

that makes this kind gentleman and master scientist most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING BUTCH HICKS FOR
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Westminster City Councilman Butch Hicks. Butch's efforts have greatly helped Adams County Coloradans and he deserves recognition for the many contributions he has made to public service.

Butch and Julia Hicks have been activist citizens. They exemplify what it means for people to participate in democracy, and although they are active Democrats, it is not Butch's partisan work that causes me to acknowledge him, but rather, his boundless enthusiasm for community service.

I am proud to know Butch and have counted him as a friend and advisor on many issues. His official duties as a member of the Westminster City Council have included many projects that we care about, including improving watersheds, parks and recreational opportunities in Colorado's Second Congressional District.

Butch was appointed to the Westminster City Council in 1999 and was elected to serve a 2-year term. He was then re-elected in November 2001 to serve a 4-year term. In addition to the City Council, Butch also serves in the Adams County Democrats as treasurer and on the Permanent Organization Committee, the Colorado State Democrats and the State Outreach Committee. Civil rights is a very important issue to Butch and drives him to monitor civil rights problems in Colorado and Westminster. He is a member of the NAACP and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Butch's career in home improvement retail allowed him to travel across the United States and finally settle in Colorado. Once in Westminster, Butch became the department manager for Home Depot and now works for the Regional Transportation District. In his spare time Butch promotes youth awareness and volunteers for battered women shelters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in acknowledging Mr. Butch Hicks for touching the community in far-reaching ways. In a time when public faith in our political system is faltering, we should recognize that there are people like Butch who have an innate devotion to furthering the progress of their communities. I'm proud to offer warm congratulations to Butch, to honor his achievements, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors. He stands out as a symbol of hope, optimism and generosity in public service.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL
DANIEL MCVICKER

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Daniel McVicker,

a constituent from my district who died on October 6th when the humvee he was driving was hit by a roadside bomb. Daniel joined the Marines in 2003 and was serving in Iraq by providing security for convoys.

Daniel was a graduate of West Branch High School where he was active in chorale and many of the school's plays. The community fondly remembers him as always smiling and as having the ability to brighten everyone's day.

He showed true courage and the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life in the pursuit for freedom and security. He is a hero and through his memory, continues to brighten the lives of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his parents and all of his family and friends who are mourning the loss of his life.

I pray for the safe return of all of our servicemen and women and thank them for the sacrifice they make every day defending our country.

HONORING CITIGROUP

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citigroup and commend them on their leadership in aiding Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts during the recovery and rebuilding of the affected area.

Citigroup and Citigroup Foundation donated \$2 million to Habitat for Humanity International in support of "Operation Home Delivery." In addition to a \$1 million immediate donation, the Citigroup Foundation is matching eligible Citigroup employee donations dollar for dollar to the American Red Cross up to \$3 million, for a potential total of \$7 million.

Hundreds of Citigroup volunteers are building and helping to organize the Habitat for Humanity build in Humanity Plaza where NBC News' "Today" show hosted the construction of Habitat homes as part of Make a Difference Today. In addition, to help the Red Cross in its nationwide telethon on September 9th, calls were routed to Citigroup call centers in St. Louis, Dallas and Jacksonville. Over 900 Citigroup employees answered more than 8,500 calls and helped to raise over \$900,000.

Citigroup is committed to working with affected customers to alleviate the temporary financial impact of this disaster. They are implementing business-specific initiatives for customers in FEMA designated Individual Assistance Areas including deferred and eliminated interest and payments, elimination of interest and fees on current and delinquent accounts, suspension of collection calls and negative credit bureau reporting, implementation of disaster credit line increases, no foreclosures on mortgages, and other solutions as appropriate.

At the Citi Cards site in Boise, Idaho, where I recently visited, employees donated more than \$139,000 to the United Way of Treasure Valley during their 2006 pacesetter campaign in July. Site President Tod Wingfield said, "The strength of an organization comes from the people within it. The same holds true for the health of a community. We are so proud to have employees who demonstrate their

passion and generosity for others by contributing to programs that benefit so many people in our valley. This sense of community and sincere desire to help others is part of what makes Citi a great place to work." Citi Cards presented a check to United Way and recognized employees at the United Way Community Campaign Kick-off event in August.

I want to thank and congratulate Citigroup and employees for their commitment to building strong communities.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, over \$1.6 trillion is spent on health care annually in the U.S., which is over 13% of the GDP. According to the National Coalition on Health Care, U.S. health care spending increased to \$1.7 trillion in 2003 and was projected to reach \$1.8 trillion in 2004. Furthermore, our country spent 15.3% of the GDP on health care in 2003 and a projected increase of 18.7% is expected within the next 10 years.

Even though the U.S. spends more on health care than any other industrialized nation, and those countries provide universal health coverage to all of their citizens, approximately 45 million Americans are uninsured. Nevertheless, the U.S. remains the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee health care for all of its citizens.

Clearly, universal health care is needed for all American citizens and a universal health care plan is certainly in the best economic interest of our country.

When one considers that health care spending accounted for only 9.7% of the GDP in our sister nation Canada, it becomes apparent that we are not best managing our resources and serving the interest of our Nation as a whole.

As members of Congress we are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting and advancing the Nation's health. It is a given that health care costs are rising for all American citizens. Let us not deceive ourselves. We are all interconnected as human beings and the health status of one impacts the health status of all regardless of one's ability to pay for health services or not.

Disease, especially communicable and infectious, has no boundaries. The current health disparities and unnecessary suffering experienced by vulnerable populations such as the poor, elderly, uninsured, women and children and racial and ethnic minorities is outright immoral. It is a national disgrace and international embarrassment that America, a country with astounding wealth and means, chooses not to provide universal health care to her citizens while her sister country Canada does so for her citizens, as does the country of Cuba whose wealth is not even comparable to that of the U.S. and other industrialized nations.

I urge Congress today to fully assume its responsibility as the defender of our Nation's health, and exercise its political will and sincerely work towards the implementation of a universal health care system and guarantee universal health care as a right for all American citizens.