

current system of care serving people with spina bifida does not fully meet current or anticipated needs, and physicians have little evidence-based research on which to build appropriate treatments. Increasing awareness of spina bifida will also focus attention on the need to expand and intensify evidence-based research to improve the quality of life of those living with spina bifida.

Mr. Christopher Malone, who is a board member of the Spina Bifida Association, visited my Washington office on October 2, 2009 to discuss the challenges facing children with spina bifida. When I listen to accounts from constituents like Christopher Malone, I am reminded of the enormous impact that spina bifida has had not only on those with this condition, but on their family members and friends.

I thank Mr. Malone and the members of Spina Bifida Association for their efforts and leadership over the last 36 years, and for their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of life of people affected by spina bifida. Too many Americans suffer needlessly from this birth defect when many cases are preventable.

Education and awareness, prevention, and research are key. During National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, I hope we will all take the time to learn more about spina bifida and support these endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION AND MEMORY OF
TAYLOR CATHERINE FEDA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am honored to submit the following poem written by Ms. Taylor Catherine Fedra of Columbia, South Carolina. Taylor sadly passed away on July 6, 2007. She is remembered as a kind and generous daughter and friend as well as an excellent student at Dutch Fork High School where she excelled in writing poetry.

Her parents, Jim and Michelin Fedra of Irmo, were so kind to share the following poem penned by Taylor and included in the 2008 Dutch Fork High School literary magazine Revelations.

MONSTER

What do you find in the truth,
but something in it's most pure original form.

Something you must accept and respect on its own terms.

People can never really accept the truth,
They want to hide it with their own shades,
Or betray it as something more ideal for their needs and wants.

But maybe the truth is what we need,
And once we accept its purity,
Maybe it's exactly everything we want?

I'm sick of seeing the ones I care about leap
over the truth
and jump right off the ledge of thinking
straight,

or hoping things will change.

I'd like them to view things as I do,
With the glass half-full,

give or take a few sips of confidence in what
the outcome will be either way.

The truth is about acceptance, and betrayal,
love and hopeless mistakes of reading the
road signs that lead the other direc-
tion,

those road signs possibly leading to ditches
of deception or a simple glimpse of
happiness.

The truth is a monster that hurts people,
but somehow heals their vision of thinking
things are

perfect and surreal.

Let's accept it,

Embrace it,

Defy it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 790, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3763; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 791, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3319; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 792, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 558.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE HON.
DELORES J. THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a tireless leader in the community.

Born and raised in Boligee, Alabama, Delores Thomas began her career at Alabama State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. Shortly thereafter, Delores Thomas received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia Law School. Upon successful completion of her Juris Doctorate, Delores Thomas was admitted to the State and Federal Bar Association in Georgia and New York.

Delores Thomas began her legal career as a staff and management attorney for the Housing Immigration and Unemployment Law Units at Brooklyn Legal Services. She also served as an Administrative Law Judge with the New York City Parking Bureau and was president and organizer for the Legal Services Staff Association for District 65 UAW.

Delores Thomas began years of succession to various judicial posts throughout her career. In March of 1994, Delores Thomas was appointed as Judge in the Housing part of Civil Court, handling landlord and tenant issues. In November of 2002, Justice Thomas was elected to the Civil Court bench, becoming the first African-American elected to a countywide judgeship.

Justice Thomas' most recent appointment is to the Supreme Court. While serving on the

Supreme Court, Justice Thomas was assigned to the Matrimonial Trial Part of the Supreme Court. Justice Delores Thomas is currently one of four judges in Kings County, Brooklyn, and the only African-American judge assigned to hear and determine matrimonial cases pertaining to dissolution of marriages and custody of children.

Justice Delores Thomas serves as a member of various organizations, such as the Judicial Friends, the National Association of Women Judges, the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association. In her civic capacity, Justice Delores Thomas is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Society, the Eastern Star Organization, and Church Women United, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this relentless and dynamic public servant.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHWEST COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf on the occasion of their 30th anniversary celebration. This special milestone will be celebrated on November 6, 2009 with the dedication of the new Technical Training Center in addition to other celebratory events around the campus.

In the late 1970s, Dr. Douglas J.N. Burke, along with several members of the community, took action to meet the need for a postsecondary program to provide higher education and career training for the deaf in West Texas.

On November 6, 1979, SWCID was established by the Board of Trustees of the Howard Junior College District. The campus of SWCID would be an entity of Howard College and located at the former Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, TX. In September 1980, SWCID first opened its doors to students, and was established as a state-supported institution on May 14, 1981.

Over the past 30 years, SWCID has strived to offer vocational and technical training, state of the art learning environments and technologies for deaf students, as well as courses for hearing individuals who have an interest in working with the deaf community.

I applaud Dr. Burke for his vision of creating this program for deaf students along with the countless groups and individuals who continue to support his dream and the unique education being provided by this institution. A facility of this nature is of incredible benefit to deaf individuals so that they may learn the necessary technical skills to successfully enter into the job market.

It is a great honor to recognize the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf on 30 years of service to the deaf community of Texas and our Nation.

HONORING RICHARD LONG

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Long as he retires after 46 years of dedicated and extraordinary service to the United Automobile Workers. For the past nine years Richard has served as the National Community Action Program Director for the United Automobile Workers.

In 1963, Dick Long began working at the former Pontiac Motor Division and joined UAW Local 653. This began his life's work promoting better working conditions, not just for the men and women he saw daily on the shop floor, but for all workers. He began his service with the UAW as an alternate committeeman and quickly progressed into the UAW's top leadership tier. He became the chair of Sub Council 7, the largest sub council in the UAW during this time and in 1987 Dick was elected Vice President of Local 653 by his peers. A year later he was elected President. As the Chairman of the United Auto Workers/General Motors contract negotiations in 1993, Dick helped craft an agreement advantageous to both workers and the company. Stephen Yokich, then UAW President, tapped Dick to be his Administrative Assistant in 1998 and in 2000 Dick became the National Community Action Program Director.

As a national leader Dick was able to break down barriers for workers, and enhance their quality of life. I have known and worked with Dick for many years and have a deep appreciation for his wisdom and perseverance. His work exemplifies the ideals that the UAW has championed since its inception.

Dick's vision of a better life for UAW members and their families prompted him to work promoting education, teamwork, and social justice. He is active with many community organizations and the Democratic Party. In addition to his work, Dick and his wife Jackie have three children and six grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor to recognize the accomplishments of Richard Long. He is a man of honor, intellect, and remarkable compassion. The members of the UAW and workers everywhere owe him a debt of gratitude for his foresight, commitment and actions. Because of Richard Long there is a greater respect between management and labor, better working conditions for members of the UAW, and better opportunities for their families. I consider him a dear friend and would like to thank him for a lifetime of hard work. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Richard Long and wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

NINTENDO

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an innovative global business headquartered in Washington State

named the best company in the world this year by Business Week magazine, Nintendo.

A company that employs many of my constituents, Nintendo is an electronics maker behind some of the most innovative and breath-taking technological advancements in the world over the past century, and is thriving in a less-than-adequate economic climate while positioning itself to surpass more challenges in the future. Over the past five years, Nintendo's sales have risen by more than 35 percent annually while its overall value averaged 38 percent growth.

Rather than shrinking and simply trying to weather the economic storm it is facing, Nintendo has expanded and used its unique brand of innovation to stay at the top of its game and produce "must-haves" such as the Wii console, and we all enjoy the Wii.

Like other global companies reliant on its own unique brand of innovation, Nintendo has invested huge sums of capital into its people and commanded a large share of the market. Nintendo is performing at a higher level than any other company in the world in 2009. I am honored to have worked with Nintendo in the past and plan to do the same moving forward. Technological innovation will continue to move this Nation and this world forward and I thank Nintendo for being a visionary leader in that innovation.

HONORING REVEREND DR. JOHNNY TILLER FOR SEVENTY YEARS OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Johnny Tiller, who celebrated his 70th anniversary of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ on September 10, 2009. Reverend Tiller has dedicated his life to this work, and has pledged that he will continue to do so until God calls him home to heaven.

Reverend Tiller has spent his life preaching and ministering to the needs of those in western North Carolina. At the young age of 12, Reverend Tiller preached his first sermon at a cottage prayer meeting. In November of 1944, at only 18 years of age, Reverend Tiller became the first full-time pastor of Starnes Cove Baptist Church, in Asheville, North Carolina.

In November of 1993, after serving as a full-time pastor of four different churches over 49 years, Reverend Tiller retired from full-time ministry. Since retirement, he has served as interim pastor for six different churches and currently serves at Sunrise Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina. He also has taught New Testament courses at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute for the past 16 years. Reverend Tiller has preached on many radio stations, and has held numerous revivals and Bible study courses across the United States and around the world.

Madam Speaker, Reverend Dr. Johnny Tiller has done an exemplary service for the people of western North Carolina and throughout the world during his 70 years of ministry. His dedication and honorable commitment to serv-

ing God is truly a source of pride to western North Carolina. I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Reverend Tiller for his contributions to spreading God's word.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES REGARDING ATTACK ON UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OFFICE IN ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I extend my strong support to H. Res. 823, which expresses condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those killed and injured in the recent attack on the United Nations World Food Program office in Islamabad, Pakistan, and support for the World Food Program's mission to bring emergency food aid to the most vulnerable people of Pakistan and around the world.

On October 5, 2009, a suicide bomber attacked the World Food Program office in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing five employees, Botan Ahmed Ali Al-Hayawi, Farzana Barkat, Abid Rehman, Gulrukh Tahir, and Mohamed Wahab. But more than killing these five individuals, the tragedy has affected the ability of this very important organization to meet Pakistan's most pressing humanitarian needs.

The United Nations World Food Program was established in 1962 and works to provide men, women and children with access to the food needed for an active and healthy life. In 2008, the World Food Program fed 102 million hungry and poor people in 78 countries. In Pakistan, the World Food Program provides assistance to 10 million people at any given time, including 2 million Pakistanis displaced by fighting in the Swat Valley region earlier this year.

As the international community grieves over the loss of five staff members who selflessly gave themselves to their fellow men and women, let us recognize the critical work of the United Nations World Food Program. More than 84.7 percent of Pakistanis live on less than US \$2 per day, and I daresay that Pakistan cannot afford to go on without the work and aid delivered by this organization.

I extend my sincerest condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues whose loved ones were lost in the recent attack on the World Food Program office in Islamabad. Moreover, I reaffirm my support for the mission of the World Food Program, its leadership and staff of over 10,000 dedicated men and women.

Lastly, I hope that this event reminds my colleagues in Congress, the American people and citizens of the world, that as human beings, it is in our personal interest to ensure that no one on this earth goes hungry for want of food. Let us rise up in solidarity with the people of the United Nations World Food Program and ensure that the recent attack does not diminish, but strengthens, our resolve to advance anti-hunger efforts in Pakistan and defeat poverty around the world.