

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.