

fully lived life. Although most Americans have yet to commit to a presidential candidate, Richard was making calls for Sen. Barack Obama from his hospital bed during his last days. No doubt, Richard died a happy man, but he left many friends like me, who feel the void of his passing. Long live Richard.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR
HEALTHCARE IN IRAQ

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of several of our 7th District constituents who are working to rebuild the shattered healthcare system in Iraq. The collaboration between Dr. Goran Bekhtyar, a Kurdish-American physician from Franklin, Tennessee and Smith & Nephew, a global medical technology company based in Memphis, demonstrates to all of us that individual people can indeed achieve remarkable results.

I came to know Dr. Bekhtyar several years ago through his service in the Tennessee state government. After the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime, Dr. Bekhtyar set aside his medical practice in Franklin, Tennessee to work full-time at rebuilding the medical system in his native Iraq. He founded a non-profit organization, Improved Health Systems for Iraq (IHSI), and has traveled frequently to Iraq to advise health officials. During his brief visits home, he has worked tirelessly to enlist American healthcare providers and companies in his efforts.

Dr. Bekhtyar told me of the primitive conditions and lack of modern equipment that prevents Iraqi doctors from effectively treating their patients. I encouraged him to contact Smith & Nephew, a global medical technology company that specializes in developing Orthopaedic Trauma & Clinical Therapies, Orthopaedic Reconstruction, Endoscopy and Advanced Wound Management products. After meeting with Dr. Bekhtyar, Smith & Nephew leaders such as Dwayne Montgomery, Ken Reali, Zane Wood, and Mark Augusti immediately committed to assisting the efforts of IHSI.

Over the past six months, this team has spearheaded a donation drive through its Project Apollo Program, which will provide nearly half a million dollars of vital and crucial medical devices to orthopaedic surgeons and hospitals in Iraq. The program will provide advanced, world-class products such as non-locking plates and screws, and the Exogen ultrasonic bone healing system. Dr. Bekhtyar will return to Iraq on August 23rd and begin the distribution of the medical devices to Iraqi hospitals and physicians.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the passion and perseverance of Dr. Goran Bekhtyar and the initiative and generosity of Smith & Nephew. Together, they are setting an example of selflessness that we would all do well to follow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR
KENNETH MYERS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker on behalf of Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, ALCEE HASTINGS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ROBERT WEXLER, RON KLEIN and myself, I rise to honor the life and memory of former Senator Kenneth Myers.

A tireless advocate for the rights of others, Senator Myers served with distinction in the Florida Legislature for 16 years; 4 years in the House of Representatives, followed by 12 years in the Senate. Senator Myers was truly an outstanding leader in the State of Florida. He honorably served as chair of the Dade Delegation and sponsored more than 200 pieces of legislation and many ground-breaking laws. Throughout his life, Senator Myers was a compassionate and dedicated man who provided consummate service to the community.

Born in Miami in 1933, Senator Myers graduated from Miami High School in 1950. He attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned his bachelor's degree, and went on to earn his law degree at the University of Florida's School of Law.

Coming from a family of compassionate leaders, Senator Myers grew up with a strong sense of commitment and dedication to the community. His father, Stanley Myers, founded the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. His sister, Judy Gilbert-Gould currently serves as the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council at the Federation. Senator Myers' nephew Robert Gilbert serves as an officer on the Federation's Board, and his nephew Mark Gilbert is active in youth programs at Temple Beth Am in Miami. Senator Myers' niece Carolyn and other family members are following in his footsteps by dedicating their time, talents and service to the community, as well.

Though Senator Myers will be remembered by his former colleagues as an eloquent speaker and fervent debater, his lasting legacy to the people of the State of Florida will be his championing of legislation on behalf of women's rights, the administration of Jackson Memorial Hospital, and his assistance for alcoholics and the mentally ill.

The Jewish prayer for mourning never speaks of death, but often speaks of peace. My colleagues and I extend these words of peace as well as our heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of Senator Kenneth Myers and to the entire south Florida community during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. Oncology nurses provide clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families and are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

I would like to specifically acknowledge Laura Benson from New Rochelle, New York, for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors, as treasurer, and her role as senior director of medical communications and medical information at OSI Pharmaceuticals. Laura, who received her bachelors, masters, and nurse practitioner degrees from Adelphi University, has served on the ONS Board of Directors for the past 3 years. Laura also served as the patient care consultant for Schering Oncology Biotech. In this capacity, she serviced all of Long Island, New York City, and Westchester County.

The Oncology Nursing Society has 13 chapters in my home State of New York. These chapters serve the oncology nurses in the State and support them in their efforts to provide high-quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout New York. Laura has served as president of her chapter and was awarded ONS' AOCN of the Year award in 1999.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Laura Benson for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Laura has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for her accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. DAVID DINKINS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, my brother, Mr. David Dinkins, for his public service career, and to congratulate him on his 80th birthday. I feel it quite appropriate to honor David by highlighting his accomplishments and the contributions he has made, and continues to make, to the city of New York and this great Nation.

David Dinkins, born July 10, 1927, in Trenton, NJ, moved to Harlem in 1953 and has been an integral part of New York since then. He served his country during World War II in the United States Marine Corps, and later by entering the world of politics.

Mr. Dinkins graduated from Howard University in 1950. With politics on his mind, he decided to further pursue his education at Brooklyn Law School in 1953. Mr. Dinkins went on to start a family, marrying Ms. Joyce Burrows and raising two children, Donna and David Jr., in Harlem.

With the support of his family and friends, Mr. Dinkins became more involved in politics. With friends, including Basil Paterson, Percy Sutton, and myself, we became pioneers in the politics of New York City, eventually being named the "gang of four." David went on to become very influential, swiftly moving up in New York's political structure.

Mr. Dinkins has held numerous positions in New York including: New York State Legislature, and New York city clerk. He was elected Manhattan Borough president in 1985 which was a sign of his determination, as this was his third run for office. Mr. Dinkins later ran for mayor, and was elected on November 7, 1989, becoming the first African American to serve as the mayor of New York City.