

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998. This measure reauthorizes the health professions and nursing training and education programs contained within titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act. S. 1754 is a bipartisan effort to strengthen these critical programs—which do so much to provide a workforce that is targeted to address the Nation's critical health care needs.

Among the programs reauthorized by this legislation are the: Minority Centers of Excellence Program; Exceptional Financial Need Scholarships; Faculty Loan Repayment Program; Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students and the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. These and other critical programs provide valuable institutionally-based training opportunities for health professions students in primary care as well as individual grant and scholarship support for disadvantaged health professions students.

Mr. Speaker, while every racial and ethnic group experiences some health disparity, African Americans and other underserved Americans continue to suffer with disproportionately higher rates of death and disease. In recent years, we have seen unprecedented advances in biomedical research, the diagnosis of disease and the delivery of health care services. However, the African American community and other communities of color have not fully nor equally benefited from these new discoveries. In fact, African Americans and other minorities continue to face historical barriers to good health, including the lack of access to quality health care.

More than a decade after the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services' 1985 Task Force Report on Black and Minority Health, African Americans continue to: suffer with disproportionate rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, stroke and HIV/AIDS; experience a rate of infant mortality that is twice that of whites; live shorter lives than the general population and endure 70,000 excess deaths every year. This health crisis is further exacerbated by the severe underrepresentation of minorities in the health professions, the fact that there has been very little growth in the number of minority medical school matriculants and by current efforts to roll back affirmative action.

While recent reports predict a general oversupply of physicians and other health care providers, this is not the case where minority health care professionals are concerned. For example, while African Americans and Hispanic Americans comprise 13 percent and 11 percent of the United States population, they represent only 3.2 percent and 4.4 percent of the Nation's practicing physicians. This is significant because studies show that minority health professionals are more likely to serve in underserved communities, providing a disproportionate amount of care to the most vulnerable among us—the poor and the underserved.

It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to support S. 1754. The Health Professions Education Partnerships Act health is an absolutely essential link to helping the Nation to effectively address the shocking disparities in the status of minority health.

Vote "yes" on S. 1754.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
SHARRARD—1998 INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD WINNER**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas E. Sharrard, this year's recipient of the American Jewish Committee's Institute for Human Relations Award.

The American Jewish Committee, which was formed in 1906, promotes research and programs which combat all forms of bigotry and discrimination. The group also works to promote human rights and advocates public policy positions rooted in American democratic values.

The Institute for Human Relations Award is being given to Tom Sharrard in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our community. Tom is probably best known as the hard working and innovative president of Time Warner Cable's Milwaukee Division. But equally impressive are his civic and philanthropic accomplishments and activities.

Despite his busy schedule, Tom finds time to be involved with a number of community organizations, such as the Greater Milwaukee Committee, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, and the Betty Brinn Childrens Museum. He also serves on the advisory committee for the Artist Series at the Pabst and the Alliance for Future Transit, and is a member of both the Wisconsin Cable Association and the National Cable Television Association.

In the true spirit of the Institute for Human Relations Award, Tom Sharrard has regularly crusaded for opportunities for women and other under-represented groups in the cable television industry. In fact, Tom was recently awarded the Wisconsin Governor's Glass Ceiling Award, which recognizes efforts to achieve equity and fairness in the workplace.

And so it is with great pleasure that I join with Tom Sharrard's many business associates, family and friends in congratulating him on receiving the 1998 Institute for Human Relations Award, deserved honor. May our community continue to reap the benefits of Tom's compassion and commitment for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD L.
SCHEINMAN**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ronald L. Scheinman, Esq. for his service as Chairman of the Board of

the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging for the past two years. President Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." During his tenure, Ron has worked diligently with the Board of Directors and senior managers to reshape the Jewish Home to prepare it to meet the many challenges facing the health care industry.

Under Ron's leadership, they conducted and completed a Capital Campaign Planning and Feasibility Study and implemented a strategic planning process to determine the future development of the Jewish Home. He recruited a new development director to enhance the organization's fundraising abilities. He has organizationally streamlined the Jewish Home by restructuring the Board of Directors, reducing their size, reducing the size of the executive committee and revising their bylaws. These important implementations have improved the Jewish Home's overall efficiency and effectiveness.

Ronald Scheinman's vision for the future of the Jewish Home for the Aging has transformed the Home into a present-day reality that is providing a very important service to many of Los Angeles' Jewish senior citizens. Ron has helped to ensure that the Home will continue to provide quality care to a growing and often neglected portion of our population.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Ronald L. Scheinman, Esq. for his service to the Jewish Community as Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS
JR.: A LEADER IN THE STRUGGLE
FOR JUSTICE**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, my family and I were saddened to learn of the death of my longtime friend and former colleague, Congressman Charles Diggs Jr., the first African American elected to Congress from Michigan. Congressman Diggs paved the way for an entire generation of African American political leaders, not just in his home state, but throughout the nation. When I first arrived in Washington in 1965, Congressman Diggs had been there 10 years and had earned a well deserved reputation as a fearless fighter for justice for poor and oppressed people. In my early days in Congress, he helped me find my way through the maze of Washington politics. I knew I could rely on him for sound advice.

Congressman Diggs was not afraid to speak the truth. During his tenure in Congress, his was a resounding voice for millions of African Americans whose words were muted and whose dreams were bruised by the cruel forces of discrimination and intimidation. In matters of international affairs, he was the first member of Congress to promote Africa as a key part of the U.S. foreign agenda, and he was chair of the House Subcommittee on African Affairs. He was also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, as was I.

For Detroiters, the name Diggs has a particular resonance. Congressman Diggs' parents were community activists who operated a

funeral home that gave proper funerals to generations of Detroit residents, even when the grieving families were short on funds. On a more personal note, the Diggs family and the Conyers family have known each other for more than half a century. Charlie Diggs and I learned early on that we all have a responsibility to carry the banner for justice and equality. He never forgot that lesson, and he remained convinced of the limitless potential of Detroit and Detroiters.

I am proud to have served with him.

My entire family extends its deepest sympathies to the Diggs family. Our city and our country have lost another brave warrior in the struggle for freedom.

[From the Michigan Chronicle, Sept. 2-8, 1998.]

LIFE AND TIMES OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.

Detroit lost another link to its historic past with the death of Charles C. Diggs, Jr. in West Virginia.

He was 75.

Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor, the congressman's former wife, said, "I am much saddened by the news. He was a great man with great strengths and weaknesses as well."

"I hope he will be remembered for his many gifts and for consistently fighting the good fight on behalf of his people through lonely and dangerous times," she continued.

Michigan's first Black congressman and the founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, Diggs was the heir to a family political dynasty in local politics and a leading advocate in Washington, D.C. for civil rights and African affairs during his 25 years in Congress.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Charles Diggs, Sr., Michigan's first Black Democratic state senator, Diggs, Jr. was the youngest elected member of the Michigan Senate in 1950. He made an unsuccessful run for Detroit City Council in 1953 before successfully running against 14-year incumbent Congressman George O'Brien in 1954.

Diggs took office in 1955 as the representative for Detroit's 13th Congressional District. He immediately received national notoriety during the infamous Emmett Till murder trial in Mississippi. After several White defendants were acquitted in the murder of the 14-year-old, Diggs spoke around the country about the case.

Diggs made his greatest contributions as a member of Congress and later chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Among his notable crusades were Support of home rule for Washington, D.C. creation of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1969, helping to found TransAfrica, a think-tank on African and Caribbean affairs, founding the National Black Political Convention in Gary, Ind., authoring legislation preserving the Frederick Douglas Home in Anacostia.

In 1978, Diggs was charged with padding his congressional staff payroll, but was reelected by Detroit voters. In 1980, he resigned from office after being convicted of crimes related to those charges.

He then donated more than 1,000 boxes of his personal papers to the Moorland-Springarn Collection on the Howard University Campus. In the later years of his life, Diggs practiced mortuary science in Virginia, Michigan and Ohio.

Following Diggs' departure from Congress, the late Judge George Crockett became the 13th District Representative, followed by Barbara Rose Collins. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick is the current congressperson.

Charles C. Diggs Jr. was born Dec. 2, 1922 in Detroit, the only child of his late parents,

Charles C. Diggs Sr. and Mayne E. Jones. The Diggs seniors were morticians, pioneers in business, public servants and community activists. Diggs Sr. was elected in 1936 as Michigan's first Black Democratic state senator. The first Black state senator had been Republican Atty. Charles Roxborough, elected for a two-year term in 1932, but he did not seek reelection after serving until 1934.

Sen. Diggs headed the Michigan Federated Democratic League in Detroit which was considered the largest organized force of African Americans in the state. He was acknowledged to be the period's most outstanding politician and was particularly noted for authoring Michigan's reverently innovative law prohibiting racial or related discrimination in public-service places; the "Diggs Law," as it was named, was enacted in 1937. His son, Charles C. Diggs Jr. graduated from Miller High School in 1940 as president of his class and third speaker on its champion debating team coached by English professor Alvin Loving. From September 1940 to June 1942, he attended the University of Michigan and won the institution's coveted oratorical championship in 1941.

When World War II started in 1942 he sought admission at Detroit's Navy recruiting office, but was rejected, allegedly for "poor eyesight." Of course, his eyesight was sufficient, but he was denied admission because the Navy was segregated, like the rest of the armed services in those days. Opportunities for Blacks were limited to menial tasks, for which he was obviously over-qualified.

Moreover, since Diggs, Sr. was a Michigan state senator and a militant activist, the Navy feared public criticism would result. However, Diggs Jr. was drafted in April 1943 after one semester during his third college year which began in September 1942 at historically Black Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

Following his basic training as a private at Kearns Field, Salt Lake City, Utah, he was sent to the Army administration school, Atlanta University in Georgia. After graduating there, where he and his roommate were top of their class, he was promoted to private first class and reassigned to the third EAUTC Headquarters, Tampa, Fla. Shortly after, he was sent to another military administration school in South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota and was promoted to corporal. Upon graduation, he was returned to the third EAUTC. He was subsequently elevated to buck-sergeant, and three months later he was appointed to the Army Air Force Officer Candidate School, Miami Beach. Upon graduation there as a second lieutenant, he was reassigned to the famed Black Army Air Force Base at Tuskegee, Ala. When World War II ended, Diggs was honorably released from active duty in June 1945, and he returned to Detroit.

He then attended and graduated from Wayne State University's College of Mortuary Science in June 1946 and became general manager of the House of Diggs, Michigan's largest funeral business, founded in 1921. Succeeding his father, Diggs Jr. subsequently became president of the metropolitan Funeral System, Michigan's only burial insurance company. It then became Detroit Metropolitan Mutual Insurance Co., which later combined with Mammoth Life in Louisville, Ky. Mammoth has since merged with Atlanta Life in Georgia and is currently the largest Black-owned insurance company in the United States.

In September 1950, Diggs, Jr. enrolled at the Detroit College of Law as a night student, but after only one semester he was elected as the youngest member of the

Michigan State Senate, and served two terms. He successfully sponsored Michigan's first Fair Employment Practices Law, establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission to eliminate racial and related discrimination in Michigan public or private. He also sponsored legislation legalizing DNA blood tests to determine a child's rightful paternity/maternity link, and Michigan became the pioneer state to enact this statute. He then dropped out of law school as driving 85 miles each way to and from Detroit four days a week became too burdensome for his additional legislative and constituency obligations.

In 1953, as a second term state senator, he ran for the Detroit City Council, a city-wide, non-partisan election never before won by a Black candidate; he was marginally defeated by a White female. However, his unprecedented showing is widely credited for generating the momentum which four years later contributed substantially to the successful election of Atty. William T. Patrick Jr. as the city's first African American member of the council.

Nevertheless, because of the strong voter support Diggs received in the 13th Congressional District in his referenced bid in 1953 for the council, he challenged the 14-year incumbent Congressman George O'Brien the next year in 1954. Diggs overwhelmingly defeated O'Brien three-to-one in that Democratic primary becoming Michigan's first Black member of the U.S. House of Representatives where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1980.

THE EMMETT TILL CASE

In 1955 as a freshman congressman he was propelled across the international scene by his attendance at the infamous Emmett Till kidnap/murder trial in Mississippi, next to Issaquena County where his father was born and his grandfather, Rev. James J. Diggs, founded the Woodland Baptist Church, in the late 1800s. It still stands, a permanent reminder of his many achievements including service as a Baptist minister missionary to Liberia in Africa.

The egregious miscarriage of justice which acquitted the White male defendants who committed violent crimes against that 14-year-old teenager who dared not conform with Mississippi's racial standards focused global attention on the worst plight of Black America.

After Diggs' attendance at the trial, as always replayed in old films on TV, particularly during Black History Month each year, the NAACP got him to speak throughout the U.S. about the victimization of Emmett Till, to inspire support for corrective federal/state/local civil rights laws and customs.

HE LEFT HIS MARK ON WASHINGTON

During his first four years in Washington (1955-59), Diggs was assigned to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In 1959 President Eisenhower sent Diggs on a mission, in the PAC-AF Command from Hawaii to the Philippines plus other Pacific islands and Japan to report on minority conditions in those areas of the U.S. Armed Forces. He was accompanied by Lt. Colonel "Chappie" James, with whom he had been stationed at the Black American Army Air Field Headquarters (Tuskegee, Ala.) and who later became our first Black 4-Star General in the Air Force.

Diggs' comprehensive report, supported by extensive interviews and on-site investigations, caused the creation of an Armed Forces Commission to address segregation and discrimination within the command. This commission was continued in 1961 under the next president, John F. Kennedy, whom Congressman Diggs had strongly supported in the 1960 general federal elections.

Additionally, during his first four years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Diggs also served on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee (now House Resources). His ardent advocacy of statehood legislation was one of the prime subjects under its jurisdiction. Focus was on the Hawaii/Alaska proposals, which in 1959 established Democratic Hawaii and Republican Alaska as the 49/50th states in the union.

As chairman of the D.C. committee, Diggs sponsored legislation authorizing preservation of the Frederick Douglas Home in Anacostia, Southeast D.C., by having it designated a national historical site within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Interior Department. This designation replaced its previous beneficiary, Dr. Rosa Cragg of Detroit and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, under whose aegis the Douglass Home unfortunately had languished, principally because of the latter's limited resources and those of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association Inc.

In 1959 Diggs also became the first Black member of Congress appointed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He had sought this assignment after his selection in 1957 by President Eisenhower, to be part of the U.S. Delegation to the Independence of Ghana in West Africa. The delegation, headed by vice president Richard Nixon, had been flown there on a "prop-ship" through a midway island refuel stop, since this was before the "jet-propulsion" age.

The prime Foreign Affairs Committee consideration during his first two years was to authorize establishment of the Peace Corps. Given Diggs' enhanced African interest following referenced mission to Ghana, he knew how important the Peace Corps would be in furthering numerous developments on that ancient colonized continent. This prompted him to be one of the committee's strongest and most respected advocates of the Corps. Subsequent positive activities of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) fully justified his continued, invaluable support.

Upon his request he was also appointed, in 1959, to the insignificant subcommittee on Africa, which he immediately stimulated. In 1969, a decade thereafter, he rose to its chairmanship and maintained historic levels of the committee's activation until his retirement in 1980. Based on his extensive travels abroad plus meetings with African leaders and elsewhere regarding African policies, plus his unmatched official hearings, Diggs became one of our nation's leading spokespersons on this subject.

TRANSAFRICA, America's premier think-tank on African and Caribbean issues, was founded in Diggs' office where its current executive director, Randall Robinson, was Diggs' administrative assistant.

In 1969-70 Diggs founded and became the first chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. William L. Clay, one of the important players in Congress and author of the book, "Just Permanent Interests," is the senior member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Inside the book, he states, "Charlie: We would not have made so much progress in the caucus had it not been for your leadership, signed Bill, 9/24/92." In 1971 Diggs served as a full delegate to the United Nation's general assembly while George Bush, with whom he had served in the House, was the Delegation's ambassador before he became president of the United States. Congressman Ed Derwinski (R-III) was another appointed full delegate and he later became the first secretary of the Veterans Administration.

In addition to his one semester at Fisk University, Nashville (1942-43) then being drafted into the U.S. Armed Services, there

have been only two other Congressmen, Bill Dawson (D-III.) and John Lewis (D-Ga.) who have been to that college. Diggs also has a mortuary science degree from Wayne State University, was the sole principal proprietor mortician in the Metropolitan Tri-State area of Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and was a Howard University graduate. He also holds honorary doctor of law degrees from Ohio's Wilberforce University and Central State College, North Carolina's Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of the District of Columbia.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene Diggs of Mississippi; six children, Charles C. Diggs III, Denise Taylor Diggs, Alexis Robinson Diggs, Douglass Diggs, Carla Mathis Diggs, Cindy Carter Diggs, and 12 grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND AMORY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Friends of Animals, I'd like to pay tribute to a very special constituent of mine. Cleveland Amory, noted author and founder of The Fund for Animals, died at his home in New York City on Wednesday night. Mr. Amory devoted the last 31 years of his life to "speaking for those who can't" as the unpaid President of The Fund for Animals. In his years at the helm of this national animal protection group, he has imprinted millions in our society with the notion that we should treat animals with both decency and dignity.

During three decades of advocacy for animals, Mr. Amory and his group led the way in dramatic rescues of animals all over the country. He airlifted hundreds of wild burros from the Grand Canyon who were destined to be shot by the National Park Service. They joined thousands of other animals, all snatched out of harm's way by Mr. Amory, at his Black Beauty Ranch animal sanctuary in Texas.

Black Beauty Ranch now stretches over 1,000 acres and will serve as the final resting place for a man who was known as the grandfather of the animal protection community. The world needs more people like Cleveland Amory and I hope his legacy of compassion will continue to live on.

HONORING REGINALD F. MARRA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in praise of a man who has served with distinction in the Yonkers school system for 35 years—Reginald F. Marra. He started in 1963 as an Industrial Arts teacher at Yonkers High School and has recently retired as Superintendent of the state's fourth largest school district with 24,000 students and a quarter of a billion dollar operating budget.

His career has been one of increasing responsibility. His second position was as guidance counselor. In 1970 he was named Administrative Assistant, two years later he was named Assistant Principal and in 1973 Principal of Commerce Middle School.

A year later he went to Saunders Trades and Technical High School where, drawing on his experience, he established innovative programs to assure significant employment opportunities for his students.

In 1984 he became Director of Occupational Education and served as a Special Assistant to the Superintendent in 1986. From 1987 until 1993 he was Deputy Superintendent and that year he was named Superintendent.

He has worked tirelessly to redesign the school system in the areas of curriculum, standards, goals and accountability. Among his many accomplishments, he increased the use of computer networks, established community, university and business partnerships within each school to expand student opportunities, worked with the professional staff to improve morale and make the district competitive in attracting and retaining professional staff.

Reginald Marra has earned the respect and thanks of the City of Yonkers, its students, past, present and to come, and their parents. I am proud to join them in this salute.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Wednesday, October 14, 1998, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 530 and 531. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote 530 and yes on rollcall 531.

IN HONOR OF PATTY S. BRYANT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Patty S. Bryant, a teacher at Pleasure Ridge Park High School in my district of Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Bryant will be honored with the First Place National Award for Teaching Economics by the National Council on Economic Education at its conference here in Washington, DC, tomorrow.

The National Awards program recognizes outstanding, innovative, economic education teaching practices, stimulating improvements in the teaching of economics and providing examples of innovative teaching practices for replication in classrooms around the country. The goal is to increase student economic understanding as a result of enhanced teaching practices.

The National Council on Economic Education is a unique nonprofit partnership of leaders in education, business and labor devoted to helping youngsters learn to think and function in a changing global economy.

The shocking reality is that high school and college students know little about how the economic system works and what they need to know to work successfully in it. The price of economic illiteracy is young people who are unfamiliar with the basics of saving, investing, the uses of money and credit and adults who