

the United States. Such statistics clearly indicate that we cannot afford to ignore the needs of those living with a mental illness.

The impact of mental illnesses on the productivity of the United States is greatly underestimated. The Global Burden of Disease study, published by the National Institute of Mental Health, exposed that mental illness, including suicide, accounts for 15 percent of the burden of disease in established market economies. This study reveals that mental illness places a larger burden on the productivity of the United States than all cancers combined. Such findings reemphasize that more attention and resources need to be directed towards supporting the mentally ill.

Today millions of Americans living with some form of mental illness continue to be discriminated against on a daily basis by their insurance companies. Congress passed mental health parity legislation that went into effect January 1, 1998 to try and address this problem. This legislation was intended to require insurance companies that choose to provide coverage for mental health to offer the same lifetime cap as they do for physical illness. This legislation was meant to be a monumental first step in preventing discrimination against individuals with mental illness.

Since enactment of this legislation, insurance companies have not expanded their coverage, but instead have maintained just enough coverage to remain within the legal limits of the law. Today I call on my fellow Senators to support the Senator Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2003, S. 486. Under this bill, full coverage equality with respect to health insurance coverage will be provided to those who are mentally ill. It is my hope that in the closing weeks before the close of the 108th Congress, that we can come together in a bipartisan manner and support S. 486, not only for those who suffer from mental illness and their families, but also to pay tribute to our colleague, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, who continuously fought for such parity during his service in the Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL AND HESTER WHITE

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I honor Carl and Hester White of Ludlowe, KY. On this day 60 years ago, they were married and they set out on the path of life together.

The commitment of 60 years of marriage is a truly magnificent accomplishment. This married couple has dedicated themselves to each other through thick and thin for the greater part of a century. This kind of faithfulness in marriage is no less than perseverance in the most important virtue of all, love of your fellow man.

Marriages are the bedrock of society and the foundation of responsible citi-

zenship. I congratulate Carl and Hester on their sixtieth wedding anniversary. I hope they have many more wonderful years together. May God bless them.●

YOGI BHAJAN

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, the death of one of New Mexico's most beloved and influential residents on Wednesday night has saddened all of us who knew him. Habbajan Sing Khalsa Yogiji was his full name, but his followers and friends worldwide knew him as Yogi Bhajan.

The spiritual teacher of hundreds of thousands of people, Yogi Bhajan was leader of the Sikhs in the Western Hemisphere. He chose New Mexico as one of several centers of business and residence in the United States, and it was at his home in Espanola that he died with family and friends near.

I have the privilege of Yogi Bhajan's friendship and support for more than 20 years. He was a dynamic, powerful person with a strong devotion to human rights, religious freedom, and good health. He was also a masterful businessman with a degree in economics who intimately understood the connection between food and health, and made health food a foundation for several hugely successful companies. "Yogi Tea," for instance, is found in households around the world.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Bibiji and their children, his followers and his other friends. He was a teacher of all who came to know him. We have learned much from this man, and with his death we have lost a great and good friend.●

TULSA HISPANIC COMMISSION 25TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission was established in 1979 by law by the city of Tulsa and Tulsa County. The commission was established due to the leadership and commitment of its founding members who include Mrs. Aurora Ramirez Helton, Mr. Jack Helton, Rev. Victor Orta, Dr. Luis Reinoso, Dr. Chris Romero, Mr. Joe Rodriguez and Mr. Carlos Vargas. The commission also was established thanks to the unconditional support of the then mayor of the city of Tulsa, James M. Inhofe, his chief of staff, Richard Soudriette, and the members of the Tulsa County Commission.

This year the Greater Tulsa Hispanic Affairs Commission celebrates its 25th anniversary. On this occasion it is important to recognize the accomplishments of the commission such as it was only the second commission of its type to be established in the U.S.A. The commission has helped countless people in the Hispanic community in Tulsa to find help in the areas of health, education and economic development. Also, the commission has played a fundamental role in promoting the values and cultural rich-

ness of the Hispanic community in Tulsa. The commission has organized numerous community festivals and cultural programs and has actively promoted teaching of Spanish, as well as English. Finally, the commission aided in the establishment of the sister city program between Tulsa, OK, and San Luis Potosi, Mexico, that to this day promotes friendship and understanding between the people of the United States of America and Mexico.

Today, I, JAMES M. INHOFE, United States Senator (R-OK) on behalf of my colleagues, do hereby congratulate the members of the Greater Tulsa Hispanic Affairs Commission on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. Also, I wish the commission well in its important work to promote greater understanding and appreciation of Hispanic heritage. Furthermore, I want to recognize the work of the commission to promote the cultural diversity of our Hispanic community, which plays such a vital part of the history of the city of Tulsa, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN ROBERT C. WILKENS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to naval officer, and fellow South Carolinian, Captain Robert C. Wilkens. This fall, Captain Wilkens will retire from the United States Navy after 32 years of distinguished leadership, selfless service, and tireless commitment to our Navy and Nation.

Captain Wilkens served right here in the U.S. Capitol, as the Director of Pharmacy in the Office of the Attending Physician to Congress from 1981-1985. He then entered advanced training as a pharmacy resident at the Navy's flagship hospital, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, 1986.

Wilkens continued with his career as the Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator and director of inpatient services at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA. Upon completion of that assignment in 1990, he became a Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond.

Captain Wilkens then served as the chairman of the Pharmacy Department at Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA, from 1992-1999. By special request, he next served as the Specialty Leader and Consultant to the Navy Surgeon General for Pharmacy Policy at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, DC. Upon completion of that tour in 2001, Captain Wilkens returned to San Diego, and served once again as chairman of the Pharmacy Department at the Naval Medical Center.

I send best wishes on behalf of the United States Senate, for continued happiness and success to Captain Wilkens and his wife Linda as they begin the next chapter of their lives, with thanks from a grateful Nation for their loyal and dedicated service.●

WILLIAM S. RUPP

• Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of William S. Rupp of St. Peters, MO. I join his wife June, the rest of his family and his many friends in honoring and recognizing him on his 80th birthday, October 10, 2004.

A devoted husband, father of five and grandfather of 16, Bill's first 80 years have been rich and full. He has achieved a great deal and has contributed tremendously to his State and his country.

As a United States Marine in the Pacific Theater during World War II, Bill saw some of the fiercest fighting of the war. He served bravely for 3 years until he was honorably discharged in 1945.

Bill chose not to end his devotion to the military when he left the Pacific, and he has been a very active and highly effective veteran. He has served as chairman of the St. Peters Veterans Memorial Commission and helped design and coordinated the city's Veterans' Memorial site. He was also instrumental in the construction of St. Peters' Korean War Memorial. Bill is a member of Congressman TODD AKIN's Veteran Memorial Commission and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10838, where he has served as Commander, All-State Quartermaster, Safety Chair, Hospital Chair, Military Assistance Chair and Deputy Inspector.

In addition to veterans' affairs, Mr. Rupp has been involved in other important civic matters. While his children were in school, he served with distinction as president of the McBride High School Father's Club, president of the Rosary High School Parent Teacher Association and as a judge for the Amateur Athletic Union's 75th track meet. In addition, he is a past president of the Summerhill Association.

After his military service, Bill attended Washington University before becoming a marketing representative for Gateway Seed Company and a department manager for Famous-Barr Company. He attended St. Louis University High School and St. Roch's Catholic Grade School.

I am honored to congratulate Mr. Rupp on this special occasion. He has many accomplishments in his long life thus far, and I wish him many more years of happiness and success.●

COMMEMORATING THE INTEGRATION OF HOXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it has been 50 years since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the 1954 landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate was not equal when it came to our children's education. That ruling changed the way that Americans are educated and opened up countless opportunities for all children, both black and white, to learn about and from one another.

Hoxie, AR, is a small town in the northeast corner of my state, with a

population of just about 3,000 people. Prior to 1954, like many other schools in Arkansas and across the South, the Hoxie School District was segregated. To get an education, black children had to travel thirty minutes by bus to the neighboring town of Jonesboro where they attended Booker T. Washington School with other black students from around the region.

Following Brown, the Hoxie School Board unanimously voted to become one of the first schools in the South to begin integration. In the fall of 1955, Hoxie School Board members, faculty, students, and citizens stood together with 21 black children who enrolled and became the first black students to attend the Hoxie School system. This courageous step, in the face of opposition from around the state and across the Nation, helped open doors for future generations of students in Arkansas.

I recently had the honor of attending a reunion for the Hoxie Twenty-One, as they have come to be known in Arkansas. It was a wonderful event in which the community gathered to commemorate the integration of Hoxie School District. We paid tribute to the Hoxie Twenty-One and their families, as well as to the school officials and community leaders who paved the way for integration at Hoxie. The courage and resolve that the citizens of Hoxie showed in 1955 is an example of those who are willing to embrace the spirit of equality and to do what is right for every child in the community.

Today, Arkansas' children go to school in a different environment than that confronted by the Hoxie Twenty-One back in 1955. We certainly have more work to do to ensure that all of our children receive the best possible education, but I am pleased with the progress we have made over the last 50 years. It is my hope that America can continue to build on the foundation that Hoxie School District helped to create to ensure that all of our nation's children, no matter their race, are provided with the best educational opportunities available.●

RECOGNIZING THE MCLEAN GIRLS LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to recognize the 2004 McLean Girls Little League Softball team for their hard work and determination in representing both Virginia and the South in the 2004 Girls Little League World Series tournament.

These young athletes, under the strong coaching of Jamie Loving, devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy in their efforts to make it to the World Series tournament in Portland, Oregon. Throughout their season, they showed courage and fortitude in winning the State competition with a record of 5-1 and the regional competition with a perfect record of 5-0. The team then went on to compete in the World Series tour-

namment against teams across the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Europe and Puerto Rico. This is a great accomplishment for these Virginia girls, especially since this is the first time in the history of the tournament that a team from Virginia has made it to the World Series.

I would like to congratulate each of the members of the McLean Girls Little League Softball team: Brooke Brown, Sarah Eidt, Michelle Tilson, Lauren Sanata, Megan Sullivan, Brittany McCray, Lauren Sutherland, Madeleine Giaquinto, Adriane Engel, Jamie Bell, Kukana Ho'opi'i, Shannon Engel, Lauren McColgan, Rachel Ing and their coaches, Jamie Loving, Darrell Tilson and Kurt Brown.

As a former student-athlete, I understand the impact that athletics play in the development of an individual's character and life. Sports teach us important lessons of self-discipline, perseverance, teamwork, sportsmanship and self-confidence. The benefits of participating in athletics can prove valuable in the daily lives of student-athletes whether at school or at work in their communities. I wish all of the members of the team and their coaches continued success in the future. Keep Winning.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. LINDA CRNIC

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Linda Crnic, of Denver, CO, who passed away unexpectedly on September 10, 2004.

Dr. Crnic was a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and director of the Colorado Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability Research Center. She was also an inspiration to thousands of families across the Nation for her internationally recognized research on Down syndrome and Fragile X.

Down syndrome and Fragile X are the two leading genetic disorders causing mental retardation. Fragile X is an inherited disorder caused by a defect in one gene on the X chromosome. It is also the most common known cause of Autism.

While I did not know Linda personally, many individuals have reached out to me in recent weeks with stories and tributes about the impact Linda made as a mother, as a colleague, as a friend, and through her research.

Dr. Crnic's research helped individuals with Down syndrome and Fragile X become increasingly integrated into society and live fuller and more active lives.

Through the efforts and outreach of professionals like Linda Crnic, all of us benefit as research about these disorders have also led to new medical insights and treatments.

According to those families, whose lives she touched so profoundly, one cannot begin to describe the high regard and affection in which Dr. Crnic