

were at the hospital checking up and giving Leo updates and details on the key races—information the Republicans would have paid dearly for.

And when he was too sick to talk, Nancy and Anna would call me for a report.

Nancy got the short report because she was in an airport somewhere—and Anna got the long report because she had time to sort out the information in between our tears.

On election night last November, Leo was in intensive care again and unable to take Nancy's call to tell him of the democrats' victory.

Several days later he was back in his room and we were watching a live CNN report showing Nancy and President Bush on the Speaker Elect's historic first visit to the Oval Office.

As the news report ended, shortly thereafter, the phone in the room rang, and it was Nancy herself calling to check up on him and give him a report on her meeting with George Bush.

I think he was prouder of Nancy's Speaker-victory more than his own.

Yes, Leo never gave up.

He said once to Mary Leslie, another terrific staffer during the Senate Campaigns that "Defeat will show you another way to make a difference."

That was Leo McCarthy.

So when he left elective office, he committed himself to his successful business interests to secure his family's future because his political interests sure never did.

And succeed he did—fulfilling a goal to fund a family foundation for poor children as well as begin the Leo T. McCarthy Institute for Public Service and the Common Good.

Today—on the campus of this great University, thanks to the support and encouragement of Father President Steve Privett, the leadership of Board President Joe Cotchett, and the day to day guidance of Dr. Patrick Murphy, the ideals, values, integrity, and lessons of Leo's life are blended with academics and real time internships in a spectacular opportunity for students.

In the years to come—more of the people who shared Leo's commitment and vision will have a chance to share their remembrances and lessons with USF students, and in so doing perpetuate the meaning of a life so well lived.

It was a blessing for me to have been so close to Leo McCarthy and his family.

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE MONTGOMERY, SHERIFF SEVIER COUNTY

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Bruce Montgomery, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away February 9, 2007 after an extended battle with illness.

Sheriff Bruce Montgomery lived a life of service in law enforcement and his local church. He was a member and Chairman of the Deacons at First Baptist Church in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Bruce was very active in his church. He was interested building the church and taking care of people in need.

Sheriff Montgomery took office in Sevier County in 1994 and continued to serve in this capacity until his passing. Bruce served with

distinction and the efficiency that is a model to all law enforcement in our nation. He was caring, but firm in all of his dealings.

He also served his country as a United States Marshal for 23 years, as Marshal for the Eastern District of the state of Tennessee and as Deputy United States Marshal.

Bruce Montgomery displayed excellence as a law enforcement officer, as a compassionate leader in his church, and most of all a caring husband, father, grandfather and a friend. He was known for treating encounters with presidents and paupers with the same genuine smile and indisputable compassion.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Bruce Montgomery. He was a dedicated family man, a foundation in his church, and a superior law enforcement officer.

His service is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF NWIHRC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHR will be celebrating its 5th anniversary by hosting a gala dinner and banquet on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

The Indian American Cultural Center, which opened on March 9, 2002, was established with the following goal in mind: to foster peace and harmony amongst the people of Northwest Indiana by showcasing their cultural heritage and creating spiritual awareness in both youth and adults, as well as to engage in various charitable events, both nationally and locally. Since its inception, the Indian American Cultural Center has been instrumental in educating Northwest Indiana's citizens on the traditions and customs of the Indian heritage.

The members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHR are to be commended, not only for their commitment to preserving tradition, but also for their commitment to making improvements that benefit all mankind. Proceeds from this year's gala, which throughout the years has demonstrated the immense generosity of its attendees and organizers, will go to support the needs of Habitat for Humanity. In the past, proceeds from the gala have gone to such noble causes as cancer research, educational scholarships, and tsunami relief, as well to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Kashmir, India.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the board and members of the Indian American Cultural Center of NWIHR for their outstanding contributions to society. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, due to a death in my family I needed to depart Washington, DC, last week and missed several votes on February 8, 2007.

Had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on: rollcall vote 87, the Hastings of Florida amendment; rollcall vote 88, the Rogers (MI) amendment; rollcall vote 89, the Weller amendment; rollcall vote 90, the Cantor amendment; and rollcall vote 92, final passage of H.R. 547.

I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 91, the Motion to Recommit.

TRIBUTE TO THIRLEE SMITH, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in sadness over the demise of the late Thirlee Smith, Jr. the first Black reporter at The Miami Herald. His role in the education of the children of Miami-Dade County is foremost in his achievements, having focused his attention on African-American history that it became an important part of the school system's curriculum. I join my fellow citizens in mourning the passing of this great leader, whose "going home" services will be celebrated this Thursday, February 15, 2007 at Miami's St. Agnes Episcopal Church.

Mr. Smith was the quintessential community leader. Not only did he write about the struggles and challenges impacting Blacks in Southern Florida, but he also symbolized tremendous hope for the youth to whom he bequeathed his unique brand of adventure that shed light on the mastery of basic skills and scholastic achievement. He has had to make sense of the malicious intent of segregation in his writing at The Miami Herald, but the lessons he learned from his parents, Thirlee Smith, Sr. and Beulah, epitomized his unshakable faith in the majesty of a loving God.

Having attended Liberty City Elementary School, he would soon represent the first graduating class of Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1956. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history and Master's degree in Education at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He applied for a writer's job at The Miami Herald, but was unceremoniously told that the community was "not ready" for a Black reporter. Despite this rebuff, he was featured in 1960 in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He paved his way for a teaching career in the District of Columbia's public school system in 1961. In 1967 he returned home to teach in the Miami-Dade County Schools, and was simultaneously chosen as the first Black writer for the Miami Herald. After a post-graduate 4-year stint at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., he was promoted in 1997 as District Coordinator for African American History.

When I reminisce about the role that this great writer and educator played in fashioning

the future of our community, it is clear that it parallels much of our state's history as it struggled through the agonies of racial equality and educational opportunity under the aegis of simple justice for all Americans. All throughout the segregation era, this young visionary gave us hope and courage through his writings, engaging our parents and their children to keep faith toward helping them achieve basic skills mastery and academic excellence.

Blessed with a lucid common sense and quick grasp of the simmering issues at hand, Mr. Smith, Jr. was also imbued with the rare wisdom of recognizing both the strength and the promise of a good education. The acumen of his intelligence and the timeliness of his vision were felt at a time when our community needed someone to put in perspectives the agony of disenfranchised Blacks and other minorities yearning to belong.

Indeed, he exemplified a clam but reasoned leadership whose courage and wisdom appealed to our noblest character as a nation. This is the magnificent legacy by which we will honor his memory.

SUPPORT FOR THE MINORITY
DIABETES INITIATIVE ACT

HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1031, the Minority Diabetes Initiative Act. Sponsored by my esteemed colleague, Representative Maxine Waters, this important legislation will establish initiatives to provide grants to physicians, community-based organizations and other health care providers for diabetes care and treatment program in minority communities. It is of utmost importance that Congress take decisive action on this common-sense legislation that will benefit those struggling with diabetes.

It is no secret that many serious health problems plague our nation's minority communities. Faced with tough economic obstacles, issues of access to health care, health education, and affordability of health care all contribute to a rising trend of heart disease, cancer, obesity, and diabetes among minorities. Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure, new blindness in adults, and leg and foot amputations. Diabetes is a major cause of heart disease and stroke, which are responsible for about 65% of deaths among diabetics.

Unfortunately, diabetes is a disease that is rampant in my district, the island of Puerto Rico, and the statistics plainly prove that this is a serious problem. Official statistics put forth by the Puerto Rico Diabetes Association say that approximately 560,000 persons, including 75,000 children, are diabetic. Fifteen percent of the Island's population lives with diabetes. Compared to all of Latin America and the Caribbean, Puerto Rico has the most cases of diabetes among women ages 20 to 79, and amongst these women, diabetes is the third leading cause of death on the Island. According to CDC data published in 2000, the national diabetes death rate for Hispanics/Latinos was highest among Puerto Ricans (172 per 100,000), followed by the rates for Mexican Americans (122 per 100,000), and

Cuban Americans (47 per 100,000). Clearly this is a pervasive problem not only in Puerto Rico, but among minority communities across the nation. Congress can help by moving this critical legislation towards passage.

Among minorities, two of the major obstacles to adequate health care are lack of good information and language barriers. Many minorities, in particular new immigrants, do not understand the process of how the Federal health care system works, and have a hard time understanding new programs that are disseminated through traditional means of English-language ad campaigns or pamphlets they find at the clinic or doctors' office. Many don't have access to even general information—if they can't afford decent health care, how will they afford a laptop with Internet access, or even know where to access reliable information? And, in very rural areas, many debate the use of traditional versus conventional medicine, which presents a whole other set of challenges to health care education, disease treatment and prevention, and information dissemination. As you can see, in Puerto Rico, an approach to health care that is linguistically and culturally sensitive is absolutely critical to any patient's well-being. One of the many positive aspects of this bill is that it requires health care providers to make available culturally and linguistically appropriate services and conduct outreach activities to let eligible individuals know that services are available. This will enable providers to access and assist diabetics who are not being reached, and who need help.

This bill is a sensible and culturally appropriate solution to effectively treat minorities with the disease. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation, and advise Congressional Leadership to move this bill towards swift passage, so we can help make better health care choices and treatment more accessible to minorities living with diabetes.

TRIBUTE TO RA JOY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, March 5, 2007 will be both a happy and a sad day for me. On that Monday, Ra Joy, who has served as Suburban Director and Grants Coordinator in my district office for 6 of the 8 years I have served in Congress, will be leaving.

Ra will become Executive Director of the Illinois Arts Alliance, the largest and most prestigious arts advocacy organization in the state. He will follow the widely and highly respected Alene Valkanas who built the Arts Alliance over the past two decades, leading the effort that quadrupled the state's funding for the arts. Hers are very big shoes to fill, yet I have great confidence in Ra's ability to move the organization forward to meet the challenges of the new century.

Ra came to work for me as a very young man but with the promise of being a great leader. He had worked with youth at the Evanston YMCA, where he served as a role model and mentor for many African-American boys in our community. When he left the Y, he didn't leave the boys who continue to rely on his support and counsel.

Ra has a quiet self-assurance, a seriousness of purpose that inspires all those he supervises and works with. He has unfailing good judgment and an ability to understand and communicate complex issues. This makes him very effective in working with community leaders, individual constituents, the business community and not-for-profit organizations in the 9th District.

As Grants Coordinator, Ra has been a leading force in bringing tens of millions of dollars to the 9th District—federal dollars for infrastructure improvements, law enforcement, and social services, as well as private foundation support for dozens of organizations. He has shepherded these funding requests and applications through public and private bureaucracies and then monitored the management of the funds. He has held workshops to help non-profit organizations garner and manage the resources they need to flourish, including one aimed exclusively at art organizations.

Ra is an artist. His charcoal drawings demonstrate his technical skill, his passions and his politics. He comes from an artistic family—his father, Albert Joy, is a painter, and his sister Ebony Joy is a playwright. His beautiful home, shared with his wife Falona and sons, reflects his artistic sense.

Ra's connection to the arts community has had special significance for the 9th District, which, before my tenure, was represented for nearly a half century by Sidney Yates. Congressman Yates was revered as a patron of the arts and protector of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. My constituents have appreciated my continued focus on the arts, led by Ra Joy.

Ra has served as the Chairman of the annual Ethnic Arts Festival on Evanston's lakefront, a major event attracting visual and musical artists and craftspeople. He organized the Artistic Discovery competition each year, in which one high school student per Congressional District is selected to have his or her work displayed for a year in the Capitol, making it a significant juried art show. Dozens of students participate in an event at which all of their work is displayed, and all are honored.

I and the rest of my staff will miss his advocacy for the arts as part of our staff, but we rejoice that he is taking his passion to a higher level. We trust that he will now be in a position to offer his assistance as we continue to address the need to support the arts in our community.

I congratulate the Illinois Arts Alliance for its wise decision to choose Ra Joy as its new Director. I wish him great fulfillment and success.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act of 2007, to end discriminatory and unnecessary congressional review of District of Columbia legislation. Basic to the meaning of self government in the United