

of mental illness. During any one year period, up to 50 million Americans, more than 22 percent, will suffer from a clearly diagnosable mental disorder. These numbers demonstrate the need for mental health care and coverage. Yet, instead, services are disappearing and many, specifically minorities, are backing away from the services that still remain.

Minorities in America face severe economic, cultural, linguistic and physical barriers for treatment of mental illness. According to a report from the U.S. Public Health Service, these difficulties prevent thousands from being properly treated. The study explains that minorities are no more likely than whites to suffer from mental illnesses. However factors often keep African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Asian Americans from getting the help they need and when they do, the treatment may be substandard or too late.

For Asian Americans, studies have shown that they underutilize mental health services much more than other populations. The National Research Center found that Asians were underrepresented in the outpatient system, and they were more likely than African Americans, Whites, and Hispanics to have psychotic disorders. Although overall rates of mental illness among Hispanics roughly equal that of whites, young Hispanics have higher rates of depression, anxiety disorders, and suicide. The study also found that Hispanics born in the United States are more likely to suffer from mental illness than those born in Mexico or living in Puerto Rico. With African Americans being overrepresented in populations at high risk for developing mental illness—namely, the homeless, prisoners and children in foster care—the need for mental health treatment is generally higher. All three of these particular cultures have stigmas attached to mental illness along with social battles preventing treatment from being obtained. Even research on the mental health of minorities is sparse considering it was only in 1994 when the National Institute of Health started to require that its funded studies include minorities and that studies indicate a subject's race.

The research that does exist is startling. About 25% of African Americans do not have health insurance and many who do are more likely to receive care from a primary health provider rather than a mental health specialist or end up in the emergency room looking for help. As I mentioned, African Americans are over-represented in high-need populations that are particularly at risk for mental illnesses. One population group is the homeless, of which African Americans make up about 40% of the homeless population. Another is the prison population that is comprised of nearly half of all prisoners in State and Federal jurisdictions and almost 40% of juveniles in legal custody are African American. African American children and youth constitute about 45% of children in public foster care and more than half are waiting to be adopted. African Americans are also more likely to be victims of serious violent crime. One study reported that over 25% of African American youth exposed to violence met diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. When compared to whites who exhibit the same symptoms, African Americans tend to be diagnosed more frequently with schizophrenia and less frequently with affective disorders. In addition, one study found that 27% of blacks compared to 44% of

whites receive antidepressant medication. Moreover, the newer SSRI medications that have fewer side effects are prescribed less often to African Americans than to whites. And while the rate of bipolar disorder is the same among African Americans as it is among other Americans, African Americans are less likely to receive a diagnosis and, therefore, treatment for this illness.

One of the high-risk populations that overly effect the African American population, the prison population, is of an extreme concern of mine. This year an estimated 600,000 exoffenders will be reentering communities across the nation. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, about 283,000 people who are incarcerated on any given day in the United States are known to have a mental illness, with almost 550,000 others on probation. The rate of mental illness in the jailed population is four times greater than that in the general population. The Cook County Jail in Chicago has become, by default, the largest psychiatric facility in the state of Illinois. At least 10% of the Facility's 10,000 detainees are on psychiatric medications. Because the jail is overcrowded, prisoners must be released every day, whether they are ready or not, to make room for new arrivals. Unfortunately, our prison system's purpose is social control, not treatment. This means most of the detainees who have a mental illness are released with just a prescription and the address of a mental health facility and receive very little follow-up.

Mr. Speaker, we have made much progress in mental health awareness—we are talking about it today, which would have been unheard of 15 years ago. But we have so much to do. In our recent budget crisis, states are cutting mental health funding first and not realizing the cost it will be on our society later. Education and breaking down misconceptions that many cultures face need to be improved. We need to ensure that our citizens are receiving the help they need by providing equal mental health services to all.

HONORING HUGH LEE "H.L."
CULBREATH, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hugh Lee "H.L." Culbreath Jr., one of Tampa Bay's most influential and charitable business leaders. H.L.'s passing last weekend is a tremendous loss for our entire community.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, H.L. served our country in the Navy for 10 years. His final assignment was as a staff member to President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House and as officer in charge of Camp David.

In 1957, H.L. returned to his native Tampa to begin working for TECO Energy. Over the course of his 40 years of dedicated service to TECO, H.L. worked his way up the ladder to become chief executive officer and chairman of the board. Along the way, H.L. instilled in TECO the idea that giving back to the community is good for business.

H.L.'s contributions, civic activities and honors are countless, but his life long endeavor to

improve the quality of life for Tampa Bay residents and bolster our city's reputation is clear. In an effort to enrich downtown Tampa, he fought to establish the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and served as its inaugural chairman and trustee. H.L. fought to bring a National Football League franchise to Tampa, and our Buccaneers justifiably rewarded him for his efforts by winning the Super Bowl this year.

H.L. served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Committee of One Hundred, a member of the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Committee, a board member and chairman of the Hillsborough County Hospital Authority, a member of the Florida Council of 100, which gave him the Hall of Fame award. He was active in the United Way and honored for his contributions to Boy Scouting by the Explorers of the Boy Scouts of America, Gulf Ridge Council. The Tampa Civitan Club named H.L. Citizen of the Year in 1979 and the Hillsborough County Bar Association gave him a Liberty Bell award, in recognition of his community service.

H.L. personified the attributes of leadership and service to an exemplary level, rarely seen in our community. For members of the Tampa Bay community, H.L.'s impact is as far as the eye can see and will endure for countless generations. On behalf of our community, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLE
WOOD—A 6TH GRADER WHO UN-
DERSTANDS FREEDOM

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cole Wood, a young man whose definition of freedom won him the "Spring 2003 Essay Contest" at the Sixth Grade Academic Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, when Cole Wood was asked to define the word freedom for the essay contest he chose to focus on the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and, "the great presidents that have brought this nation through times of thick and thin."

Freedom, for so many Americans, is still taken for granted. While Mr. Cole's essay rightfully draws our attention to the founding father's legacy, it should also call to mind those men and women who have fought so bravely to ensure that our freedom endures. More importantly, it should evoke our sense of duty to those veterans and remind us that they deserve our support as well as our respect.

Mr. Wood also recalled the tragedy of September 11th as he described the meaning of freedom: "At first I was scared, but when I saw all the people donating and sticking together, I didn't feel sad anymore, I felt proud and strong. I was proud to be an American, proud to know I was free."

That pride is what makes this country great. It is the pride that inspires young people like Mr. Wood to be responsible leaders of our nation. It is the pride that should infect every decision we make as elected representatives.