

The opening of Karen Hospital has important implications for health care in Kenya and throughout East Africa. This state-of-the-art facility will provide opportunities for teaching health-care professionals—not just doctors, but nurses, administrators, orderlies, and others—who will bring their knowledge and skills into cities and villages across the region.

When Karen Hospital was opened formally, its chief executive officer, Dr. Betty Gikonyo—who received her medical education in the United States—made a speech, in the presence of President Mwai Kibaki, that reflected the pride and hard work of bringing this hospital from a mere conception to a full-fledged operating unit serving the people of Kenya.

Mr. Speaker, if there is no objection, I would like to place excerpts of the address by Dr. Gikonyo in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Such a historic occasion deserves to be paid much more attention than it has so far received.

EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH BY DR. BETTY GIKONYO, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE KAREN HOSPITAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

We have gathered here to celebrate a special day, which will form a milestone in the history of The Karen Hospital. 21 years ago a dream was born, nurtured over the years and now realized. Over the last 10 years we have gone through a process of feasibility studies, consultation, intense planning resulting in a business plan for the Karen Hospital. The search for a financier was not an easy one and it took us over 5 years to convince financial institutions that a medical business is a viable option. We kept on knocking at their doors. Nevertheless some doors were open. We received some offers from both regional and local banks. In consultation with our financial advisers opted for a loan in Kenya Shillings that could finance the two major components of the project which are including building and acquisition of medical equipment. Your Excellency Sir, please, allow us to thank the Kenya Commercial Bank, for believing in our vision and trusting the business plan of a local investor. Kenya Commercial Bank took the risk and proudly partnered with us in undertaking a project of this magnitude. To the KCB Board of Directors and Management Asanteni Sana. You have worked closely with in the formation of this project to see it conclude successfully.

Medical equipment are an expensive undertaking and we wish to recognize Philips Medical Systems Netherlands and Fresenius Renal Supplies of Germany who entered into equipment financing credit plans to enable us to equip the hospital with ultra modern state of the art equipment in all departments as Your Excellency has had an opportunity to see.

This has been achieved through hardwork, commitment and consistency of purpose by a team of financial consultants, medical consultants, hospital engineers and building and civil engineers and a dedicated contractor and sub-contractors. By following the clearly laid out rules we were able to import clear all equipment in good time for installation.

The hospital building comprises of 4 floors each with four wings thoughtfully planned to ensure all services are accessed with minimum effort and maximum convenience to our patients and staff. . . .

The Karen Hospital is a world class ultra modern health facility bringing quality healthcare not only to Kenyans but also to Eastern and Central Africa but beyond.

The 102 bed hospital serves patients with general ailments alongside specialized medical and surgical interventions. It has the newest ultra modern state-of-the art equipment, cardiac diagnosis, interventions and

surgery, intensive care, kidney dialysis, Laparoscopic surgery, video Endoscopy and physiotherapy. . . .

[A] Hospital is however not made of building and equipment. Our most important resource is the highly trained and experienced personnel in all departments. Through competitive selection of the best qualified personnel Karen Hospital has been manned by the best Kenya can offer in all our departments both medical and non-medical. This includes our permanent staff as well highly experienced team of medical consultants who form the large panel of over 100 admitting doctors of different areas of specialization.

Your Excellency Sir, I am happy to inform you that we have been able to attend to 634 patients in our Accident and Emergency department. Some with major injuries including bullet assault cases and road traffic accidents. Additionally we have performed a number of surgeries, endoscopies and cardiac catheterizations and as you have seen a full wing of inpatients with varying ailments ranging from major surgeries to medical conditions are recuperating in our Sagana Ward. This confirms that Kenyans have already come to know, trust and use this facility in the last one month. We look forward to a full house in 6 months time. The performance so far has been very impressive and we are encouraged and grateful for the support Kenyans have given this facility at its inception. . . .

The City of Nairobi has been the hub of specialized medical services for the entire country as well as for the Eastern and Central Africa region. Indeed this has been realized in the month of March, as we have admitted referred patients from Tanzania (Daresalam), DRC Congo, Sudan (Khartoum), and Burundi (Bujumbura).

Referrals from the region not only is testimony to the high standard medical services available in Kenya but also affords us an opportunity to boost our inflow of foreign currency to enhance our economic growth. This is an area that can be expanded further by the establishment of highly specialized medical services in the private sector that would see greater number of referral from this population of over 100 million that forms the Eastern Africa community. We at The Karen Hospital has addressed this very specifically by incorporating in our hospital a cardiology program that spans from diagnosis to interventional non-invasive procedures and to heart surgery. We believe that more patients will be diverted from the exodus that sees patient travel to India, South Africa and Europe to seek some of these specialized services. As a new centre of medical excellence, we plan to market our services effervescently to the region and make Kenya a preferred destination for medical services. . . .

This will provide a forum for many to channel their energies, experiences, resources and to harness these positively towards our mission statement. I believe that many of us are cognizant of the benefits that come along with the integrated teaching and referral facility globally.

We at The Karen Hospital wish to compliment and be active participants in the implementation of the government policy of providing promotive, preventive and curative services. We believe there is room for the private sector to provide specialist tertiary medical institutions to compliment those existing in the government and indeed these are not in competition but rather in partnership. More facilities like Karen Hospital are needed in our countries especially in cities Like Mombasa Kisumu and Eldoret and also in the East African cities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management, Staff of The Karen Hospital, may

once again, thank you for joining us during this auspicious occasion.

In closing, allow me to quote Our Mentor and Teacher Dr. Sam Mwinzi, a renowned neurologist who is with us today and had this immortalized in our visitors book when he visited Karen Hospital, "May the portals of this magnificent edifice forever remain open and overflowing with those that seek better health as well as those that have the gift of giving it".

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRYTANI CAIPA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brytani Caipa for her efforts to protect teens on Internet.

Brytani joined a national effort to protect teens from internet predators by putting together a public service announcement. Brytani's public service announcement focused on protecting our First Amendment rights, while at the same time protecting our children. Her hard work paid off, as her public service announcement placed second nationally in a contest run through the Take Charge Program, and it is currently airing on numerous radio stations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Brytani Caipa for her efforts to educate teens on Internet safety and protect them from Internet predators. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my disappointment over the exclusion of section 206 as well as this amendment from the FY07 TTHUD bill.

Rep. Tiahrt's amendment—of which neither provision has any negative impact on or shuts down any current IRS program or service—would prevent the IRS from using taxpayer dollars to develop programs such as return-free tax filing systems, interactive tax filing systems and web portals.

These systems would overextend the IRS, expanding it beyond and diluting its core mission of tax collection and regulation. The costs

of developing, implementing and maintaining them would total billions of dollars. All this is even more strikingly troublesome given a recent Wall Street Journal poll that found that 70% of Americans don't want the IRS preparing their taxes anyway.

I share the sentiments of the American people. As far as I'm concerned, having the IRS prepare your taxes is a little like sending your dog to the butcher to pick up your order—it doesn't serve your best interest.

Despite the assurances of Secretary Snow and Commissioner Everson, there is currently nothing in statute that stops the IRS from developing and implementing a return-free tax filing system. Yet we already have a program in place that serves the purpose of these costly systems.

It is called the Free File Alliance—of which my home state of New York is a member and it assists people who otherwise cannot afford tax preparation or e-filing. The Free File Alliance is a private sector program, and provides free preparation services to poor and low-income families, and since its inception in 2002 it has provided 15.3 million free Federal tax returns.

Now, the Free File Alliance is not a perfect system yet, and it is still in need of additional oversight and reform. However, its existence means that the infrastructure for such systems is already in place, making the costly development of virtually identical IRS programs unnecessary.

CONGRATULATING ARCHER  
DANIELS MIDLAND

**HON. GIL GUTKNECHT**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Archer Daniels Midland of Mankato, Minnesota, on receiving the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Above and Beyond award.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers. Their mission is to continuously gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. Local and national representatives stand ready to help employers understand Federal laws that affect the call-up of their employees. The Above and Beyond award recognizes those who have gone beyond what Federal law requires for supporting activated Guard employees.

Minnesota businesses that employ Guard members are an essential link in family support for deployed service members. The state of Minnesota is recognized as a leader among those employing Guard and Reserve members and received the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) was nominated by Sgt. Dave Bonnifield who has been mobilized twice with the Army Guard. ADM has been extremely supportive by providing pay differential and continuous support to Sgt. Bonnifield's family. Archer Daniels Midland was one of 475 companies nominated for the Above and Beyond award.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Archer Daniels Midland for receiving the Above and Beyond Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of Guard and Reserve and commend them for the extraordinary services provided to those who serve our country.

THE DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Democratic Pacific Union was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan. Notable guests at the ceremony included presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica and Guatemala, as well as vice presidents of Taiwan, Nicaragua and Palau. The goals of the union are to integrate resources in the pan-Pacific region for joint development and regional cooperation and to promote democracy, peace and prosperity among DPU member democracies.

Since May of 2005, the union has established a Secretariat, published its first quarterly, planned West Pacific regional meetings, formed a Pacific economic advisory group, and initiated the Pacific Congressional Caucus project. The project seeks to bring congressional and parliamentary members of DPU together to promote exchange and cooperation among lawmakers throughout DPU member countries. The Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus was inaugurated on May 20, 2006 and convened by the Speaker of Taiwan's Legislature Yuan.

The Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus will sponsor a symposium on congressional reforms this August 12–14 in Taipei, Taiwan. Legislative members of the DPU members states and U.S. Members of Congress are cordially invited to attend this symposium either as participants or observers. I hope that my colleagues will find time to attend this very important event in Taipei and lend our encouragement and support to the Pacific Congressional Caucus.

I salute the Democratic Pacific Union, its goals, achievements, and initiatives which included a training program on hazard mitigation on typhoon-related disasters held May 8–12, 2006 in Taiwan; a 2006 fellowship and scholarship program providing funds for students from DPU member states to attend universities in Taiwan; invitation of distinguished women from member states to attend meetings in Taiwan to identify, and address problems women face in the Pacific region; invitation of political experts to observe elections in Taiwan; and establishment of the Pacific Center for Disaster Reduction in Taipei.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WEN HUI  
TAN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wen Hui Tan for being named the Ne-

vada State winner in the 19th annual National Peace Essay Contest sponsored by the United States Institute for Peace.

Approximately 4,000 students from across the United States wrote essays for this year's topic, "Controlling the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons." This contest challenges students to consider some of the most pressing issues confronting international peace and our country's security. This year's topic of nuclear proliferation could not be more timely, and it is also a challenge that the international community will confront for decades to come. Wen's essay, titled "Nuclear Proliferation: Two Superpowers and Iraq," won at the Nevada State level, earning Wen a \$1,000 college scholarship and a chance to compete at the national level.

Wen is currently a student at Coronado High School in Henderson, NV. Her passions include volunteering in the children's department of a local library, graphic design, eating foreign cuisine, chemistry, and traveling. With a myriad of interests, she has aspirations of pursuing higher education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in hopes to train for her future careers as a linguist, pediatric surgeon, and paleontologist.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Wen Hui Tan for being the Nevada State winner of the 19th annual National Peace Essay Contest sponsored by the United States Institute for Peace. I commend her success and wish her the best of luck at the national competition and in all of her future endeavors.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,  
THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your leadership on this bill. I am proud to serve as the Vice-Chairman of this Subcommittee. I want to echo the words of my friend, Mr. REHBERG, because Amtrak is an essential service in my Congressional District and home state of New York.

We have had this debate every year, and we go through this process in each of those years. Last year in particular, we fought possibly the toughest battle in years for passenger rail. We were threatened with vetoes, unless some Amtrak reforms were enacted. So what did we do? We enacted reform. One year later, we have seen evidence these reforms are working.

Yet, here we are today with a proposal to fund Amtrak at \$900 million. This allocation is-