

employer medical costs increased 72 percent between 2000 and 2006. Some companies report spending more than 50 percent of their profits to cover these expenses. Employers are also increasingly bearing costs of diet-related chronic disease and obesity. For example, obesity-related health conditions cost employers approximately \$33 billion in health care and other indirect costs. However, proactive treatment would significantly reduce costs. The proactive treatment of hypertension costs about \$1,000 per year, whereas treatment for a heart attack costs a minimum of \$50,000, not including the costs which result from the time off and loss of productivity.

Employer spending on health promotion and chronic disease prevention is a good investment in our future. And this legislation targets primarily smaller and mid-sized companies who would otherwise have difficulty making the initial investment needed to support such programs. Workplace wellness programs are economical, averaging \$30 to \$200 per employee and studies have reported a proven rate of return on investment within 12 to 18 months, ranging from \$2 to \$10 for each dollar invested.

Adaptable lifestyle factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, unmanaged stress, and obesity account for approximately half of premature deaths in the United States. Spending on chronic diseases related to lifestyle and other preventable diseases accounts for an estimated 75 percent of total healthcare spending and it is estimated that by 2014 our country's total health care expenditures will be \$3.6 trillion.

Clearly we cannot continue down this path. We must shift the focus of our nation's health care system to prevention and wellness programs. In so doing, we can reduce health care costs, improve health, improve quality of life, and boost productivity. Unfortunately, a very small percentage of health care spending is devoted to health promotion. The national investment in prevention is currently estimated to be less than 5 percent of annual health care costs. Our Nation needs a new approach to healthcare—one that puts prevention front and center.

The Healthy Workforce Act is one piece of the larger reform needed to our Nation's health care system. But it is a critical piece. By providing incentives for America's businesses to provide wellness programs for employees, they and their employees can focus on chronic disease prevention and health promotion, reduce health care costs, boost productivity, and improve the health and quality of life of working Americans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in seeking a more effective approach to preventing chronic diseases and providing incentives for employers and employees facing rising health care costs by cosponsoring the Healthy Workforce Act.

IN MEMORY OF BILL WIRTZ

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of a constituent and one of the most beloved people in the Chicagoland

area—Bill Wirtz. Last week, Mr. Wirtz passed after a battle with cancer at the age of 77.

Most knew him as the president of the Chicago Blackhawks, where he worked for the last 41 years. However, his fame in sporting circles was only surpassed by his infinite kindness and generosity. Through his direction, the Chicago Blackhawks Charities donated more than \$7.5 million since 1993 to various organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs. He also was renowned for his compassion toward his employees, treating them like members of his family.

The crowds at his visitation and funeral demonstrated the high regard that thousands had for Mr. Wirtz and his accomplishments.

I know I speak for the entire district when I send my deepest sympathies to his wife Alice, sons Rocky and Peter, daughters Gail, Karey and Alyson and his seven grandchildren. His memory will live on through the institutions he helped create and those whose lives he touched. It is because of this that his passion and dedication will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 1, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 185, H.R. 2276, and H.R. 3325.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 924 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 185, Commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 925 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2276, the Corporal Christopher E. Eskelson Post Office Building Designation, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 926 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3325, the Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office Designation, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA ENGINE COMPANY 52'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Philadelphia Fire Department's Engine Company 52 on celebrating its 100th anniversary. Since 1907, a dedicated unit of firefighters has served the Wissinoming community in the lower Northeast section of Philadelphia from this same location. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

In Philadelphia 271 years ago, Benjamin Franklin established the first Fire Department in America. He noted that once a fire was "cried out, active community members would with one mind apply themselves with all vigilance and resolution . . . to the hard work of

conquering the increasing fire." From this beginning, he developed societies of firefighters to attend to all fires in their neighborhoods. These companies formed the basis of the firefighting and fire prevention efforts of our city's current Fire Department.

Engine Company 52, originally known as the Wissinoming Fire Company, was dedicated to serving the community along a tributary of the Delaware River. Originally housed in a large red brick two-story building at Jackson and Van Kirk Streets, the top floor of the fire company was the home of the neighborhood school. Behind the building was a stable for the horses that pulled the firefighting equipment and a tower where fire hoses were hung to drain and dry. As the community grew, so did the fire company still known as "The Fifty-Two's." In 1951, the city built a new firehouse on the site. Today, Engine 52 is known as "Pipeline 52" because of its large capacity equipment used to supply water to other companies when major fires occur; in more recent years "Medic 32", an Emergency Medical Service unit has been added.

Today, the "Fifty-TooZ"—as they call themselves—serve a residential and business community, protecting the lives of those who live and work in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. As in the days of Benjamin Franklin, they "apply themselves with all vigilance and resolution," as well as dedication and courage, to protect their community.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the members of Engine Company 52 for their service, dedication and sacrifice. I look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring another 100 years of success, safety and security.

STABILITY FOR SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, the issue of stability in southeastern Europe is once again high on the world's agenda. In December, issues concerning the status of Kosovo will again come to the fore. Regional stability is tied closely, but not inextricably, to these issues. As we approach the winter months, it is important that our southeastern European friends be strong internally so that they can be producers of stability and not consumers of it.

Our friend, the Republic of Macedonia, is one such producer of stability. Time and again, it has proved itself a great friend and ally of the United States of America. Time and again, it has proven itself a friend to neighboring states. Time and again, it has stepped up to the plate and provided support to the United States in the War on Terrorism by providing soldiers to serve alongside our own troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Time and again, it has worked with and voted with the United States on important resolutions in the United Nations.

Unfortunately, our friend Greece has not been so supportive of the Republic of Macedonia. In 1993 and again in 1995, Greece imposed economic sanctions on Macedonia because Greece claims, entirely and exclusively, the word "Macedonia." Despite the fact

that Macedonia changed its flag and constitution to allay Greece's fears, today the Hellenic Republic continues to object to countries and international institutions recognizing the Republic of Macedonia by its constitutional name.

Without going into great detail on this subject, it is important to note that the Macedonians do not claim exclusivity over the word "Macedonia" and do not in fact object to Greece using it in any way it sees fit.

There are now 118 countries around the world recognizing the Republic of Macedonia by its rightful and constitutional name, including Russia, China and, I am proud to say, the United States of America. Just last month, Canada became the latest country to recognize the Republic of Macedonia. We did the right thing when we recognized the Republic of Macedonia in November 2004, and I am grateful for the President's leadership in righting a historic wrong.

This past summer, the now former Greek Ambassador to Macedonia was sacked by her own government for admitting that Greece should agree to a double-name formula, something the Macedonians have been arguing for since Greece first raised objections.

The relationship between Macedonian and Greek citizens could not be stronger. Greek businessmen conduct a large amount of business in Macedonia and have no problem with the name. In September, the Republic of Macedonia waived the requirement for Greeks to bring their passports when they come to visit Macedonia. Today, Greeks simply need an identity card. Macedonians in turn spend much of their vacation time in Greece during the summer months. The two countries cooperate on many other issues and enjoy good relations.

It is time for our Greek friends to allow the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia to enjoy their sovereign right to determine the name of their own country. It is time for Greece to drop its objections in the political arena, and to leave to the historians debates about Alexander the Great and the ancient Macedonians.

We live in the here and the now, and it is time to move forward. Our Greek friends enjoy pointing out their contributions to modern-day democracy and for that we thank them. Let them now contribute in their longstanding tradition of supporting democratic values by allowing the people of the Republic of Macedonia to call themselves by what they have always called themselves and by dropping their objections to a country that only desires friendship and has proven itself as a great friend and ally.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ALTHEA GIBSON BECOMING THE FIRST PERSON OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ANCESTRY TO WIN THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP AND WIMBLEDON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to honor the 50th anniversary of Ms. Althea Gibson becoming the first African American to win the

U.S. Championship and Wimbledon. Her accomplishments signified a change in our Nation's climate in which racial discrimination was challenged on the tennis court and in the Supreme Court. The 50th anniversary of Althea Gibson's victory at the U.S. Championship and Wimbledon is worthy of congressional recognition, and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating an extraordinary woman, and an extraordinary chapter in U.S. history.

The eldest daughter of sharecroppers who moved from South Carolina to Harlem during the Depression, Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927 in Silver, South Carolina. She had one primary desire: to be somebody. Thirty years later, Queen Elizabeth II presented her with the Championship trophy at Wimbledon, and Vice President Richard Nixon presented Althea Gibson with the United States Championship trophy at Forest Hills. By the end of her career, she won nearly 100 awards for tennis, and defeated men and women on nearly every continent in a sport that was historically restricted from people of her race and class. Althea Gibson was accurate when she declared that she had come "a long way from being forced to sit in the colored section of the bus." In an era of gender and racial discrimination, this African American woman was an international celebrity and a symbol of excellence and determination in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement.

Madam Speaker, Althea Gibson defied prejudiced conceptions of female and African American athletes from the time she played racket ball in the streets of Harlem until the time she competed in the world's most prestigious competitions. Her undeniable talent not only moved people across lines of race and class to support Gibson in her relentless desire to succeed, but also moved people to change the rules that maintained systems of inequality. In 1949, she attended my alma mater, Florida A&M University, on a full athletic scholarship due to the guidance and support of a New York doctor and his wife. Gibson received what the vast majority of African American women could not: an education. As white and black high profile athletes endorsed Gibson, people began to question if integration was an inevitable occurrence that would benefit tennis as it had benefited basketball, football, baseball. On August 28, 1950, the face and rules of tennis changed, and Althea Gibson became the first African American to compete at the National Open.

Madam Speaker, Althea Gibson's great triumphs did not come without great peril and adversity. Although she was hailed as the Queen of Tennis, racial prejudice excluded her from lodging in the hotels that surrounded the arenas where she competed and defended her crown. Refusing to let prejudice, poverty, or consistent threats against her life compromise her drive to succeed, Gibson fought prejudice when she won on tennis courts that were previously segregated. An actress, musician, teacher and athlete, Althea Gibson was the quintessential Renaissance woman who refused to compromise her dignity and the dignity of her people on or off the court.

Althea Gibson continued to be a woman of firsts in the years that followed her tennis career. During the same year as the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Althea Gibson became the first African American member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. In

1971 Althea Gibson was the first African American to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame—the only African American woman of the 200 athletes who have received this honor in its 52 year history. Twenty years later, Althea Gibson became the first woman to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Award in 1991, the highest honor awarded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association for "symbolizing the best qualities of competitive excellence and good sportsmanship, and for her significant contribution to expanding opportunities for women and minorities through sports."

Madam Speaker, 4 years after her death, and 50 years after her win at the U.S. Championship and Wimbledon, Althea Gibson continues to be a universal example of strength and excellence. The Althea Gibson Foundation was established to support underprivileged youth in their drive to succeed in golf, tennis, and the classroom, and to ensure that Althea Gibson's legacy of excellence, tenacity, and dedication lives on. Her life affirms what many of us already know: Great athletes have the ability to unify and inspire beyond the realm of sports.

Althea Gibson famously said "In the field of sports you are more or less accepted for what you do rather than what you are." In a world plagued by poverty, segregation and racial prejudice, Althea Gibson saw sports as the epitome of what our country should be—a true meritocracy. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution to preserve the memory of Althea Gibson and other athletes who were pioneers in their time and inspirations for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, October 1, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 924 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 185), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 925 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2276), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 926 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3325).

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, floods are amongst the most frequent and costly national