Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, The Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin will celebrate tonight its 10th anniversary and its commitment to improving the health status of African-Americans in the state of Wisconsin.

Since 1988, the Black Health Coalition has dedicated itself to insuring that all people in Wisconsin enjoy equitable and comprehensive health. At its inception, twelve organizations that shared a common commitment banded together to forge a partnership in health. Their efforts have translated into today’s Black Health Coalition which reaches the lives of thousands of people in Wisconsin.

Today’s celebration has an appropriate theme: “And Still We Rise.” It is appropriate because it speaks to the commitment of the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin to continue its important work. It is appropriate because it indicates the Black Health Coalition’s pride in its work. And it is appropriate because it conveys the message that the Black Health Coalition works on behalf of everyone and excluded no one.

I congratulate the Black Health coalition on its ten years of remarkable achievements and fantastic efforts on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, and especially the people of my home city of Milwaukee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join the entire Mather Hospital community as we honor Dr. Michael Dosik for his outstanding role model for the youths he helps to shape each day. I applaud the Italian-American Association for their choice of honoring this year and send my best wishes to Jim and his family as he accepts this prestigious honor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James J. Deice, the 1998 Person of the Year of the Italian-American Association of Luzerne County. I am proud to have been asked to participate in the Association’s annual Columbus Day Dinner on October 11.

Jim played both football and track as a student at West Pittston High School. He majored in English at the University of Scranton and graduated with a B.A. in Education in 1969. He later obtained his Master’s degree from West Chester University, Penn State University and Scranton.

After graduating from college, Jim took a teaching job in Roversford, Pennsylvania but in 1972, he returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania to teach English at Pittston Area Senior High School. Jim also coached Pittston Area’s track, football and wrestling teams. He coached the wrestling team to its first-ever District Title in 1996–97. For this achievement, he was honored by his fellow coaches as Coach of the Year. He retired from coaching in 1997. That same year, Jim received the Gerald M. Musto Teacher of the Year Award from the National Honor Society at Pittston Area.

In additional to teaching and coaching, Jim has made his commitment to our community clear by his involvement in numerous activities outside of school. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, UNICO, and the Serradifalco Society. He is Chairman of the Pittston City Parking Authority and is active with the Pittston Tomato Festival Committee, co-chairing the parade for that yearly event. For five years, Jim chaired the track-and-field events for the Special Olympics of Luzerne County. During the 10 years Jim has been a member of the Italian-American Association, he has served as President and chaired several committees. He is currently the Chairman of the Association’s Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring the many accomplishments of Jim Deice to the attention of my colleagues. Jim is a community leader and outstanding role model for the youths he helps to shape each day. I applaud the Italian-American Association for their choice of honoring this year and send my best wishes to Jim and his family as he accepts this prestigious honor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend and colleague who has served his constituents and the United States well during his tenure in Congress. He has served this great institution for the last 20 years as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, and a total of 31 years as a public servant.

Congressman Solomon and I have worked together on many issues sometimes on opposite sides, but we have remained friends and always strived for bi-partisanship on issues of importance to our constituents and to the people of the United States.

My friend, “Closed-rule” Solomon’s service on the Rules Committee is exemplary and he will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an extraordinary man who has spent his career as a public servant helping others. I will miss his wisdom, but I know that he will not be far away. I salute him and his accomplishments. I have enjoyed working with him in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to the Republic of China, Tomorrow, October 10, 1998, is Taiwan’s National Day. Taiwan is a country fondly known as the “Little Tiger.” Rightfully so, Taiwan has a strong economy and is an excellent trading partner for countries like the United States. In fact, Taiwan is our sixth largest trading partner.

In the last few years, Taiwan’s economy has grown at a spectacular rate and has become one of the wealthiest nations in the world. Taiwan’s wealth can be seen in their strong manufacturing industry and in their citizens’ commitment to make Taiwan an effective trading partner. Taiwan has done remarkably well during the Asian financial crisis, and I hope that Taiwan will continue to prosper.

I wish President Lee Teng-hui, Vice President Lien Chan, Foreign Minister Jason Hu and Ambassador Stephen Chen of the Republic of China continued success in leading Taiwan and their citizens.