

and Advisory Council Member, New York Organ Donor Network—Saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the impressive achievements of Dr. Whitney for her contribution to the betterment of communities throughout Brooklyn, New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the very distinguished Dr. W. Ruth Whitney.

TRIBUTE TO CUB SCOUT PACK 203

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura in North Central Iowa on their 50th Anniversary.

Chartered in December of 1955, Cub Scout Pack 203 provides teaching, service and leadership opportunities to approximately 50 boys in first through fifth grades. Aided by the participation of their families and adult leaders, each member practices Cub Scouting's Twelve Core Values that include citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. Pack 203 participates in many service activities such as Earth Day events, collecting uniforms and supplies for stricken Gulf Coast scout units, and sending care packages to our military overseas.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." For 50 years Pack 203 has instilled these respected values in young men, preparing them to be productive and honorable citizens in their communities.

I congratulate Cub Scout Pack 203 of Clear Lake and Ventura, Iowa, on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable Pack in Congress, and I wish them continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. SAMMIE DAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable gentleman, Reverend Dr. Sammie Davis in the celebration of his 80th birthday on November 27, 2007.

A pastor for over 52 years and the only preacher at Fellowship Baptist Church for 44 years, Reverend Davis is a true pillar of the Dallas community.

A graduate of Dallas Independent School District, Reverend Davis continued to pursue his educational goals, attending Bishop College, Southern Methodist University, UCLA and earning a doctorate from the University of Aswan in Egypt.

Extending his love of family beyond his own fifteen children, Reverend Davis has worked

tirelessly to improve the lives of children and youth in his community. Whether shelter, food or simple guidance was needed, Reverend Davis could always be counted on to extend a helping hand. As Founder and Executive Director of Fellowship War on Drugs Program in Dallas, he also fought to redirect the lives of those affected by drug abuse in southern Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Sammie Davis on reaching the milestone year of 80, and I wish him many future years of happiness and enjoyment in his personal and professional endeavors.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention H.R. 4254, the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act, a bill I have just introduced that would provide financial relief to our Nation's senior citizens.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act would provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 or older. While home prices have decreased from their all-time high, the tax burden is still there for senior citizens who have lived in their home for many years. Passing this bill would give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices who end up paying thousands in capital gains taxes.

My bill would provide a one-time increase to \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple in the amount that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Let us help our citizens over age 50 who have lived in one home for many years and who need the proceeds from the sale of their home for retirement and health care costs. An added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 19th Anniversary of World AIDS Day.

This past Friday, December 1, was World AIDS Day, a day where we pause to once

again focus our attention on this deadly disease that has proved to be so devastating to so many throughout the world. Since the first diagnosis in 1981, approximately 65 million people have been infected with the HIV virus, while more than 25 million people have died of AIDS worldwide. In 2007 alone, The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimated that AIDS had killed 2.1 million people while 33.2 million people were living with HIV worldwide and of whom 2.5 million people were newly infected.

An estimated one million people are currently living with HIV in the United States, with approximately 40,000 new infections occurring each year—70 percent of these new infections occur in men and 30 percent occur in women. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the population, yet now account for 54 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States. Additionally, 64 percent of the new infections in women occur in African American women.

In order to combat this problem we must begin to educate people across this country about avoiding risky behavior and the importance of protecting yourself when engaging in sexual intercourse, but first you must know your status.

We must pay particular attention to the education of our young people with regard to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Since the introduction of abstinence-only education 10 years ago, sexually transmitted disease rates are up. I would like to applaud the Governor of my home State of Ohio, Ted Strickland's efforts to implement a comprehensive sex education program in our schools that focuses on both abstinence and contraception. It is my hope that this is something that is implemented on a national level.

Last year I issued a challenge to all Americans, and specifically African American women who are the fastest growing segment of the population to be infected by HIV/AIDS, to get tested and know their status. Today I reissue that challenge, and I will keep pressing this issue until we are able to find a cure and bring an end to this disease.

COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two centuries of service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for NOAA's continued efforts to improve our understanding of the environment and for its dedicated stewardship of the Nation's coast, waterways and wildlife.

Originally founded in 1807 to survey the early American coast, the predecessor of today's NOAA marked the creation of the Nation's first science agency. From its humble beginnings, NOAA's contribution to American history evolved to reflect the needs and expectations of a growing Nation. Even a brief selection from the catalogue of NOAA's contribution to the American experience offers an illustration of the impressive contribution NOAA and its predecessor agencies have made to American history over the years.