

the 160th Anniversary of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, AME, Church in Atlanta. For 160 years, Big Bethel AME Church has been a leader in the Atlanta area and a cornerstone of the community. Big Bethel AME Church stands as one of the oldest and most successful churches in Atlanta, and continues its strong community work today. Big Bethel's anniversary, on October 21, 2007, is truly a day for celebration.

Big Bethel AME Church has a rich and remarkable history. After the Civil War ended slavery, Bethel Church joined the African Methodist Episcopal connection in 1865. The AME Church was founded by Richard Allen, a former slave who had purchased his freedom and started the AME Church partly in response to discrimination. Out of the AME church emerged schools, social welfare programs, character building campaigns and national leaders. Big Bethel AME Church was at the cutting edge of these programs and served as a platform for opportunity in the South, especially for African Americans. For example, in 1879, the Gate City Colored School, the first public school for African Americans in the city, was founded in the basement of Big Bethel. Big Bethel AME Church also played a key role in the early development and growth of Morris Brown College, with the college's first classes being held at the church. Throughout its history the pews of Big Bethel AME Church have held such eminent dignitaries as: Booker T. Washington (early 1900s), President William H. Taft (1911), Mary McLeod Bethune (1937), former Georgia governor and former President Jimmy Carter (1970), Nelson Mandela (1990), and, as a successful presidential candidate, William J. Clinton (1992).

Over the many years, trials and tribulations, successes and honors, Big Bethel AME Church has withstood the test of time. Big Bethel AME Church has been well served throughout its history by dedicated leaders, and active congregations. This tradition continues today under Reverend Gregory V. Eason, Sr., who I would like to recognize for his leadership in the community.

In conclusion, it is my belief that we must all dedicate ourselves to the idea of creating what Dr. Martin Luther King used to call the "Beloved Community." Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta has been building such a community for 160 years and I am excited for this community to grow and prosper for another 160 years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RODNEY ROBERTSON, MR. LARRY BURGER, AND DR. JAMES T. BLAKE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three patriots who labor in the nuanced field of missile technology for the United States: Dr. Rodney Robertson, Mr. Larry Burger, and Dr. James T. Blake.

Their work—individually and collectively—offers insight into why the United States is a world leader on the cutting edge technology that will determine the future of our nation.

Dr. Rodney Robertson is the Director, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Technology Cen-

ter where he directs the development of space and directed energy programs for support of Army forces worldwide.

Under his leadership, several notable programs were developed that will keep our Nation free and safe: a solid state laser to destroy artillery and rocket fire aimed at U.S. combat forces; a high altitude sensor to provide persistent surveillance and communications over large combat operations; general space-based information (including satellite communications, imagery distribution, and tracking of friendly and enemy forces).

Mr. Larry Burger is the Director of the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center where he leads efforts to bring space and missile defense capabilities and concepts to the men and women who fight in theatre.

His technical direction has brought the warfighter experimentation element at U.S. Army Strategic Command (ARSTRAT) in Colorado Springs together with the simulation and analysis capabilities of SMDC in Huntsville, AL to develop advanced warfighting techniques and procedures for the U.S. Army.

To accomplish this mission, Mr. Burger organized the Future Warfare Center into several novel divisions to bring new concepts and technologies to our warfighters. The Frontiers Division, which Mr. Burger also directs, looks carefully at the needs of the Army Future Force more than 15 years out. This division works with the U.S. Strategic Command and participates in wargames at that level.

Dr. James T. Blake is the U.S. Army Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, which provides modeling, simulation, training and testing to support the soldier in the field. This work informs the Army leadership and tactical commanders in the development of warfighting analysis and alternative solutions.

Dr. Blake joined the Army as a private in 1968 and retired as a Colonel in 1995. He is a Master Army Aviator and served as the Army's Senior Uniformed Army Scientist. After retirement, Dr. Blake joined Texas A&M University as the Program Manager for the Institute for Creative Technologies, an internationally recognized research Center for Advanced Modeling and Simulation.

Dr. Blake received his B.S. degree in accounting from University of Tampa, an M.S. degree in systems engineering from the Naval Post Graduate School, and a Ph.D. degree in computer science from Duke University.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring these great patriots for their work—past and present—which serves to keep the U.S. military the only superpower on the planet.

HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Stanislaus County Binational Health Week Committee upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 activities,

and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last 6 years. In 2006 those numbers grew to include: 31 states, 42 California cities, 1,014 activities, with about 3,000 agencies involved and an estimated 300,000 people reached. This year the event will take place throughout 31 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada. BHW has extended its outreach to include participation from 46 Mexican, 11 Guatemalan and 15 Salvadoran consulates.

With the efforts of all participating parties, BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of an underserved population, including immigrants and migrants of Mexican and Central American descent. It encompasses an annual week long series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops on health care and health insurance referrals, health education and health promotion by encouraging healthy behaviors and routine health care. They also provide information about local social services and clinics. The success of BHW is due to the thousands of organizations and volunteers dedicated to a common cause.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Stanislaus County Binational Health Week Committee on their success in bringing the Binational Health Week to their county. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the committee many years of continued success.

CONTINUED PROHIBITION OF INTERNET GAMBLING

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, last year, I cosponsored legislation with Congressman BOB GOODLATTE to help stop the widespread growth of gambling over the internet. Though Federal law already prohibits gambling over telephone wires, the passage of this legislation was necessary to maintain the original intent of the law while also bringing it up to speed with the explosion of current and future technology. However, this update of the law made clear that it would only affect interstate commerce, respecting the rights of States by leaving to them the decision whether and how to regulate gambling within their own borders. New legislation before the Financial Services Committee attempts to undo all of this previous work, instead granting the Federal Government the expansive and exclusive right to regulate all online gambling. This new legislation would represent the first time in history that the Federal Government would be given power to issue gambling licenses, and it marks a significant shift away from allowing States to determine for themselves what type of policy is best. Proponents of this legislation state that the bill offers States the right to "opt out" of this regulation, but the truth is that the States already have the right to determine their own policy towards gambling without any broader Federal regulation that threatens to undermine their control over licensing standards and enforcement actions.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK AND RANKING MEMBER BACHUS: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." We believe that the bill would undermine States' traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level.

Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S. customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because 5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may "opt out" of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed \$100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the federal law might nevertheless allow 18-year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down state opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be open to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America's gambling laws on the Internet, "harmonizing" the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS GANSLER,
Attorney General of
Maryland.

BILL MCCOLLUM,

Attorney General of
Florida.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL LATINO
AIDS AWARENESS DAY AND 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIV/AIDS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and the 25th anniversary of HIV/AIDS. Let us mark this day with a renewed spirit and effort to battle against this deadly virus.

HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects Latinos in this country, for while Latinos only represent 14 percent of the population of this country, 19 percent of those with HIV/AIDS are Latinos. 100,000 Latinos have died from this disease. We cannot continue to allow HIV/AIDS to ravage our communities.

Educating and reaching out to our children, family, and friends to address drug use, sexuality, and sexual activity should be our number one priority, because knowledge is the first step in successful prevention. The fact that these are topics that have been deemed unmentionable for generations is one of the reasons the epidemic of HIV/AIDS affects Latinos disproportionately; this is something that we must strive to change.

We must utilize our strengths to defeat this epidemic in our communities; we cannot allow silence and lack of information on this virus to be the cause of such tragic illness and death any longer.

Access to care is also a major issue for many Latinos. This week the House will be voting to override the President's veto of the Children's Health Insurance Program, legislation which will provide 10 million low-income children with health insurance. This access to health care will allow these children to begin and continue to live healthy lives.

For a person with HIV/AIDS, access health care is imperative. Many cannot obtain private insurance, are uninsured, or do not know how to apply for public insurance. This lack of insurance leads to less access to care, which further stymies the possibilities of successfully living with HIV/AIDS. I believe that access to appropriate and affordable health care is a basic human right, and while the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, will be a good first step, it is by no means the only step we need to take.

This has been a long, frustrating battle, and it is far from over. Today I join in solidarity with those who have suffered or watched a loved one suffer from HIV/AIDS. As I recommit myself to the fight against this virus I ask you to please join me.

TRIBUTE TO JUNIUS W. WILLIAMS,
ESQ.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives

to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a good friend of my Congressional District and dedicated public servant, Junius Williams, Esq., a multi-faceted contributor to the community. Mr. Williams is being honored for his many years as a torch bearer in a variety of disciplines. Fortunately, for all of us in the Greater Newark Community, Mr. Williams has complete mastery of all these disciplines, which include academia, activism, Christianity, legal proficiency and mentorship.

In his role as an advocate for urban revitalization, Junius Williams served as the Director of Community Development and was at the helm of one of Newark's most significant projects, the Model Cities Program in the early 1970s. He also led the University Heights Neighborhood Urban Renewal Development Corporation. As a planner and developer, he had responsibility for the construction of over 1,200 housing units and accompanying amenities in Newark.

In 1978, Mr. Williams was elected as the youngest president of the National Bar Association. During his tenure as president, he presented a critique to the United Nations of the proposed constitution for the African nation of Zimbabwe. As an attorney, Mr. Williams was successful in representing Rev. Jesse Jackson in the historic court decision to bring single-lever voting to New Jersey, making it possible to cast one vote for the Presidential candidate and all of his delegates. He received his law degree from Yale University.

Mr. Williams has held other significant roles over the years including serving on the board of trustees for Essex County College, chairman of the Board of Education Law Center, chairing the board of trustees at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church and serving as an official observer of the first South African National Elections in 1994. He is an accomplished musician, producer and performer. He currently serves as the director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, where he teaches parent advocacy skills to parents and professional educators at Rutgers University in Newark.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Junius Williams deserved to be feted at a celebration in his honor on Friday, October 12, 2007, for his many years of dedicated service to the community. I am proud to have him working in the 10th Congressional District and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING BINATIONAL HEALTH
WEEK COMMITTEE: COUNTIES OF
FRESNO, MERCED, TULARE AND
KERN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to commend the Binational Health Week Committee for the Counties of Fresno, Merced, Tulare, and Kern upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 agencies, and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last