

contours that express contemporary and edgy artistic style, whose work has garnered acclaim from the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Décor Magazine, and BET's hit reality show, College Hill.

Frank Frazier, a Harlem native whose art career spans over 50 years of perseverance and inspiration, whose genius works depict everything from antagonistic war to jovial jazz concerts.

George Nock, a self-taught artist and former running back with the New York Jets and Washington Redskins, who has distinguished himself among the greatest sculptors of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries through his highly original bronzes.

Kerream Jones, whose work possesses a multifaceted and timeless quality that has led this prolific artist to receive commissions from Verizon Wireless, Pepsi, Upscale Magazine, Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine, the City of Chicago, and various non-profit organizations.

Gwendolyn E. Redfern, a North Carolina native and multi-talented artist who expresses life experiences through her pottery, painting, and mixed media collages.

Najee Dorsey, Founder of Black Art in America and a mixed media artist whose work pays homage to a cast of colorful characters, folk legends and heroes, as well as critiquing aspects of contemporary times.

In accordance with HFAS's commitment to our young scholars, the show will host Diversity Prep Day to give students the opportunity to explore the visual arts, mingle with the artists, and participate in a Youth Information Fair by the show's sponsors and partners.

Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate along with Founder Dion Clark, this year's Mistress and Masters of Ceremony, Barbara Smith and Dan Gasby for your ongoing contributions to Black and American culture. On behalf of my colleagues and a very grateful nation and in celebration of National Black History Month I salute and recognize all of our participating Harlem and world renowned artists and exhibitors of the 2012 Harlem Fine Arts Show.

HONORING AERAS AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NIAID) OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOILEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Aeras and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for their innovative partnership to conduct clinical trial research on a tuberculosis vaccine candidate. Aeras and NIAID are leveraging established NIAID-funded clinical trial networks in Africa including the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) and the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network (IMPAACT) to accelerate a multi-center Phase II clinical trial of a tuberculosis vaccine candidate.

The two partners are working together in a novel way that capitalizes on existing infrastructure and displays responsible stewardship

of U.S. government resources. The partnership also showcases the innovative capacity of U.S.-based researchers and the willingness of the American people to engage in solving global health problems such as the TB epidemic.

Tuberculosis is the second leading infectious disease killer worldwide, taking the lives of 1.4 million children, women and men each year. It is extremely deadly for people living with HIV. As drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis evade the best tools we have to fight this disease, new tuberculosis vaccines hold promise to finally help eliminate this disease as a public health problem in a cost-effective way.

Aeras is a nonprofit product development partnership leading efforts to develop new vaccines against tuberculosis, with laboratory, vaccine manufacturing and office facilities in Rockville, MD. Aeras works globally with partners in government, foundations, academia and industry to advance the world's most promising TB vaccine candidates. I am proud to serve the Congressional district where both Aeras and NIH are engaging in cutting-edge research at the forefront of solving devastating health problems. I hope to see the continuation and expansion of important research partnerships that hold promise to save millions of lives, create a world free from TB and secure our country's place at the forefront of world-class research.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM LEWIS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim Lewis on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Lewis has contributed over thirty-three years of faithful service to the School District of Philadelphia.

Since 1981, Jim has worked for the School District of Philadelphia in various capacities, serving as a Maintenance Mechanic, Foreman, Supervisor, and Compliance Officer; an Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer, and eventually as Senior Vice President for Facilities and Operations and for Special Projects. A registered Master Plumber for twenty-five years, Jim is also the President and CEO of "Just in Time" Plumbing and Heating. He benefitted greatly from this body's enactment of the 1973 Comprehensive Employment Training Act, which helped give him the skills he needed to succeed.

Mr. Lewis's accomplishments and contributions to his community stretch far beyond his employment. He is a past President and current board member of the Emerald Education Committee, of which he has been a member for 32 years; and a current member of the Masons. Jim has been involved in politics for the past thirty years, and serves as a Committeeman for the 58th Ward, 41st Division. He has been married for thirty-two years to Eileen Lewis, with whom he has raised two children, Jim and Christine.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in thanking Jim Lewis for his years of service and dedication to the School District of Philadelphia and for his greater service to his community.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5, legislation which makes it more difficult for injured patients to hold medical providers, the drug industry, insurance companies, and nursing homes accountable for patient deaths and injuries. The so-called "Protecting Access to Healthcare Act," is simply the same, repackaged tort reform proposal that has been considered on the House floor many times. This "medical malpractice" bill is a one-size-fits all, anti-individual rights bill that denies individuals their rights to redress when injured.

The medical liability components of H.R. 5 do little to control health care costs and do more to undercut the rights of patients. The \$250,000 cap and high standard of proof for punitive damages would severely weaken the deterrent effect that punitive damages have on egregious misconduct. Forever freezing the damage caps further weakens future deterrent effects while further reducing benefits to injured parties.

According to the Institute of Medicine, approximately 98,000 people die each year in the United States from preventable medical errors. The best way to lessen healthcare costs associated with malpractice is to reduce incidents of malpractice, not bargain away the legal rights of injured patients and consumers. This bill does nothing to address patient safety, quality measurement, and care improvement strategies that could actually reduce costs.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 5 will not do anything to lower the cost of health care. If the compensation for injured patients is not sufficient, American tax payers will be left to pick up the tab. I urge my colleagues to consider very carefully who will end up paying at the end of the day.

RECOGNIZING THE 191ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2012*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, today, as we honor the 191st Anniversary of Greek Independence, it gives me great pride as a member of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus in celebrating the ties that connect our two great democracies together as both friends and allies.

In celebrating this day we also honor the accomplishments of Greek Americans, many of which first immigrated to our country and made their homes in New York, and the fantastic contributions they have brought to our