

TRIBUTE TO MR. GABRIEL L.I.
BEVILACQUA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments and contributions of Mr. Gabriel Bevilacqua, Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. It is a privilege to recognize an individual that strives to ensure that Philadelphia is always at its best.

Mr. Bevilacqua is a member of the litigation team for Saul Ewing, LLP as well as an involved leader of numerous professional and civic organizations. Mr. Bevilacqua has held various leadership positions that include being Chair of the firm's Health Law Litigation Committee, serving 7 years as a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Board of Governors, and serving as the Bar Association's Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. He currently serves as a Trustee for the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and is a respected former President of the foundation.

Mr. Bevilacqua has remained active outside of the professional arena by being an active member of the Nazareth Hospital Board of Trustees, and by serving on the Board of Directors for Nazareth Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and Holy Redeemer Hospital Home Health Agency. Gabriel Bevilacqua was selected as "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" by Philadelphia Magazine for 2004 for successfully upholding a professional and personal commitment to the Greater Philadelphia area.

It is my honor to recognize a person whose dedication to the community has enriched the lives of countless individuals in both my district and the state of Pennsylvania. I hope that all of my distinguished colleagues will join me and his family in honoring Mr. Gabriel Bevilacqua.

RECOGNIZING THE CONCERNS OF
POLICE SURVIVORS, INC.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. The organization, which provides support and encouragement to families of law enforcement officers who have given their lives, observes its 20th anniversary on May 14. The organization, also known as COPS, has grown into an international non-profit organization comprised of 13,000 families in the United States, with an affiliate in the United Kingdom.

The genesis of COPS occurred in 1983, when ten survivors of fallen officers gathered to talk about the difficulties they faced when their loved ones were killed. Within a year they decided there was a need for a support organization that could understand the trauma inflicted on surviving families and agencies when an officer was killed in the line of duty.

COPS was officially organized on May 14, 1984, with 110 police survivors attending the first National Police Survivors' Conference in

Washington, DC. It organized independently from other police organizations in order to allow members to reach out to any survivor regardless of their loved one's police organization affiliation.

COPS sponsors weekend retreats for surviving spouses, parents, adult children, siblings, and in-laws. The organization also hosts a week-long summer camp and a weekend wilderness experience in the Colorado Rockies for surviving children. With funding from the Department of Justice, COPS presents training that teaches officers how to help surviving families, affected co-workers, and communities deal with the tragedy of line-of-duty deaths.

Mr. Speaker, COPS is providing an important service to those families and coworkers of officers who have lost their lives. From humble beginnings in a basement office to a brand new facility in Camdenton, Missouri, COPS has brought healing and support to those who have lost a friend or loved one. I know my fellow Members will join with me in thanking members of this organization for their work and dedication.

FREEDOM FOR NELSON MOLINÉ
ESPINO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Nelson Moliné Espino, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Moliné Espino is a pro-democracy activist working for freedom for the people of Cuba. He is the President of the Confederation of Democratic Workers of Cuba and a member of the 30 November party. Mr. Moliné Espino has dedicated his energy and talents to liberating the oppressed people of Cuba from the tyrannical regime.

As a leader in the struggle for freedom and human rights for the people of Cuba, Mr. Moliné Espino has been a constant target for the dictator's thugs. According to Amnesty International, he has been harassed for his activities, called into a police station, and threatened with arrest if he did not abandon his struggle for human rights and workers rights.

Because of his belief in freedom, Mr. Moliné Espino was arrested as part of the tyrant's vicious crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists in March 2003. On March 20, he was detained and his home was searched. Eventually Mr. Moliné Espino was "indicted" on charges that he had mixed with people dedicated to "subversive" activity. After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Moliné Espino is languishing in the inhuman squalor of Castro's totalitarian gulag. According to reports, since his trial in April 2003, he has again been "tried and sentenced" to an additional year on charges of "disrespect". Let us be clear, Mr. Moliné Espino is locked in the grotesque inferno of totalitarian repression simply because he believes in democracy and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are locked in a diabolical gulag 90 miles from our shore. My

Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Nelson Moliné Espino and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING "COVER THE
UNINSURED WEEK"

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 10–16 as "Cover the Uninsured Week." This is an important opportunity to put the spotlight on those individuals without access to coverage as well as those with inadequate coverage. Over 44 million people—15% of the U.S. population—lack health insurance coverage of any kind over the entire year. It has been said many times, but it must be said yet again—the United States is the only industrialized nation which fails to provide universal health care to its people. I hope the "Cover the Uninsured Week" will not just stimulate discussion, but action, so that soon that statement will no longer be true.

Individuals without health insurance are more likely than insured Americans to postpone health care, not getting the care they need and not filling prescriptions. Access to health insurance also has a major impact on the financial well-being of families—over a third of the uninsured had a serious problem paying medical bills in the past year and nearly a quarter was contacted by a collection agency. The alarming fact is that this disturbing trend is only worsening. Throughout most of the 1990s, the number of uninsured has been steadily increasing by about 1 million people every year. This problem persists despite the fact that a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that 78 percent of all Americans believe that the government has a responsibility to expand health insurance coverage to more Americans. This strong sense of national support for expanding health care to the uninsured is a mandate to the government to act now on this urgent problem that is profoundly affecting the ability of Americans to live healthy and productive lives.

The lack of affordable health care and the national epidemic of the uninsured is not a problem with a single face. The uninsured are a diverse group of people—they are young professionals, small business owners, laborers and service employees. They are children, parents, and the near elderly. Any working person in this country can end up being uninsured at some point in their life. Today, I would like to look beyond the numbers and present before you snapshots of two people from my state of Illinois who are living without insurance.

Jocelyn Graf of Oak Park, Illinois had to give up her health insurance when she started her own small English language training business and discovered that she could not afford the insurance plans available on the market. Jocelyn has received discounted medical care with assistance from the Campaign for Better Health Care. Jocelyn explained that she has been willing to risk living without insurance because she is young and healthy, but the lack of coverage would have been harder to deal with if she had ongoing health needs or was injured.