

IN TRIBUTE TO LEONARD SYKES

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Leonard Sykes, Jr., a highly respected, deeply principled and thoroughly knowledgeable Milwaukee journalist. Mr. Sykes died September 17, after suffering a stroke earlier this summer.

Mr. Sykes dedicated his professional life to ensuring that the practice of journalism in Milwaukee and across the country should grow to reflect the full range of life in communities of color. He came to Milwaukee in 1986, having already established a strong journalism career with stints at Jet Magazine and the Waukegan, IL, News-Sun. During his tenure at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, he covered issues that were at the heart of the urban, African American experience, including civil rights, poverty, job training, and anti-violence efforts. He was dedicated to highlighting community efforts that helped hold families and neighborhoods together. A one-time city editor at the Journal Sentinel, he was working as urban affairs reporter at the time of his death.

An award-winning journalist and consummate professional, Mr. Sykes was known throughout the Milwaukee area for bringing dignity and passion to his work. His writing never failed to highlight a keen understanding of the issues. His unique insights derived from skillful research and encyclopedic knowledge of Milwaukee and its people. His no-nonsense approach to the issues sometimes touched a nerve with policymakers, power brokers, and the community at large. Perhaps because of his commitment to seeking truth and airing out the assumptions that underlay conventional wisdom, his work was well respected among the powerful and disenfranchised alike.

As chair of the Journal Sentinel's Minority Caucus, and through his work with the Wisconsin Association of Black Journalists, Mr. Sykes endeavored to expand coverage of communities of color across the state and throughout the country. Notwithstanding this effort—and the glimpse it afforded into the African American community—his reach, focus and scope transcended race. I will miss his powerful intellect and his commitment to using his position to speak truth to power. His death leaves a void not only in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newsroom, but in the Milwaukee community as a whole.

HONORING THE PLAINVILLE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON  
ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the leadership and congregates of the Plainville United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

Every day, the members of the Plainville United Methodist Church give testament to the

church's mission to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church through their prayers, presence, gifts and service.

This mission began in the late 1870s when "The People called Methodist" began their witness in Plainville. A tent was used as their place of worship while the church was constructed. On December 26, 1881, the cornerstone was laid for the old building on Canal and Broad Streets, and the edifice was made ready for occupancy on November 15 of the following year.

For many families and communities, the beliefs held and shared in places of worship play an important role in their daily lives. The congregation of the United Methodist Church has proven through the years that its faith is as firm and unshakeable as the foundation of the building in which it worships today. I hope that the 125th anniversary celebration represents the beginning of many more years of worship and community for the Plainville United Methodist Church and the many individuals and families who comprise its congregation.

HONORING ERIKSON INSTITUTE'S  
40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Erikson Institute of Chicago on its 40th anniversary. The Erikson Institute is an innovative institution dedicated to cultivating superior early childhood educators of minority and low-income children. The Erikson Institute was founded as a response to increased government programs for early childhood education. With the inception of the Head Start program in 1965, three esteemed child advocates—Maria Peirs, Lorraine Wallach, and Barbara Taylor Bowman—recognized the need for quality early child educators, especially those trained to teach minority and low-income children. Erikson Institute, with financial help from Irving B. Harris, opened its doors in 1966 and has upheld its commitment to excellence throughout the past four decades.

Erikson's mission of ensuring that every adult who works with young children is knowledgeable, aware, and skilled is more important now than ever. Early childhood education is especially important to low-income children. Therefore we know that prekindergarten programs have a positive impact on the cognitive performance of children living in poverty. A critical component in the process of educating young children is having well-trained teachers. In 2001, 72 percent of all urban public school elementary students in prekindergarten programs came from families classified as low-income by the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study. This study also found that roughly half, 51 percent, were minority students. In Chicago there are 19,053 pre-school students, 2,659 of which are special needs children. The 7th District of Illinois, my congressional district, is home to 11,966 pre-school students. Clearly, there is a need for quality early childhood educators. The Erikson Institute fulfills an important role in training these instructors.

Graduates of the Erikson Institute have learned every aspect of childhood develop-

ment. Not only does the Erikson Institute provide a superior education, they also conduct important research on the needs of young children. Professors and researchers at Erikson are committed to sharing their knowledge with both the academic community and the general public. The Erikson Institute is dedicated to outcomes—understanding what works and how—as well as the repetition of successful models. The Erikson Institute's formula for success has greatly benefited numerous programs in the Chicago area, including: Early Head Start; Chicago Public Schools; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Early Childhood Unit; and Children's Place Project to name a few. Their impact is felt nationwide with over 2,500 graduates a year working in various regions of the country.

Mr. Speaker, as W.E.B. DuBois once said, "We must insist upon this, to give our children the fairness of a start which will equip them with such an array of facts and such an attitude toward truth that they can have a real chance to judge what the world and what its greater minds have thought it might be." It is my great honor to commend the Erikson Institute on four decades of excellence in training those who educate our youngest children.

NATIONAL PSORIASIS  
FOUNDATION

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Psoriasis Foundation and of August as Psoriasis Awareness Month to bring much-needed attention to an often overlooked and serious disease that affects constituents in each of our districts. According to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, as many as 7.5 million Americans are affected by psoriasis—a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Ten to thirty percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. Psoriasis is widely misunderstood, minimized and undertreated. In addition to the pain, itching and bleeding caused by psoriasis, many affected individuals also experience social discrimination and stigma. Many people also mistakenly believe psoriasis to be contagious. Psoriasis typically first strikes between the ages of 15 and 25 and lasts a lifetime. As such, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis impose significant burden on individuals and society; together they cost the Nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in treatments each year.

Despite the serious adverse effects that psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have on individuals, families and society, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are underrecognized and underfunded by our Nation's research institutions. The NIH has spent less than \$1 per person with psoriasis on average each of the last 10 years. At the historical and current rate of psoriasis funding, NIH funding is not keeping pace with research needs. The scientific advisors of the National Psoriasis Foundation believe that between 5 and 10 additional psoriasis-specific investigator-initiated research