

turning it into both a natural asset and a national treasure. I urge its immediate consideration and enactment.

RECOGNIZING MIDDLETOWN REGIONAL HOSPITAL'S INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National Hospital Week and to bring special attention to Middletown Regional Hospital in Middletown, Ohio. Middletown has been awarded the American Hospital Association's prestigious 1999 NOVA Award, which recognizes innovative programs that respond to community needs.

Middletown Regional Hospital is a 310-bed facility which is sole provider of Middletown's hospital services. In 1996, an alarming trend came to light: Middletown's readmission rate had quadrupled in just two years from 1.5 percent to 6.2 percent. Rather than ignoring the rate increase and simply collecting the additional revenues which accompany higher readmission rates, the hospital administration set out to determine the root causes of the problem and determine what, if anything, the hospital and its staff could do to lower rates. After discussions with community members and health care stakeholders, as well as a thorough review of the relevant data and literature, the folks at Middletown Regional Hospital determined that many patients lacked the financial resources and the general knowledge to properly care for themselves after discharge and as a result were using the emergency room as their primary source of medical care.

In an effort to stem the increasing readmissions, Middletown Regional Hospital implemented its "Making a Case for Community Health" program which is the focus of the NOVA award. Here's how the program works: a registered nurse, such as Deborah Tibbs, is designated as a case manager for as many as 40 chronically ill patients who have a history of high emergency room use. Patients are referred to the program by a variety of sources and enrolled regardless of whether their care is provided through Medicaid, private insurance, or even if they have no insurance at all. Deborah spends her time visiting with patients and educating them on how to "manage" their illness independently. She advises them on their lifestyle habits, answers their medication questions, and is only a phone call away 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide advice when one of her patients is having troubles. Deborah's services are provided free of charge to the patient.

The results have been dramatic. Hospital admissions for program participants have dropped by more than 50 percent, the average length of stay when they are admitted is down by more than one full day and, as a result, \$1.5 million less was spent on the care of these patients.

The "Making a Case for Community Health" program is a grand success because the hospital stepped up when they saw a community need and committed significant financial resources. The result has been better quality care and lower health care costs. I applaud

their efforts and hope other communities will follow their lead.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE DR. FRANCISCO G. TUDELA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a friend who recently passed away. Dr. Francisco G. Tudela was a great man and a caring physician whose devotion to the sanctity and dignity of life will be greatly missed.

Dr. Tudela was born in Guantanamo, Cuba on July 19, 1919. Despite that fact that Dr. Tudela had risen to the position of Director of the Guantanamo City Hospital in Cuba, he went into exile because of his commitment to Liberty and Freedom. In 1960, Dr. Tudela moved with his family to the United States and practiced his speciality of Obstetrics-Gynecology in Newport News, Virginia before eventually settling in Miami, Florida.

Dr. Tudela was well-known for his opposition to abortion and always said that "Doctors are to save babies, not to kill them." He is credited with delivering more than 8,000 babies—many of whom owe their lives to his medical knowledge and care.

Dr. Tudela came from a family that has a long history of service to mankind. He was the son of the renowned Cuban physician, Dr. Francisco J. Tudela who graduated from the University of Chicago School of Medicine. He was also the grandson and grand-nephew of two valiant Cuban heroes of the Cuban War of Independence, Colonels José Enrique Tudela and Francisco José Tudela.

Dr. Tudela and his devoted wife, Mrs. Josefa Gonzalez Tudela, loving raised their two sons to continue the family commitment to medicine and children. Both sons, Dr. José Angel Tudela, a pediatrician, and Dr. Francisco G. Tudela, Jr., an obstetrician-gynecologist, are outstanding physicians in Miami-Dade County.

I will miss the friendship and wise counsel of Dr. Tudela. He always had a kind and encouraging word and I was filled with optimism after every opportunity I had to speak with him. I would like to express my profound condolences to Mrs. Tudela and her two sons at this difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BELLEFONTE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON ACHIEVEMENTS AT HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of several students of Bellefonte Area High School in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. On April 7, 1999, Juniata College hosted the 1999 History Day Competition. This year's topic for students was to explain the impact a particular invention had

on society. Working long hours with their teacher advisors—Martha Nastase and Ed Fitzgerald—these Bellefonte High seniors exhibited scholastic excellence via an eagerness to share their acquired knowledge with peers and others.

Award winners in the Senior Group Project category—presenting on their topic of Animation—were Melissa Clark, Kendra Gettig, Kim Marchek, Elizabeth Rodgers, and Cary Ziegler. Also taking home winning ribbons in the category of Senior Media Presentation with their project on birth control were David Barningham, Greg Shoemaker, and Mike Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all our House colleagues to join me in recognizing these Bellefonte High School students who brought deserved recognition to their school and community. Following their tremendous example, America's youth will no doubt shape a brighter tomorrow for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 1999, I was absent on official business and missed rollcall votes 119 (the Istook amendment to H.R. 1664) and 120 (final passage on H.R. 1664, the Kosovo and Southwest Asia Supplemental Appropriations Act). Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

JUDGE CLEARS WAY FOR TRIAL OF FIVE WHITES IN 1970 KILLING OF BLACK MAN

BELZONI, MISS. (AP).—The rejection of speedy trial arguments has apparently cleared the way for five white men to stand trial for murder in the beating death of a black man almost three decades ago.

Humphreys County Circuit Judge Jannie Lewis on Thursday rejected claims by defense attorneys that ordering a trial now would violate the rights of the men.

Lewis ruled the state Supreme Court had earlier rejected similar speedy trial arguments in the case of Byron De La Beckwith, convicted in 1994 in the ambush slaying of black leader Medgar Evers in Jackson.

The five are accused of killing 54-year-old Rainey Pool in April 1970. Authorities said the sharecropper was beaten to death and his body thrown into the Sunflower River.

Charged with murder are Joe Oliver Watson, 56, of Rolling Fork; James "Doc" Caston, 65, of Satartia; his brother, Charles E. Caston, 60, of Holly Bluff; Hal Crimm, 49, of Vicksburg; and Dennis Howell Newton, 49, of Flora.

Watson's attorney Gaines Dyer of Greenville argued that Beckwith had two trials with hung juries in 1964 while the defendants in the Humphreys County case never went to trial.

"Should this defendant be subjected to a trial 29 years later because the district attorney believes now he can get a conviction because the racial climate is different?" Dyer asked the court.

The case against Beckwith's was reopened after records of the defunct state Sovereignty Commission showed the segregation spy agency had screened jurors for Beckwith in 1964.

District Attorney James Powell Reopened the case last year at the request of Pool's relatives. He said the defendants were not entitled to a dismissal because "they can no longer get a jury that stacks in their favor."

"There was never any real attempt to secure justice" in the Pool case, Powell said.

In a 1970 ruling, then-Circuit Judge B.B. Wilkes threw out a statement Watson made to police in which he allegedly implicated himself and four others. Wilkes dismissed the case three days later at the request of prosecutors.

Powell in July obtained new indictments against Watson, Crimm and the Castons, plus Newton, who was not previously charged.

A June 28 trial date is set for Newton. Powell said Watson's trial would follow.

Charles Caston, James Caston, and Crimm, all represented by Vicksburg attorney Mark Prewitt, will face trial together.

Newton and Watson made statements implicating themselves and the others, Powell said Thursday. He said Crimm admitted involvement to the woman he would later marry.

Newton on Thursday testified that he wasn't read his rights. "They said they knew I didn't do it, didn't have anything to do with it, and just wanted to know what happened that night," Newton testified.

Retired Highway Patrol Investigator John Pressgrove said Newton was read his rights. However, he acknowledged that part of the record was in someone else's handwriting.

Pressgrove said he had no independent recollection of the interview.

"You know I can't remember 30 years ago. I can't hardly remember what I did yesterday," the 71-year-old Cleveland man said.

Lewis ruled a jury can be told about Newton's statement but Crimm's wife, Margaret Crimm, could not be called to testify. She did not rule on the admissibility of Watson's statement.

Greenville attorney Howard Dyer III, who also represents Watson, argued that Powell's statements in newspaper interviews, including his intention to use Watson's confession, should be grounds to dismiss the charge against his client.

"He shouldn't be making statements to the public, particularly in view of the fact that we've got a confession that has been suppressed, thrown out, done away with," Dyer said.

FIRE THAT DAMAGED BLACK CHURCH WAS SET

WINSTON-SALEM—A fire that heavily damaged a black church Sunday was set, investigators said.

"Everybody's devastated," said Bishop Evelyn Timmons, who has been the pastor at Saint's Delight Church since 1997. "That church is going to have to be demolished."

Winston-Salem fire officials have not found a motive or a suspect in the burning of the Pentecostal church in east Winston-Salem. Damages were estimated at \$25,000. The small, whitewashed building was uninsured.

Ken West, an assistant fire marshal for the city, said an accelerant was apparently used to start the fire near the church office. The fire was reported about 6 a.m. Sunday.

The congregation of about 25 members plans a larger building in the same neighborhood. "We will rebuild," Timmons said.

In the last several years, more than 30 churches have been burned in the South. Investigators have said that some of the fires were racially motivated.

Timmons doesn't suspect a racial motive behind the fire at her church, but said some drug dealers operate in the area and might have been involved.

2 IN GOP JOIN IN FIGHT AGAINST RACIST GROUP

LEGISLATION: NEW LIFE IS BREATHED INTO STALLED EFFORT TO GET CONGRESS TO CONDEMN WHITE SUPREMACIST ORGANIZATION. SEN. LOTT ONCE ADDRESSED COUNCIL

[From the Los Angeles Times via Dow Jones]

(By Sam Fulwood III and Judy Lin)

WASHINGTON.—For nearly two months, Republican congressional leaders have played down calls for condemnation of the Council of Conservative Citizens, a white supremacist group that espouses anti-black views on its Internet Web site.

But the issue, which gained attention partly because of news reports that Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) has spoken to the council at its conventions, has not disappeared.

On Thursday, two moderate Republican leaders stepped out front of an emerging coalition of liberal Democrats, civil rights groups and GOP activists to demand that Congress pass a resolution that "condemns the racism and bigotry espoused by the Council of Conservative Citizens."

Backers of the legislation said during a news conference at the Capitol that they have the votes to pass the resolution, counting nine GOP House members among 138 co-signers. But House leaders so far have refused to bring it to the floor. In the Senate, Lott has declared his opposition to pushing the measure, and no one has stepped forward to introduce a corresponding resolution.

PRESSURE APPEARS TO BUILD IN CONGRESS

"We are not going to go away," said Rep. Michael P. Forbes (R-NY). He and Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) were the only Republican lawmakers at the news conference. "I think the pressure is mounting on all members of Congress, especially the leadership in both houses because so many Members are concerned . . . about this group."

Council officials attended the news conference, and some members came to the organization's defense.

"Congress can ignore Bill Clinton's perjury and obstruction of justice, but it has time to condemn an innocent group of law-abiding, hard-working conservative Americans," Gordon L. Baum, the council's chief executive, said in a statement. "It is grotesquely inappropriate for Congress to condemn an entire organization for its political views."

The House resolution, introduced last month by Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL), is modeled after a similar 1994 resolution that condemned a speech by former Nation of Islam activist Khalid Abdul Muhammad for "outrageous hate-mongering." That resolution sped through both Houses of Congress in 20 days, while the resolution citing the council has languished for nearly two months.

LOTT UNLIKELY TO INTRODUCE BILL

The controversy began late last year after reports about links between Lott and the group. John Czwartacki, a spokesman for Lott, said that the Mississippi Senator "would be inclined to support legislation op-

posed to all forms of racism and bigotry" but has no plans to introduce any legislation on the issue. Czwartacki cautioned that, "when you get into singling out a group for a few individuals, there could be a problem."

Offering what some GOP leaders hope will be an alternative, Rep. J.C. Watts, Jr. (R-OK), the only African American GOP legislator in Congress, introduced a bill Thursday to condemn all groups that promote racial hate or intolerance.

Watts' legislation, however, drew immediate criticism for being, in the words of one Capitol Hill staff member, "a transparent, watered-down version offered by befuddled Republicans who don't know what to do when the subject of racism emerges."

Faye Anderson, president of the Douglass Policy Institute, a Washington-based group of black Republicans, called on Lott and all GOP presidential candidates to repudiate the council.

"The Republican Party, the party of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, isn't inclusive when its leaders refuse to condemn racism directed at black people," said Anderson, who has led an effort to make the GOP more receptive to black and other minority voters. "This party can't talk about inclusion when under that tent are the very people who would enjoy seeing people like me swinging from a tree."

UC BOARD EXPECTED TO OK DAVIS PLAN TO ADMIT TOP 4%

EDUCATION: ANOTHER 3,600 STUDENTS A YEAR WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND. DAVIS HAS SAID MINORITY ENROLLMENT WOULD INCREASE, BUT OFFICIALS SAY IMPACT WOULD BE MINIMAL

[From the Los Angeles Times via Dow Jones]

SAN FRANCISCO.—Helping Gov. Gray Davis make good on a campaign promise, the UC Board of Regents today is expected to approve new admission rules that guarantee a seat for high school students who rank in the top 4% of their class.

The regents' education policy subcommittee recommended the new rules, which are considered certain to pass the full board today. Republican holdovers on the panel joined with Davis and his newly appointed regents to easily push through the plan that would make an additional 3,600 students eligible for admission to one of the UC campuses, but not necessarily the campus of their choice.

While of limited practical impact, the vote was heavy with symbolic import, both as an indication of Davis' control of the board and of his desire to set a new tone on the controversial issue of university admissions.

"We owe it to the chief executive to work with him and advance his agenda," said Regent Ward Connerly, who was initially suspicious that the 4% plan was an end-run around the affirmative action ban.

Although controversial in the past, the proposal would add only about 1,800 students to the 46,000 freshmen who decide to accept UC offers of admission each year. Officials plan a slight enrollment increase at some campuses to accommodate the additional students.

Manuel N. Gomez, UC Irvine's vice chancellor for student services, said the change will serve as a tremendous motivating force for bright youngsters at high schools that struggle to produce university-caliber students.

"It's a very good sign," he said. "It's going to mean something more real, more attainable, for students at each and every high school in California."

The change will have little discernible effect on UC's enrollment, Gomez said. Still,

the university will have a larger pool of eligible students, and that might lead to more minority students being accepted at UCI, he said.

The new policy, which would take effect for students who will be freshmen in fall of 2001, would make no change in the rules for determining which campuses a student qualifies for, and therefore would have little, if any, effect on who gets into the most selective campuses—Berkeley, UCLA and San Diego. Test scores will remain a key criterion in that decision.

Davis campaigned on the 4% plan as a way to shore up minority admissions that have slipped since the end of affirmative action. But UC officials released new information showing that of the newly eligible students, whites would make up 56%, Latinos 20%, Asian Americans 11% and African Americans 5%. Now, Latinos are 12% of UC freshmen and blacks 3%.

Yet Davis stressed the importance of sending a welcoming hand to high school students who do not think attending the university is possible.

"This admissions program says, 'Keep dreaming big dreams. Keep working hard. If you really excel, you will get a place at one of the eight UC campuses.'" Davis said. "And it completely consistent with the will of the voters" who passed Proposition 209's ban on racial preferences.

Such a change in policy probably would not have passed a year ago, when Republican Pete Wilson was governor. When the faculty brought the idea before the regents last year, it was roundly trounced by Wilson's appointees. They feared that it not only would violate Proposition 209, but would bring in unqualified students and set them up for failure.

Longtime Regent Meredith J. Khachigian cast the lone vote in opposition to the plan, saying that it would raise "false hopes" among students ill-prepared for a rigorous university education. She also said that it sent the wrong message to schools that do not have college-prep programs that adequately prepare students to compete statewide for the 46,000 freshmen slots at the campuses.

But state Supt. of Schools Delaine Eastin joined the governor in arguing that the plan would inspire a culture of academic excellence and competition in those schools that historically send few, if any students, to the prestigious public universities.

Here is how the new admissions process would work:

At the end of the high school junior year, UC officials will help public schools compile grade-point averages for students taking college-prep courses and then rank the students accordingly.

Those in the top 4% of each of California's 863 public high schools—about 10,000 students—will be sent letters informing them that they are eligible for UC admission, provided they send in an application, complete all required college-prep courses and take the SAT and SAT II tests. The university will extend the program to interested private schools.

Poor test scores will not make a student ineligible for admission. But good scores are one of the main criteria for who gets into the most competitive campuses, especially UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego.

Of the 10,000 students in the top 4%, about 6,400 would be eligible for UC admission without the policy change. Of the 3,600 who would not have been eligible before, officials expect that about half will enroll.

Davis emphasized Thursday that this approach opens the door to a new pool of stu-

dents without displacing anyone who would otherwise get in.

Davis agreed that the change in policy will not alter the racial balance of the university, which has seen steep drops in black and Latino students admitted in the post-affirmative action era.

But, the governor pointed out, referring to the newly eligible students, that "about 800 or 900 of them will be people of color. There is no denying that 800 people of color will have a chance to come to the university that otherwise they would not have had."

The issue of who gets admitted to UC has been a particularly hot topic since 1995, when the regents, led by then-Gov Wilson, voted to ban affirmative action. The ban on racial preferences was extended statewide with the 1996 passage of Proposition 209.

Adopting a companion proposal, the regents decided to require all UC-bound students to take music, dance or other performing arts classes. The goal is to bring UC requirement in alignment with those of the California State University system.

But the regents, following Davis' lead, shunned a faculty proposal to halve the extra grade points awarded to high school students who take Advanced Placement and honors course.

The governor said he did not want to do anything that would diminish the incentives for high school students to challenge themselves by taking the tougher courses.

Under a program set up by UC officials more than a decade ago, students can now earn up to five points for an A in Advanced Placement on honors courses, resulting in grade-point averages that exceed 4.0.

IN MEMORIAM OF ABE GOOTMAN

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dear friend, Mr. Abe Gootman. Much to the loss of local politics, Abe Gootman passed away today.

For as long as I can remember, Abe had been on the front line of politics in Philadelphia. He was with me on my first campaign for Congress in 1982, and was a stalwart supporter throughout the rest of my career. Abe was always there to champion the causes that I believed in and defend my actions as a Member of Congress. As a committee person from the 54th Democratic ward, his voice could always be heard. You could consistently count on Abe to get the message out, whether it was in a neighborhood meeting or a letter to the editor, and people invariably listened.

Abe worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 45 years and retired in April, 1968. He started his career as a letter carrier, then drove a mail truck and became a tour supervisor of all mail at 30th Street Station, working the 4–12 shift, before retiring. As a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Abe was a staunch advocate for federal retirees and their need to be treated as equal as beneficiaries of the Social Security system. He worked tirelessly in his effort to see that retired federal employees got what they deserved.

Mr. Speaker, Abe Gootman was a kind and generous man who firmly believed in the sanctity of the government and the political process. As a World War II Veteran, he was a true patriot and believer in democracy by the people, for the people. It is a sad day for Philadelphia, and a sad day particularly for me. I will truly miss Mr. Gootman, he has been an anchor and a guide throughout my career. My deepest sympathies to his family.

HONORING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week we celebrated National Teacher Appreciation Week and paid tribute to the dedicated men and women who serve as teachers. Our teachers are hardworking professionals who are on the front lines of our struggle to provide a quality education for every child in America. They work hard so that our children can succeed in life. While it is important to recognize and acknowledge their hard work and commitment to educate our children, we must also provide them with the necessary tools they need to give our children a quality education.

It is imperative that Congress pass legislation to provide the money to fulfill our commitment to IDEA so that learning disabled children don't lag behind nondisabled children. It is also important that we continue to fund afterschool programs, and class size reduction programs that will put 100,000 new teachers in our classrooms.

Presently, Congress is considering the Teacher Technology Training Act, which would provide money to local school districts to train teachers in classroom-related computer skills, and the School Construction Act, which would help our teachers by renovating and modernizing the classrooms and facilities. In addition, the President's budget proposal provides for at least an overall 15-percent increase in education programs. These proposals will provide teachers the tools to raise test scores, student achievement, and graduation rates.

However, most important for this Congress and vital for our students and teachers, is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The programs in ESEA are critical to the most disadvantaged students in our educational system. They include monies for safe and drug-free schools, technology education, infrastructure improvement, and bilingual education.

In this week that we have set aside to honor our Nation's teachers, Congress needs to get its priorities in line and act on the legislation that would say more about our dedication to teachers and the education of our children. Our children and teachers need schools that are safe, modern, with small classes, and access to the Internet. The tragedy in Littleton, CO, showed the need for parents, teachers, administrators, and elected officials to work together and set as a national priority, our children.