

acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, more success at school, and better relationships with their friends and family.

In their testimonials, Big Brothers and Big Sisters also report a positive impact on their life. They say that they find a sense of purpose and satisfaction by helping and mentoring a young child through the difficulties of growing up. They value their experiences as highly as we value their service to the community. Thus, these relationships benefit everyone involved, including the mentor, the child, the family, and the community.

Through its One-on-One Mentoring Program and After-School Enrichment and Mentoring Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters nurtures children as they grow up both socially and academically. The After-School Enrichment program assists children in their academic life by providing after-school tutoring in an array of topics including math, science, and writing. Additionally, the program brings in guest speakers to discuss issues involving academic, social, and leadership development.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and staff who give their time and commitment to this wonderful program. Without their support, this program would not have been able to achieve the level of success it has over the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, on this joyous and historic occasion, it gives me great pleasure to present the congratulations of my colleagues in the House to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOAN REPAYMENT EQUITY TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "District of Columbia Loan Repayment Equity Technical Amendment Act of 2007." This bill will ensure that underserved communities in the District of Columbia have access to adequate health care services in selected health professional shortage areas, HPSAs, identified by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under the State Loan Repayment Program, as Congress intended. This bill does not involve any new funds. It will make the District eligible to receive assistance through the Public Health Service Act grants system, as would already be the case if the District had a matching program. Until 2006 there was no matching program in the District thus making it ineligible to apply for assistance. This bill is revenue neutral. Adding the District of Columbia to this program will not have any effect on federal funding because the District will be required to compete for the Federal funds exactly as every other State competes for the grants.

The State Loan Repayment Program, SLRP, was implemented in 1987 in response to Section 3381 of the Public Health Service Act, which authorizes the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to States to help recruit and retain primary health care professionals in HPSAs. Under the State Loan Repayment

Program, clinicians provide primary care health services in HPSAs in exchange for funds for the repayment of their qualifying educational loans. These individuals are fully trained and licensed primary health care clinicians dedicated to meeting the health care needs of medically underserved communities.

Under the State Loan Repayment Program, grants are made to States to operate their own loan repayment programs. Primary care health professionals who are providing a minimum of 2 years of full-time clinical services in public or non-profit facilities located in HPSAs are eligible to apply for a loan repayment. The State Loan Repayment Program is a collaboration of Federal, State, and community efforts. The Federal Government provides up to 50 percent of the funds to make loan repayment funds to primary health care professionals. The remaining 50 percent of the funding comes from State and local community resources.

The District of Columbia has 13.8 percent underinsured residents compared to 15.7 percent of individuals that are uninsured across the country. Approximately 17 percent of non-elderly adults and 10.4 percent of children are uninsured.

Today, millions of Americans lack access to health insurance. In 2005, more than 46 million persons were uninsured for the entire year. There are several reasons for the lack of health coverage for Americans among all uninsured persons under age 65, more than half were underprivileged and 34 percent lacked health coverage.

Improving the health care system is a huge priority for Congress. The Institute of Medicine found that the insurance status of parents affects the amount of health care that their children receive. By amending the Public Health Service Act, this bill would provide eligibility to the District of Columbia for the State Loan Repayment Program. It is extremely important that underserved populations have access to primary health services regardless of their low-income status. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

SABINOSO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sabinoso Wilderness Act of 2007. New Mexico is filled with extraordinary landscapes and, as a representative of this beautiful State, it is an honor to work to conserve these scenic and historic areas for future generations. One of New Mexico's special places is the Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area. Last year, I had the opportunity to explore this unique area on horseback. While traveling through deep canyons covered with indigenous trees such as piñon-juniper, cottonwood, willow, and ponderosa pine, it was evident that Sabinoso is an exceptional setting that deserves to be protected and accessible to all. That is why I am introducing legislation to designate as wilderness the lands in and near the Sabinoso WSA.

The Sabinoso WSA comprises approximately 20,000 acres and is situated in San

Miguel County, 40 miles east of Las Vegas, NM, and 25 miles northwest of Conchas Dam State Park. Roaming the canyons last year, I was struck by the ecological, scenic and recreational values of the area. Sabinoso overlies a thick section of colorful sedimentary rocks, typical of desert rock formations throughout the West. The area's scenic and densely vegetated landscape is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife, such as red-tailed hawks, western scrub-jays, broad-tailed hummingbirds, mule deer, bobcats, and gray foxes. All of these natural resources will provide outstanding opportunities to hunt, hike, horseback ride, take photographs, and simply experience the unspoiled lands of our ancestors.

During the 2007 session of the New Mexico State Legislature, House Memorial 53, which calls on the New Mexico congressional delegation to support the establishment of the Sabinoso Wilderness Area, was introduced by State Representative Thomas Garcia and passed unanimously by a vote of 66-0.

Unfortunately, this beautiful piece of land is currently inaccessible to the general public. Designating the area will help open it to everyone and provide access to all of these activities. Opening Sabinoso will also create important new economic development opportunities for the surrounding communities. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and creating the Sabinoso Wilderness Area so that everyone will be able to experience its natural and unique beauty for generations to come.

RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD "NUB" PORTERFIELD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arnold G. "Nub" Porterfield of Bluefield, WV. Arnold was a special and caring man whose commitment to his community could only be rivaled by his commitment to his family. He was a loving son, a loving husband, brother, and uncle. He was, in short, a loving man.

Anyone who knew Arnold, or "Nub" as those closest to him referred to him, could not help but be touched by his generous and caring nature. He took a special interest in the lives of others, and he often made those lives a part of his own. He had an uncanny ability to connect with people, to make them feel comfortable in his presence. He was a good friend and a great man.

Arnold was very dedicated to his country and his community. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and served with distinction in both World War II and the Korean war. He served the city of Bluefield, WV as a postmaster, a fireman, and as the chief of police. His commitment to his community exemplified the motto of the Marine Corps, "semper fidelis", always faithful.

After retiring from this distinguished career, Nub dedicated his life to spreading his love of books and opened the Appalachian Bookstore in Bluefield. He was a man who loved to read and had a deep desire to share that passion with others. When Nub decided to retire, he

donated the contents of his bookstore, an estimated 40,000 volumes, to a very grateful Concord College Foundation.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to ask this great body to reflect for a moment to honor the life of a great man, faithful husband and father, and an honorable American. As the Lord called his servant home; his generosity, compassion, and commitment to his community will live on forever in the memories of all who had the high honor knowing Arnold "Nub" Porterfield.

TRIBUTE TO THE 440TH AIRLIFT
WING BASED IN MILWAUKEE,
WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 440th Airlift Wing's long and distinguished history. It was formed in 1943 at Baer Field in Indiana, but has been based at General Mitchell International Airport—Air Reserve Station located in the Fourth Congressional District, since 1957. The airport and Air Reserve Station are both named in honor of Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, the Milwaukeean who is considered the "father" of the modern Air Force.

After moving to Milwaukee, the 440th Troop Carrier Group became the 440th Airlift Wing and in 1967, underwent another name change becoming the Reserve Tactical Airlift Wing. The 440th has received many honors including: the Air Force Association's Outstanding Reserve Unit during 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1968; the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, 1968: 14 Feb—11 Mar for airlift operations to the Vietnam Theater; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period Oct 1985—30 Sep 1987; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 2 Oct 1992—2 Oct 1993; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 Jun 1997—30 Sep 1998; and in 1998 received the highest score for a Reserve Unit in two years. In 1989, the 440th was equipped with eight new C-130s. The first C-130H was dubbed "The Spirit of Wisconsin."

The 440th has performed admirably in virtually every US combat theater and tactical operation including: the Cuban Missile Crisis; Vietnam Conflict; Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf States; and was the first wing unit to deploy members on Anti-Terror Operations after the September 11, 2001 assault on America. In fact, "The Flying Badgers" have been constantly available to provide airlift support, superb aircraft maintenance and security training and support.

In 2006 the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) ordered the 440th to be reassigned to Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. Flight operations in Milwaukee will end in June, 2007 and will resume at the Wing's new location at Pope AFB.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to the 440th for their stellar performance, dedication and service to my district and to the nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
ARTHUR C. NERIANI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the D-Day invasion, I rise today to honor the service and valor of all veterans, and especially the contributions of Arthur Neriani, who served bravely in World War II.

The son of two Italian immigrants, Arthur Neriani grew up in Avon, CT, when Avon was still considered a farm town. As a young man, Art spent much of his time with a group of 15 boys from the same neighborhood. Organized by Gildo Consolini, the boys played softball on a local team called the Avon Tigers. Bonded through friendship and love of country, 14 of these young men went on to serve their country during World War II.

At the age of 21, Art's name was at the top of the list at the Draft Board 2B in Unionville. As the first from the Farmington Valley to be drafted, Art's unique status was covered in the Hartford Courant. In 1940, Art joined the National Guard, Company M, 169th Regiment, 43rd Division in New Britain. In 1941, the division was federalized and sent to train in Camp Blanding in Starke, FL. After his year of service was almost complete on December 7, 1941, it was soon made clear he was not going home. Soon after Pearl Harbor, all of the soldiers at Camp Blanding were asked to sign up for Officer Candidate School. It was not Corporal Neriani, but rather a friend, who signed Art's name in for consideration. Of the 26 candidates who stepped forward, only 2 were accepted—one of which was Art Neriani. After completion of candidate school, Art arrived on the beaches of Normandy as the 2nd Lieutenant of the 8th Infantry Division on July 4, 1944, referred to as D plus 28 (28 days after D-Day).

In 1945, after the gruesome battle in Huertgen Forest, Germany, Officer Neriani received a battlefield promotion from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant. When he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his leadership and courage in battle he refused it. He felt he had not earned the decoration. To him, this type of honor and recognition was better served in honoring the other men—the ones who paid the greatest sacrifice with their lives.

1st Lt. Neriani battled through Europe, liberated German and Polish political prisoners from Nazi concentration camps, and reached the end of the war when meeting with Russian allies in May 1945. Of the 14 servicemen from Avon that were sent to war, all but one returned home—Gildo Consolini. It is in honor of him that the Avon's Veterans of Foreign War Post is named.

A man of honor and courage, Captain Neriani saw many battles, lost friends and brothers, and was one of many to bring freedom to Europe. We owe our veterans, those here and now gone, this country's greatest debt of gratitude. I call on my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to men like Art Neriani—to the dedicated men and women in our military our proudly serve this Nation and protect our freedom.

THE JUBILEE ACT OF 2007

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007. This bill will expand existing debt cancellation programs for the world's poorest countries and ensure that the benefits from debt cancellation will not be eroded by future lending to these impoverished nations.

Existing debt cancellation programs have freed up resources to reduce poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. Cameroon is using its savings of \$29.8 million from debt cancellation in 2006 for national poverty reduction priorities, including infrastructure, social sector and governance reforms. Uganda is using its savings of \$57.9 million on improving energy infrastructure to ease acute electricity shortages, as well as primary education, malaria control, healthcare, and water infrastructure. Zambia is using its savings of \$23.8 million to increase spending on agricultural projects and to eliminate fees for healthcare in rural areas. However, there are many needy and deserving poor countries that have yet to benefit from the cancellation of their debts.

The Jubilee Act will make 67 of the world's poorest countries eligible for complete debt cancellation by the United States, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other bilateral and multilateral creditors. In order to receive debt cancellation, the governments of these countries will be required to allocate the savings from debt cancellation towards spending on poverty-reduction programs. They will also have to engage interested parties within their societies, including a broad cross-section of civil society groups, in the spending allocation process; produce an annual report on this spending; and make it publicly available.

Countries would be excluded from receiving debt cancellation under the Jubilee Act if they have an excessive level of military expenditures; provide support for acts of international terrorism; fail to cooperate on international narcotics control matters; or engage in a consistent pattern of human rights violations. Countries also would be excluded if they lack transparent and effective budget execution and public financial management systems to ensure that the savings from debt cancellation would be spent on reducing poverty.

The Jubilee Act will establish a framework for responsible lending in order to preserve the benefits that debt cancellation has provided to poor countries and their people. The Jubilee Act requires the United States Secretary of the Treasury to take action to end the predatory practices of "vulture funds," private investment funds that buy up the debts of poor countries at reduced prices just before these countries receive debt cancellation and then sue these countries to recover the original value of the debts plus interest. Finally, the Jubilee Act will require the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and promote policies to prevent bilateral, multilateral and private creditors from eroding the benefits of debt cancellation through irresponsible or exploitive lending.

The Jubilee Act will expand debt cancellation to all needy and deserving poor countries