bush administration says that these cards will cut bills by 10 to 25 percent, a new report out from Families U.S.A. shows prices on the top-selling five drugs for seniors increased 9.9 percent over the last year, wiping out any savings from the discount cards.

We cannot do anything to help seniors out with their prescription drug bills until we actually do something about the skyrocketing drug prices. Until then, these cards will not provide any meaningful relief, and the program will continue to be a failure.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING AND SALUTING FOCUS: HOPE ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 295) congratulating and

saluting Focus: HOPE on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 295

Whereas Focus: HOPE began as a civil and human rights organization in 1968 in the wake of the devastating Detroit riots, and was co-founded by the late Father William T. Cunningham, a Roman Catholic priest, and Eleanor M. Josaitis, a suburban housewife, who were inspired to establish Focus: HOPE by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.;

Whereas Focus: HOPE is committed to bringing together people of all races, faiths, and economic backgrounds to overcome injustice and build racial harmony, and it has grown to one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Michigan;

Whereas the Focus: HOPE mission statement states: "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown and red from Detroit and its suburbs of every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion we join in this covenant.;"

Whereas one of Focus: HOPE's early efforts was to support African-American and female employees in a seminal class action suit against AAA, resulting in one of the finest affirmative action commitments made by any corporation up to that time;

Whereas Focus: HOPE helped to conceive of and develop the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Supplemental Food Program which has been replicated in 32 states, and through this program Focus: HOPE helps to feed 43,000 people per month throughout Southeast Michigan;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has revitalized several city blocks in central Detroit by redeveloping obsolete industrial buildings, beautifying and landscaping Oakman Boulevard, creating pocket parks, and rehabilitating homes in the surrounding areas;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's Machinist Training Institute has been training individuals from Detroit and beyond for careers in advanced manufacturing and precision machining since 1981, and has sent forth nearly 2,500 certified graduates, providing an opportunity for primarily under-represented minority youth, women, and others to gain access to the financial mainstream and learn in-demand skills;

Whereas Focus: HOPE, with assistance from Michigan, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other generous private and public partners, has within the last two years invested over \$10 million to complete the renovation of the industrial building housing its Machinist Training Institute;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has recognized that manufacturing and information technologies are key to the economic growth and security of Michigan and the United States, and is committed to designing programs that would contribute to the participation of under-represented urban individuals in these critical sectors;

Whereas, in 1982, Focus: HOPE began a for-profit subsidiary that was initiated for community economic development purposes and is now designated with Federal HUBZone status;

Whereas Focus: HOPE created two pioneering programs—FAST TRACK and First Step—designed to help individuals improve their reading and math competencies by a minimum of two grade levels in 4–7 weeks;

Whereas these programs have graduated over 7,000 individuals since their inception, a new offsite training facility in Detroit's Empowerment Zone in southwest Detroit has been established to reach out to individuals in other parts of the city, and the success of the programs has inspired Michigan (in its State-wide FAST BREAK program) and other States to replicate the efforts of Focus: HOPE;

Whereas, in 1987, Focus: HOPE reclaimed and renovated an abandoned building and opened it as a Center for Children, which has now served over 5,000 children of colleagues, students, and neighbors with quality child care, including latchkey, early childhood education, and other educational services;

Whereas Focus: HOPE, through an unprecedented co-operative agreement between the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Education, and Labor, established a National demonstration project—the Center for Advanced Technologies—in which candidates earn associates and bachelors degrees in either manufacturing engineering or technology, and engage in hands-on manufacturing within-real world conditions, producing parts for DaimlerChrysler, Detroit Diesel, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, the Department of Defense, and others;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has caused over \$22 million to be invested in renovating a previously obsolete building to house the Center for Advanced Technologies, transforming the building into a model facility for 21st century advanced manufacturing, education, and research;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has made outstanding contributions toward increasing diversity within the traditional homogenous science, math, engineering, and technology fields, and 95 percent of currently enrolled degree candidates are African-American, representing perhaps the United States' largest producer of bachelor-degreed minority graduates in manufacturing engineering;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's unique research and development partnership with the Department of Defense has resulted in a nationally recognized demonstration project, the Mobile Parts Hospital, whose Rapid Manufacturing System has recently been deployed to Kuwait in support of the Armed Forces' current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas Focus: HOPE began a community arts program in 1995, presenting multicultural arts programming and gallery exhibitions designed to educate and encourage area residents, while fostering integration in a culturally diverse metropolitan community, and over 43,000 people have viewed sponsored exhibits or participated in this program;

Whereas Focus: HOPE established an Information Technologies Center in 1999, providing Detroit students with industry-certified training programs in network administration, network installation, and desktop and server administration, and has graduated nearly 475 students to date, and has initiated, in collaboration with industry and academia, the design of a new bachelors degree program to educate information management systems engineers;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's initiatives and programs have been nationally recognized for excellence and leadership by such organizations as the Government Accounting Office, the Department of Labor, the International Standards Organization, the National Science Foundation, the Cisco Networking Academy Program, Fortune Magazine, Forbes Magazine, the Aspen Institute, and many others, and former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton have visited Focus: HOPE's campus;

Whereas Focus: HOPE is currently led by Eleanor M. Josaitis, its co-founder and chief

executive officer, and she has received honorary degrees from 11 outstanding universities and colleges, was named one of the 100 Most Influential Women in 2002 by Crain's Detroit Business, has been inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, has received the Detroit NAACP Presidential Award, the Arab-American Institute Foundation's Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award, as well as many other awards;

Whereas through the generous partnerships and support of individuals from all walks of life, Federal, State, and local government, and foundations and corporations across the United States, the vision of Focus: HOPE will continue to grow and inspire;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has been blessed with an active board of directors and advisory board from the senior most levels of corporate and public America, and has benefited from an annual average of 25,000 volunteers and countless colleagues;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has been a tremendous force for good in the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States for the past 35 years;

Whereas Focus: HOPE continues to strive to eliminate racism, poverty, and injustice through the use of passion, persistence, and partnerships, and continues to seek improvement in its quality of service and program operations; and

Whereas Focus: HOPE and its colleagues will continue to identify ways in which it can lead Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States into the future with creative urban leadership initiatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates and salutes Focus: HOPE for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States; and

(2) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Focus: HOPE and Ms. Eleanor M. Josaitis for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 295, the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the 1967 terrible Detroit riots, Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis founded Focus: HOPE as an organization to fight racism and poverty in the metropolitan Detroit area. This resolution congratulates and salutes Focus: HOPE for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, to the State of Michigan, and to the entire United States.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), for introducing this resolution. The entire Michigan delegation has cosponsored the resolution, and I am pleased that we can recognize Focus: HOPE and all of the great things that this organization has done for its surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, outside of the metropolitan Detroit area, Focus: HOPE may not be well known to our average citizen, but people who are familiar with this organization know how great an organization it is.

In 1971, Focus: HOPE began providing food for children, as well as pregnant and post-partum women. The program soon expanded to include senior citizens; and today, with food that is provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Focus: HOPE provides food to an incredible number, 43,000 children, women and senior citizens, each month in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Focus: HOPE has provided hope to individuals and families for over 35 years. In addition to providing food for those in immediate need, the organization's revolutionary job-training and education programs provide people with the tools and the resources necessary to pull themselves and their families out of the brutal cycle of poverty.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, Focus: HOPE opened its Machinists Training Institute in 1981. It is a 31-week program in which students receive over 1,100 contact hours. The training is very comprehensive and at a fraction of the cost of traditional job training. Along with their FAST TRACK program and First Step programs, students develop necessary skills to enter the workforce.

In 1993, Focus: HOPE developed the Center for Advanced Technologies to form a coalition of universities and corporations to design a 21st century curriculum for manufacturing engineering education. Very sadly, Father Cunningham passed away in 1997. But along with the incredible Eleanor Josaitis, who still acts as the Chief Executive Officer, their great visions and hard work has provided people with an opportunity which would not exist otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, Focus: HOPE's value to the poor and disadvantaged of the Detroit metropolitan area cannot be measured. It is a great organization run by individuals who truly care about our Nation's citizens. This resolution, 295, will bring much-deserved attention to Focus: HOPE and its dedicated employees and volunteers. The work they do is sometimes thankless and sometimes goes unnoticed, but I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 295 and to thank these outstanding individuals for their great work.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is often asked, what makes a person a hero? Working with others to improve one's community, I believe, is the act of a hero. In 1967, a riot left metropolitan Detroit sharply divided along racial lines. By early 1968, shock had deepened into bitterness and hostility.

Among all of this chaos and confusion, two members of the Detroit community, Father William T. Cunningham and Eleanor M. Josaitis, joined together to make a difference. Soon, Focus: HOPE was born, and out of it came a tightly-knit movement of like-minded people who are committed to intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice.

Over the last 37 years, Focus: HOPE has participated in countless projects that have improved the quality of life for thousands of America's neediest people. In 1971, after gathering scientific evidence of the effects of hunger and malnutrition on the critical early development of infants, Focus: HOPE designed a supplemental food program for children up to age 6 and for pregnant and postpartum women. The program, which was later expanded to include senior citizens, was the first and remains one of the largest Commodity Supplemental Food Programs in the country. Food for this program has been provided to as many as 43,000 women, children, and senior citizens each month in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Focus: HOPE's contributions are not limited to its food program. When years of negligence turned one of Detroit's oldest neighborhoods into a canyon of vacant and dilapidated homes, Focus: HOPE took the initiative and revitalized several blocks of the once prosperous neighborhood by redeveloping outdated buildings, improving the landscape of Oakman Boulevard, developing parks and rebuilding homes. In addition, over the past 2 years alone, Focus: HOPE has helped raise \$10 million to complete renovations of an old industrial building that is to house its own Machinists Training Institute.

Today, we stand united in this Chamber to pay homage to Focus: HOPE for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States. Americans who possess the vision and generosity of Eleanor M. Josaitis and the late Father William T. Cunningham are truly American heroes, and Focus: HOPE is a tribute to their legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for introducing this legislation, and I urge its support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 295.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my Michigan colleagues in rising in

support of House Concurrent Resolution 295, which congratulates and salutes Focus: HOPE on its 35th anniversary.

Focus: HOPE, located in Detroit, is the result of the vision of Father William T. Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis, who were compelled to make a difference as the 1967 riot left metropolitan Detroit sharply divided along racial lines. Ever since, Focus: HOPE has been committed to bringing together people of all races, faiths, and economic backgrounds. In short, the accomplishments of this organization are nothing short of remarkable. For example, Focus: HOPE helped to conceive and develop the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which has been replicated in 32 states. Through this program, Focus: HOPE helps feed 43,000 people monthly throughout Southeast Michigan.

Additionally, Focus: HOPE has revitalized several city blocks in central Detroit by redeveloping obsolete industrial buildings, beautifying and landscaping Oakman Boulevard, creating pocket parks, and rehabilitating homes in the surrounding areas.

For these reasons, as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been pleased to assist Focus: HOPE over the past several years. Their growing list of accomplishments fills me with pride and I will continue to support them in future years.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this pillar of the community that has achieved so much in the great state of Michigan. I am confident Focus: HOPE will continue down this path for many years to come. Their mission statement states in part: "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." Focus: HOPE's years of excellence have demonstrated that they do indeed stand behind their message.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 295 introduced by Congressman JOHN CONYERS. This resolution congratulates and salutes Focus: HOPE on its 35th anniversary and for its remarkable commitment and contributions to the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States.

FOCUS: HOPE was founded in 1968 by Father William Cunningham and Eleanor M. Josaitis in response to the Detroit riots that left the city in turmoil. It is a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization in Detroit, Michigan and is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Michigan.

Since its beginning, Focus: HOPE has been committed to fighting racism, poverty, and injustice. In 1968, in response to a study by the Detroit Free Press and the Urban League, Focus: HOPE organized a search for evidence of widespread discrimination in food and prescription drug prices. From the investigation, the HOPE '68 study was published. The study was the first to offer definitive proof of systematic discrimination in food pricing.

In 1971, after gathering scientific evidence of the effects of hunger and malnutrition on the critical early development of infants, Focus: HOPE developed a supplemental food program for children up to age six, and for pregnant and post-partum women. The program, later expanded to include senior citizens, was the first and remains one of the largest Commodity Supplemental Food Programs in the country, with food provided

through the Department of Agriculture to 43,000 women, children and senior citizens each month throughout Southeast Michigan.

In addition to addressing the societal needs of the community, in 1981, the organization opened its Machinist Training Institute (MTI), to provide skills development in precision machining and metalworking. The institute has graduated more than 2,300 machinists.

Focus: HOPE created two pioneering programs—FAST TRACK and First Step—designed to help individuals improve their reading and math competencies by a minimum of two grade levels in 4–7 weeks. The organization also opened a Center for Children, which has now served over 5,000 children of colleagues, students, and neighbors with quality childcare and early childhood education.

Focus: HOPE has also partnered with many businesses and schools through the years. In 1993 Focus: HOPE developed the Center for Advanced Technologies to address the shortage of manufacturing engineers with hands-on skills. The organization formed a coalition with three university partners: Lawrence Technological University, Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Mercy and several corporations to design a curriculum for manufacturing engineering education.

The volunteer effort of Focus: HOPE brings together thousands of people each year to operate various programs including preparing boxes of food that are delivered to low-income families during the holidays, neighborhood cleanup and revitalization projects and programs that concentrate on education, the arts, manufacturing, engineering, and information technology training.

Last year in October, I joined Michigan's Governor Jennifer Granholm and Senators CARL LEVIN and DEBBIE STABENOW for Focus: HOPE's Walk 2003. This annual walk through the streets of Detroit, to celebrate our rich diversity, is patterned after the nonviolent marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Approximately 8,000 people from metropolitan Detroit walked an eight-mile route through Highland Park and Detroit. The route includes the area where the 1967 riots broke out, the first Ford Motor Company automotive production facility, and the original Motown recording studios.

Again, I would like to thank the late Father Cunningham and Eleanor M. Josaitis for their vision. Focus: HOPE has helped thousands of people fulfill their purpose in life. Focus: HOPE's commitment to bringing together people of all races, faiths, and economic backgrounds to overcome injustice and build racial harmony is an inspiration for us all.

I also thank the leadership for allowing this resolution to be included on today's suspension calendar.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 295, which congratulates Focus: HOPE on the occasion of its 35th anniversary. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this measure, and urge all my colleagues to vote for it today.

Focus: HOPE was established in 1968 by the late Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis. The riots of 1967 had a deep impact on the entire Detroit metropolitan area. For all the damage the riots did to our communities, one positive and lasting impact was that they served as a catalyst for the creation of Focus: HOPE. This organization started out as a food program and grew into a broad-scale

attack on poverty, racism and injustice. Today, Focus: HOPE is a vital part of Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area, focusing its energy and innovation on practical solutions to the difficult problems of Hunger, economic disparity, joblessness, discrimination, and educational disadvantage.

I feel fortunate to have known Father Cunningham during the many years of his work with Focus: HOPE. This work continues under the guidance of my dear friend, Eleanor Josaitis, who co-founded this organization and serves as its chief operating officer.

As the resolution notes, Focus: HOPE has been a unique force for good for the past 35 years. For all of us who share Father Cunningham's dream that all people may live and work together in freedom, harmony, trust and affection, this resolution congratulates and salutes the contributions of Focus: HOPE to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the nation.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 295, congratulating Focus: HOPE on its 35th anniversary. For three and a half decades, Focus: HOPE has been a leading voice for the poor and underprivileged in Southeastern Michigan. It has helped feed the poor, educate our young, and foster cultural understanding between diverse populations. Focus: HOPE deserves our recognition and gratitude for all that it has done and will continue to do.

Co-founded by Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis, Focus: HOPE is a community based organization dedicated to employing practical and intelligent action to eliminate racism, poverty, and injustice. It has the largest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Commodity Supplemental Food Program in the nation. Each month, more than 43,000 mothers, children under age six, and senior citizens living on meager incomes get help through the Focus: HOPE Commodity Supplemental Food Program. That alone would garner recognition and plaudits for Focus: HOPE.

Yet, this organization has made economic opportunity the primary focus, leading to the development of some of the most highly respected and innovative education and training programs in the nation. By partnering with industry, universities, and governments, Focus: HOPE has created a pipeline of programs that offer both the technical and educational knowledge critical for a 21st century workforce. Moreover, Focus: HOPE supplies the opportunity, including childcare on campus and softskills training, for its students to be successful in their chosen career. More than 3,000 individuals have graduated from Focus: HOPE's Centers of Opportunity, obtaining jobs in the manufacturing, engineering and information technology fields. Mr. Speaker, I have long supported the efforts of Focus: HOPE, and congratulate them on their 35th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to recognize the importance of this very fine organization by supporting this concurrent resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Focus: HOPE, a non-profit organization inspired by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and founded by Father William T. Cunningham in 1968 in the city of Detroit. Focus: HOPE was founded as a civil rights organization, and now works to overcome racial and economic injustices, and has numerous other accomplishments

Focus: HOPE has played an important role in acquiring affirmative action commitments

from many employers through supporting African-American and female employees in class-action lawsuits. The non-profit organization has also helped to develop a program through the Agriculture Department's Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which is now responsible for feeding more than 43,000 people per month in southeast Michigan. Additionally, it has assisted in the revitalization of several areas in central Detroit by creating parks, rehabilitating homes, and redeveloping obsolete buildings.

Additionally, Focus: HOPE has trained individuals for courses in advanced manufacturing and precision machining, which has resulted in the graduation of 2,500 people from their certification programs, thereby providing work opportunities to under-represented youth, women, and many others. Focus: HOPE has also developed two programs aimed at helping individuals improve their reading and math competencies. The organization has also enrolled candidates toward associate and bachelor degrees in engineering and technology programs, and as a result, has made contributions toward increasing diversity within these fields. Most of all, this resolution recognizes Focus: HOPE for its commitment and contributions to human rights in Detroit and the United States.

Focus: HOPE is a critically important organization that has been a tremendous asset to the city of Detroit. For this reason, I commend Focus: HOPE's work in improving the quality of life for citizens of Detroit who may not have had access to many opportunities, but who have the desire to succeed in life, and want to become contributing citizens of the economic mainstream.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 295.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE, PUBLIC SERVANTS, CIVILIANS, AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES WHO RESPONDED TO DEVASTATING FIRE IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, ON MARCH 26, 2004

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res.