

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of my friend, Mayor Jane L. Campbell, whose unwavering commitment, steadfast integrity and vital accomplishments have raised the City of Cleveland above the shadows of financial crisis 4 years ago, onto a solid foundation today, where urban renewal and the hope of a better tomorrow for all citizens continues to rise. Mayor Campbell's legacy of service and concern for her constituents will be remembered and recognized for generations to come. I wish Mayor Jane Campbell and her family many blessings of peace, health and happiness as they journey onward from this day.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEVE KIRKHAM

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Steve Kirkham of Kingston, Tennessee for his leadership and involvement in his community.

Steve is a known fixture in his home county of Roane County, Tennessee and is fast becoming an integral member of many other communities due to his work in promoting economic development in East Tennessee.

Kirkham, owner and chief executive officer of Rocky Top Markets, is a man who exhibits traits that have helped make America what it is: hard working, compassionate, and exemplifies perseverance and generosity. If you ask him how he got to be where he is he will tell you, "by grinding it out, having good employees, and just plain luck."

Working for the Harriman Oil Company in the mid-70's Kirkham suggested to the owners of the company that they should join the convenience store craze. They did, and Rocky Top Market was born in June 1980 with the first opening.

Since 1980, Rocky Top Markets has grown to a chain of 38 and has plans for continued growth in Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Having purchased Rocky Top Markets in 1998, it is now one of the largest retail convenience stores in East Tennessee employing almost 400 people.

A long standing member of the business community Steve has been a member of the Tennessee Oil Marketers Board, Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association Board, and the Shell Jobber Council. He has served as Chair of the Roane State Foundation and the Community Development Council. As chairman of the CDC he helped form and fund the Roane Alliance. The Alliance is an effort to bring together the chamber, tourism and industrial development groups in Roane County for a unified effort in promoting responsible growth. He is currently serving as chairman of the Roane County Industrial Development Board.

If not working or golfing Steve is with his family. There is an understanding of the high regard he has for family for those who know him in and outside of work. He is married to Teresa Kirkham and has three daughters: Angie, Stephanie, and Christie. He is also the proud grandparent of Tyler, Tanner, and Ryley.

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED LOUIS ROMEO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of a wonderful man, who sadly passed over a year ago, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

It is fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for his lifelong dedication to the City of Paterson.

Born and raised in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, Fred graduated from Central High School. After his graduation from high school in 1958 Fred joined the Paterson Fire Department as a member of the Division Line Gang.

The Division Line Gang was a group of firefighters who were assigned to maintain the communications infrastructure for emergency call boxes throughout Paterson. Fred was a member of the Division Line Gang until 1983, when the "Gang" was disbanded, in order to use the more effective emergency voice response system. It was at this time that Fred was transferred as a firefighter to Engine Company Number 7.

Fred found time during his busy schedule to volunteer at the Paterson YMCA where he had been a member for over 70 years. In addition, to sitting on the Board of Directors, he served as the Co-Coordinator for the YMCA. Perhaps most importantly, Fred had donated his time on Thanksgiving, for the past 34 years, to help feed the underprivileged at the annual Thanksgiving Feast.

Beyond his many philanthropic contributions, Fred was also a Champion and Hall of Fame handball player. He had amassed two New Jersey State Singles Championship titles, 24 NJ State Doubles Championship titles, a Jr. National doubles Championship title, and a National doubles Championship title. Fred was not only a Member of the Board of Directors for the Old Timers Sports Hall of Fame, Association of Paterson; he was an inductee as well.

In addition to Fred's many academic and professional achievements, his personal achievements are many also. He was the devoted husband to the late Rose Romeo and father of Rosalind, Francine, and Dominic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Fred's family and friends, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable achievements of a man who will be truly missed, Mr. Alfred Louis Romeo.

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER HENRY "HANK" NAVA, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the collective grief of the people of North Texas on the death of Fort Worth Officer Henry "Hank" Nava, Jr. who died of a gunshot wound to his head while in the course of duty.

Officer Nava, recognizable by his military hairstyle, Oakley sunglasses and electric smile, was a dedicated servant of the community. The grief from his loss is shared not only by his fellow police brethren, but by the greater Fort Worth community.

Hank Nava was the first Fort Worth officer killed in the line of duty in 11 years. He served as an officer in Austin, Plano and Fort Worth, where he was most recently assigned to the 10-member North Side Crime Response Team. This team is directed to handle particularly difficult cases. He was always first to volunteer and enthusiastic to accomplish the tasks ahead of him. A natural leader, he was a source of encouragement for his fellow police officers.

Officer Nava's personality and bravery made him a trusted friend, devoted husband and father, and a hero to other police officers. Gianni Ghilespi, a Fort Worth police captain, said that Officer Nava gave him a home during his darkest moment and helped him work through his problems stating, "God sent a hero to me," he said. "It was Hank Nava."

His generous personality extended beyond his call to service as a police officer. Officer Nava could often be found working out in the community especially with children. The impact of his death left a wounded community. Currently, the Fort Worth police are having difficulties reassigning his patrol unit. It seems that citizens just started showing up and signing condolences on the vehicle. But truly, he will be missed most by his family.

Hank Nava is survived by his wife, Teresa and his two children Kayleigh, age nine, and Justin, age four.

We were blessed to have had him protecting us all from the evils of this world. His courage and dedication brought hope of a safer community. He will be remembered as a husband, a hero, and a friend.

REJECT THE MEDICAID PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS IN THE HOUSE RECONCILIATION BILL, H.R. 4241

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to Section 3145 of the House reconciliation bill that will deny health care to our poorest Americans who desperately need and deserve it. This provision would require people who apply for Medicaid to prove that they are citizens, by producing a birth certificate or a passport. This may not sound like a difficult task to some, but the reality is much, much different.

Many older Americans do not have birth certificates because their parents did not have access to hospitals, and so, they were born at home. This was true in rural America, and is still true in some places today. Also, in the last century, all over the south, because of segregation and racial discrimination, many hospitals would not take minorities. Many minorities, including African Americans, were born at home and don't have a birth certificate.

These people were kept out of the health care system when they came into the world. To keep these same people off of Medicaid

and further deny these men and women health care is yet another slap in the face. The health system failed these people once, and it should not fail them again.

This rule is arbitrary. It is dangerous. And it is wrong.

Even the Department of Health and Human Services agrees that it is unnecessary. There is no evidence that illegal immigrants are getting Medicaid illegally.

This is very dangerous. If this becomes law, state and county officials will decide how to enforce this rule. Therefore, anyone with dark skin, or an accent or who looks like an undocumented immigrant will be at great risk for discrimination.

American citizens, particularly the poor, minorities, and the very old, who are eligible for Medicaid, will be denied the health care that they need. All for a misguided attempt to keep undocumented immigrants from receiving health care. It is unjust and it is wrong. It is un-American and I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this provision.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
WILLIAM RICHEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John William Richey of Smiths Station, AL. Mr. Richey is a man of integrity and great accomplishment in the pharmaceutical field. He was chosen as the 2005 Good Neighbor Pharmacist of the Year, selected out of an astounding 4,000 applicants across the entire country.

In 1971, Mr. Richey opened Plaza Pharmacy in Smiths Station with a partner and later became the sole owner. Mr. Richey proves his commitment to his customers daily; he is often found opening the pharmacy willingly after hours for emergencies. His unparalleled generosity and good will towards human life extends beyond his business into his personal life. In 2000, he kindly donated one of his kidneys to his friend. He has four children and three grandchildren.

His business has been a landmark in Smiths Station for decades, and today Mr. Richey fills the prescriptions for grandchildren of his first customers. I am proud to acknowledge Mr. Richey in the House on this day and congratulate him on his dedication to his family, to pharmaceutical service, and to his customers.

RECOGNIZES CENTENARIAN JESUS
HERNANDEZ OF SPRING HILL,
FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesus Hernandez of Spring Hill, FL. Jesus has done

something that all of us strive for but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Jesus was born November 26, 1905 in Ciales, PR. Located in the central mountain range of the island, Jesus's parents owned and operated a small farm. He grew up with his brothers and sisters where he cared for cattle and horses and performed agricultural chores while attending school. Other than the love and respect he had for his parents, working on the farm and playing sports are the fondest memories of his childhood.

During the Great Depression Jesus moved to New York City to work and help provide for his family during hard times. In 1932, he returned to Puerto Rico where he met and married his wife Carmen. Blessed with two sons, five grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren, Jesus says that the happiest moment in his life was the birth of his two sons, Ed and Lou.

During the Second World War Jesus tried to enlist in the military like his brothers but was unable to do so because of a heart condition. Jesus instead went to work for the railroad until 1944 when he decided to return to New York City with his wife and sons.

Jesus moved to Spring Hill in 2004 where he lives with his son Lou, who retired from the U.S. Army, and his daughter-in-law Marge. Today, Jesus says he gets the most pleasure from walking in the morning, playing dominos and helping to maintain the trees and plants in his son's backyard. He says that the only thing he would change if he had the chance to do his life over would be to travel the world.

Jesus says that despite his health he remains a positive person and possesses a great sense of humor. Jesus's secret to a long life is that he watches what he eats, does not drink alcoholic beverages and does not smoke. His advice to the young people is to "finish your education, have respect and consideration for your parents and everyone as a whole, work hard and save your money to be self-dependent." Finally, Jesus says that "he is proud to be an American and all it stands for. God Bless America."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Jesus Hernandez for reaching his 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as he has.

SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RE-
SEARCH ACT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to complement two previously introduced bills, H.R. 4434 and H.R. 4435, to authorize additional recommendations from a committee of the National Academy of Sciences, chaired by Mr. Norman Augustine. The recommendations of the committee's report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*, reflect the consensus forged among nationally-recognized industry, academic and government experts.

With this bill, *Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act*, and the previously introduced bills, I have taken steps to implement the Augustine Committee's highest priority, which is to improve K-12 math and science education by enhancing the skills and qualifications of math and science teachers, and to respond to the committee's call to "sustain and strengthen the nation's traditional commitment to the long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life."

The bill I introduced today authorizes 10% increases per year in funding for basic research in the physical sciences, mathematical sciences, and engineering at the principal federal agencies supporting such research. These increases, if sustained, would lead to a doubling of basic research funding in these critical areas over 7 years.

The bill also takes action to develop the research talent needed for the future by providing for up to 200 new awards per year, of \$100,000 per year for 5 years, to outstanding early-career researchers. It seeks to enlarge the pool of graduate students in science, math and engineering by creating a graduate fellowship program, with 5000 new fellowships per year for individuals pursuing studies in areas of national need.

Finally, the bill establishes a presidential innovation award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances in the national interest and provides for the refurbishment of academic and government research laboratories, an essential factor to enable leading-edge research.

These three bills are a response to a serious challenge to our Nation's future economic prosperity. From the Augustine report, "This Nation must prepare with great urgency to preserve its strategic and economic security. Because other Nation's have, and probably will continue to have, the competitive advantage of a low-wage structure, the United States must compete by optimizing its knowledge-based resources, particularly in science and technology, and by sustaining the most fertile environment for new and revitalized industries and the well-paying jobs they bring. We have already seen that capital, factories, and laboratories readily move wherever they are thought to have the greatest return."

My intent in introducing these bills is to issue a call for action by the Congress and the Administration. The Augustine Report correctly identifies the challenges we face as a Nation and has developed a series of specific recommendations to address these challenges. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are not new. The problem is that neither the Administration nor Congress has made any real efforts to act.

I hope the introduction of this legislation will begin a substantive discussion on the commitment and resources required to ensure our Nation's future economic competitiveness and that our children have well-paid, challenging jobs. I am committed to working with the private-sector, Members of Congress and the Administration in turning this legislation into funded programs.