

his undergraduate education in premedical studies. This education, however, was interrupted by his military service in the Army which lasted from 1953–1955. During this time period, he served as an operations sergeant in the U.S. Army, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Upon the completion of this service, Mr. Coronado finished his undergraduate education and became an assistant principal and science teacher at Hebbbronville High School.

In 1962, Mr. Coronado began his illustrious career with the Veterans Administration as an administrative officer with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston, TX. He worked his way up the ranks as a devoted civil servant until 1975, when he became the director of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio. He served in that capacity for 20 years, until he was named director of the STVHCS in 1995.

Mr. Coronado's unyielding devotion to his career can only be matched by his commitment to the community. Throughout the span of his career, he has participated in a number of organizations in a wide range of capacities. Currently, he is a member of the Medical Research Public Awareness Committee, he is chair of the Graduate Healthcare Administration Training Program, GHATP, Board, he is on the Board of Contributors for the San Antonio United Way, and he is a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives, ACHE. Furthermore, he is an adjunct professor at both the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the University of Houston, Clear Lake. He is also affiliate faculty within Trinity University's Department of Health Care Administration.

Mr. Coronado's efforts have made a positive impact on the organizations he serves as well as the individual lives that he has touched. This impact has been recognized by awards presented to him by three separate Presidents. Most recently, Mr. Coronado was bestowed Modern Healthcare Magazine "Top 25 Minority Health Care Executive" award and the Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs "Exemplary Service Award."

I believe that Mr. Coronado has consistently demonstrated incomparable leadership abilities and a selflessness reserved for the truly great public servants. He has given so much in service to our military and to the countless veterans who have benefited from his direction. In fact, generations of military personnel have been positively impacted by the efforts he has made throughout his career.

On behalf of the brave men and women of the military, the staff of the facilities over which Mr. Coronado led, and the citizens of South Texas, I want to say thank you. Thank you Mr. Coronado for the sacrifices you have made to better the lives of others. Thank you for your commitment in service to this great Nation. And thank you for showing us what can be achieved through hard work, vision, and a strong sense of purpose. While Mr. Coronado's retirement is certainly well-deserved, his presence will no doubt be missed in our community.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OMNIBUS AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 25, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act, a major bill to assist the District of Columbia in carrying out timely and critical operational responsibilities, received final approval as a result of House passage this evening and is on its way to the President for his signature. The DC Omnibus Authorization Act, sponsored by Government Reform Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS and me, includes permanent mid-year budget autonomy in a collection of crucial provisions that have been approved or passed by the District, but must come to Congress before becoming law. The most important omnibus authorization provision, long sought by the District since home rule was granted, allows the city to spend local funds without coming back to Congress for approval through the congressional mid-year supplemental appropriations process. We worked hard to convince appropriators to implement this critical change for the first time beginning this year, but the provision in today's bill is needed to authorize mid-year budget autonomy permanently. This is the first structural change in the original Home Rule Act since it was enacted over 30 years ago and brings the city close to obtaining full budget autonomy. It is impossible to overestimate the hardship to this or any city of being unable to carry on normal business and engage in fiscal transactions—from spending local revenue already in the bank for vital city needs to floating baseball stadium bonds—without coming to Congress. Budget autonomy from the congressional supplemental process essentially enacts part of the DC Budget Autonomy Act that Chairman DAVIS and I have introduced to give the District greater freedom from the annual congressional appropriations process that redundantly requires the District's balanced budget to come to the Congress before it becomes effective.

The Omnibus Authorization Act includes many other vital provisions, including one that gives greater city control and use of reserve funds—up to 50 percent—with specific procedures for reimbursement. The District's sound fiscal practices, along with limitations required by Congress, have led to an impressive reserve fund. However, residents watched the neglect of basic services and continued to send their children to dilapidated public school buildings while the District grew an ever larger reserve fund that could not be tapped. As a result of work with appropriators last year, DC already is spending part of its reserves that had been piling up.

Both the House and the Senate approved an omnibus authorization bill earlier this session. However, the House needs to approve the Senate version that added provisions not in the House bill. The new provisions include: a change in the fiscal year that the District of Columbia Public Schools requested; permission for the DC libraries to accept gifts—currently only the Mayor's office can receive them; enhanced dental and vision benefits for court employees; and a requirement that with-

in 1 year of congressional passage, the District must start using a metered system for taxicabs, unless the Mayor signs an executive order opting out. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLINTON KIRK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to Mr. Clinton Kirk, a constituent of mine who has dedicated the past 20 years of his life to staying healthy and fit.

Mr. Kirk resides in Valley, Alabama, and is in his eighth decade of life. He is known around the area as the Walking Man. Kirk says when he began his walking in 1986, he would walk around 5 to 6 miles a day in the early morning. Twenty years later, he says he now walks about a mile a day and says he attributes his good health to his walking habit. Amazingly, Mr. Kirk has walked over 50,000 miles since 1986, the year he began keeping a daily log of the distance he covers.

I salute Mr. Kirk for his continued efforts to exercise and stay healthy, and commend him at this milestone for serving as an example for us all to take care of ourselves and stay fit.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4844, FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 4844, Republican legislation that would suppress voter participation by mandating burdensome new voter identification requirements. This bill is similar to State laws that have recently been struck down as unconstitutional conditions to voting.

H.R. 4844 is a discriminatory political ploy. No empirical data of voter fraud exists that justifies such onerous new mandates. The bill requires individuals to have a State or Federally approved photo identification in order to vote in federal elections in 2008 and to provide documented proof of citizenship by 2010. For those voting by mail, H.R. 4844 requires a photocopy of identification to be sent with the absentee ballot. In reality, the legislation would disenfranchise millions of American citizens who do not possess the required identification.

Not surprisingly, those who will struggle most to comply with this bill are the same citizens the Voting Rights Act is designed to protect: racial and ethnic minorities, students, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, Americans living in rural areas, the homeless and low-income citizens. This burden will be overwhelming for many Native Americans, particularly elders and those living in remote areas, or those that use primarily tribal identification.