

Santa Cruz campus of the University of California system. As UCSC's Director of Instructional Computing, she built a campus institution respected by both faculty and students that enhanced the campus' reputation for undergraduate education by providing a space for students to publish their work and gain needed employment skills.

Beth has also shared her expertise with people around the world through her love for travel. She served as a mental health counselor for Americans living in Bangkok during the Vietnam War, was a field assistant for the Smithsonian-sponsored Arun Valley Wildlife Expedition in Nepal and contributed to the betterment of public health in Thailand. Beth is also fluent in Thai, and as a Peace Corp volunteer, she acted as a liaison between the Thai Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education in the area of nutrition and was involved in the establishment of markets for locally produced foods in some of Thailand's rural areas.

Beth is also an expert sailor with 19 years of experience as a member of a Los Angeles crew for international cruises and races. One of the highlights of her sailing experience includes sailing from California to Tahiti.

Mr. Speaker I wish to honor Beth Guislin, upon her retirement from the University of California, for her compassion and dedication to education. Her actions serve as an example of how to live life to the fullest, while selflessly giving back to those in need here and around the world. I join the University in commending Beth for her leadership in instructional computing and international public service, and I extend my sincere best wishes for her retirement and future endeavors.

HONORING VINCENT J. TONUCCI  
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a dear friend, the Honorable Vincent J. Tonucci. Retiring just last year after 9 terms as the State Representative for Connecticut's 104th District, Vinny has dedicated a lifetime of hard work and dedication to the Naugatuck Valley.

In his 18 years as a State Representative, Vinny has a long and proud history of legislative accomplishments for his District and the state of Connecticut. Sponsoring and introducing legislation aimed at improving the quality of life for children, defending the environment, protecting health care for seniors, and providing for local economic development, Vinny was dedicated to ensuring that a variety of important issues were debated and addressed. Throughout his nine terms in Connecticut's General Assembly, Vinny developed a distinguished reputation as a public official—accessible to his constituents and fighting for their best interests. His career has been a reflection of all that an elected representative should be.

Vinny's remarkable commitment to community and public service extends well beyond

his time in the General Assembly. Prior to his election to Connecticut's House of Representatives, he served on the Board of Alderman in the City of Derby as well as a member of the Naugatuck Valley Capitol Planning Committee. Among the many local service organizations which benefit from his good work, Vinny is a member of the Webster Hose Fire Department, St. Michael's Society of Ansonia, Derby Elk's Lodge, and the Valley Association of Realtors. He also serves on the consulting committee at Emmett O'Brien Regional Vocational School, the Board of Directors of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys & Girls Club, the Birmingham Group of Ansonia, and the Valley United Way. Vinny is a tireless advocate—always ready to lend a helping hand and a powerful voice on behalf of the businesses, organizations, residents, and families of the Naugatuck Valley.

Through his good work as an elected official and community volunteer, his warmth, compassion, and generosity made a difference not only in the communities that he represented, but for families across Connecticut. For his many years of outstanding public service, I am proud to stand today to join his wife, Cindy, daughters, Cara and Christa, family, friends, constituents, and the communities of Derby and Ansonia in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Honorable Vincent J. Tonucci. He has left an indelible mark on this community and a legacy that will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND CAREER  
OF ACTRESS ANNE BANCROFT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the distinguished life and career of actress and friend Anne Bancroft.

Anne's legendary career spanned more than 50 years and included honors and awards for roles performed in film, television, and on the stage. Most notable among these were her Oscar, Emmy, and Tony awards, an accomplishment achieved by only a select few.

Born to a family of Italian immigrants on September 17, 1931, in the Bronx, New York, Anne quickly developed a love for performance. By the time she was 4-years-old, Anne was already taking dance and acting lessons. When she was 9, she famously wrote on a fence behind her childhood home, "I want to be an actress." Little could she have known then what a splendid acting career lie in front of her.

After studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, she moved to Hollywood in 1950 to pursue her dream. Her first film, "Don't Bother to Knock" in 1952 starred Marilyn Monroe and Richard Widmark. It was her role in 1962's "The Miracle Worker," however, that really launched Anne on the path to becoming an acting legend. She famously portrayed Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's dedicated and truly determined teacher. For her effort, she was rewarded with the Academy Award for Best Actress. 1967's "The Graduate" is the film that sealed Anne Bancroft's place in

American popular culture. Co-starring with Dustin Hoffman, she became the very embodiment of the character of Mrs. Robinson. Mike Nichols, the film's director, recently remarked that Anne's "beauty was constantly shifting with her roles, and because she was a consummate actress, she changed radically for every part." Additionally, Arthur Penn, who directed her in both the stage and film versions of "The Miracle Worker," said that she was an actress who "can play anything." I can think of no higher complement that can be said of an actor.

Anne's death is truly a loss to American culture. Fortunately, her wonderfully-talented performances will live on for future generations to watch and enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Anne Bancroft whose life and legacy has been a source of enjoyment for so many. My thoughts and prayers are with Anne's beloved husband, director Mel Brooks, and son, Maximilian.

HONORING MARY ANN KECKLER,  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a hard-working woman, Mrs. Mary Ann Keckler, who is dedicated to supporting local veterans. Hernando County is fortunate to have Mrs. Keckler in our community.

Mrs. Keckler served in the United States Navy from 1959–1962. She currently heads Hernando County's Veteran Affairs Roundtable and is commander of the local Disabled American Veterans.

Mrs. Keckler has joined forces with Hillsborough County veterans advocates to raise money for Operation Haley House, the local version of the Fisher House. Donations to Operation Haley House will provide the families of injured American soldiers a place to stay when visiting loved ones undergoing long-term rehabilitation. Many area families are faced with the high costs of expensive room and board when visiting relatives at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa. Plans are currently under way to begin building what will be known as the Haley House to elevate this costly burden on military families.

Mary Ann's efforts to improve the lives of injured American soldiers and their families deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Mary Ann Keckler, and to honor her for working with our local veterans.

PREMATURE BIRTH: A SILENT,  
GROWING HEALTH CRISIS

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, prematurity is a serious and growing problem in the United States. It is the number one cause of infant death in the first month of life. In February

2004, the National Center for Health Statistics reported the first increase in the U.S. infant mortality rate since 1958.

Prematurity has enormous human, societal, and economic costs. Sadly, premature infants are 14 times more likely to die in their first year of life, and premature births account for nearly 24 percent of deaths in the first month of life. The estimated charges for hospital stays for premature and low-birth weight infants were \$15,000,000,000 in 2002, and the average lifetime medical costs for a premature baby are conservatively estimated at \$500,000. About 25 percent of the youngest and smallest babies live with long-term health problems, including cerebral palsy, blindness, chronic respiratory problems, and other chronic conditions. A study published in 2002 by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that children born prematurely are at greater risk for lower cognitive test scores and behavioral problems when compared to full-term children.

Although we've made vast improvements in treating premature infants, we've had little success in understanding and preventing premature birth, and the knowledge that we have gained has not been translated into improved perinatal outcomes. The three known risk factors for preterm labor most consistently identified by experts are multiple fetal pregnancies, a past history of preterm delivery, and some uterine and/or cervical abnormalities. Other possible risk factors are chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity in the mother, certain infections during pregnancy, and cigarette smoking, alcohol use, or illicit drug use during pregnancy. But as the science stands now, nearly 50 percent of all premature births have no known cause.

That is why today, my colleague Rep. ANNA ESHOO and I are introducing the bipartisan Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early or PREEMIE Act. The Preemie Act calls on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to "expand, intensify, and coordinate" research related to prematurity. It formally authorizes the Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Network—which includes university-based clinical centers and a data coordination center—through which perinatal studies to improve maternal and fetal outcomes are conducted. It also authorizes the Neonatal Research Network to improve the care and outcomes of newborns. The bill will ensure better coordination on prematurity research priorities across federal agencies and also includes provisions for disseminating information on prematurity to health professionals and the public and for establishing family support programs to respond to the needs of families with babies in neonatal intensive care units.

I encourage my colleagues to join Rep. ESHOO and me in cosponsoring and strongly supporting the enactment of the PREEMIE Act.

## REPAIRING YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD—OBSTETRIC FISTULA

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the distinguished Member from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY, with whom I have had the pleasure of working along side ever since we were first elected at the end of the 102nd Congress. She has always been a true champion for women's rights and human rights, and I thank her for bringing this important issue to the awareness of the Congress.

You may or may not know that the World Health Organization estimates that at least two million women and girls around the world currently suffer from obstetric fistula, with an additional 50,000 to 100,000 cases happening each year. Obstetric fistula, a debilitating pregnancy related condition mainly affects girls ages 15–19. The condition occurs during childbirth when the infant's head presses against the woman's vagina and rectum, creating a formidable hole in vital tissue areas around the pelvis, resulting in loss of control of the bladder, bowels and nerve damage to the mother's legs. The prolonged labor almost always results in a high rate of infant mortality.

Beyond the significant health related risks that I have just outlined concerning this condition, there are also some societal factors that further debilitate these women. Many women with fistula are abandoned by their husbands and families because of the resultant odor and infertility. In effect, they become social outcasts because of the stigma associated with the disease, through no fault of their own.

As I stated before, approximately, two million women suffer from this condition. However, studies conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and EngenderHealth reveal that these figures are grossly underestimated. For example, in Nigeria alone, close to one million women suffer from the disease although these figures are based solely on patients who seek and report treatment in medical facilities only. This statistic clearly disregards the many cases that go unreported and untreated in the region.

A key factor concerning this issue is that fistula is a preventable and curable disease. One form of prevention is a Caesarean section, which costs a mere 60 U.S. dollars. Surgery to repair fistula has an uncharacteristically high success rate of 90 percent even after a woman has had the condition for several years. Most women are either unaware that treatment is available or simply cannot afford it. Surely this cost is worth the value as success rates have proven to be extremely high.

Funding to treat this curable condition has been rescinded by the current Administration. The \$34 million in funds for the UNFPA that could save the lives of women and children around the world have been withheld causing more women and children to suffer.

We are here today to introduce the "Repairing Young Women's Lives Around the World Act," which would provide that the voluntary U.S. contribution of \$34 million to UNFPA for the fiscal year of 2006 and subsequent years, will be directed to UNFPA to be used only for prevention, treatment and repair of obstetric

fistula. The UNFPA serves as a vital institution for providing crucial family planning and health services to women in developing countries.

In closing, I would like to briefly remind you of some key points that summarize the severity of the issue.

Treatment to correct the condition has a 90-percent success rate.

For every child who dies from pregnancy complications, 15 to 30 women live and suffer chronic disabilities, the most acute of which is obstetric fistula.

It is estimated that there are 100,000 new fistula cases each year, but the international capacity to treat fistula remains at only 6,500 per year.

I fully support this issue because it brings attention to one of the failed maternal health systems around the world. Fistula is virtually unknown in places where early pregnancy is discouraged, women are educated, family planning is accessible and skilled medical care is available. I feel that eradication of this problem in developing countries is a goal that the U.S. should work to make a reality.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RICHARD "DICK" SMYSER

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2005*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted and well-respected Tennessean, Mr. Richard "Dick" Smyser. Dick passed away on March 14th of this year at the age of 81. His deep devotion to his community and to the well-being of everyone leaves a legacy carried on by the lives he touched.

Mr. Smyser was born and raised in York, Pennsylvania, before graduating in 1944 from Pennsylvania State College with a degree in journalism. His dream to pursue writing, however, was put aside to answer a greater call. In 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with distinction overseas in Algeria and Italy rising to the rank of corporal.

Upon returning to Pennsylvania, Mr. Smyser continued on the path he had left and began reporting news for The Chester Times, now The Delaware County Times. In 1948, Dick was named managing editor of The Oak Ridger, the first and only newspaper in the small East Tennessee town of Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was created for the important work on the World War II bomb, commonly referred to as the Manhattan project. He was a pioneer and helped shape Oak Ridge into the town it is today.

With a large number of scientists living and working in the area, Mr. Smyser became active in science writing circles, with a focus on nuclear science. For eighteen years he served on the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing's board of directors. He was a member of numerous media and science boards and a highly sought after speaker and panelist.

Under Mr. Smyser's leadership, The Oak Ridger grew substantially and won numerous awards and accolades for its coverage of the transformation of Oak Ridge. His contribution not only to the development of journalism in East Tennessee but to the entire community is