

meet the rapidly changing expectations in the area of mental health service delivery. Such dedication has enabled Crider to serve over 35,000 residents a year in a four-county area who are in desperate need of such services.

Previously, the Crider Health Center faced consistent challenges in obtaining medical and oral health care services for their patients. In fact, the nearest federally qualified health centers for persons living in this four-county area were in St. Louis, Potosi and Columbia, Missouri. Such distances created a considerable challenge in terms of access for low-income residents in Crider's service area.

Crider Health Center's new FQHC status will allow Crider to integrate its current mental health care services with primary and oral health care services. This integration not only allows Crider to better serve its consumers but aid in further addressing the health care disparities in the St. Louis region.

I congratulate the Crider Health Center's recent FQHC designation. The Crider Health Center is an exemplary example of the leadership we have in Missouri and I am pleased to honor them in their continued endeavor to provide for the needs of the people in the St. Louis region.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ALEA
HOKUAO MORNINGSTAR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, poet and capitol tour guide Albert C. Caswell has penned a number of heartfelt tributes to our military, and recently, he has recognized the service of Major Alea Hokua Morningstar, U.S. Army.

Major Morningstar has served in Iraq extending care to coalition and civilian casualties. As an emergency physician, she has served honorably and bravely at three combat support hospitals and as a field surgeon.

Major Morningstar symbolizes the professionalism of America's military. I want to thank her and all the brave men and women of our armed forces for their service. They are fighting to defend our freedom and protect American families.

I gladly submit the following into the RECORD.

A Morning Star,
That's who you are . . .
A light which shines so very fine . . . so very
far, that's who you are . . .
A woman of heart,
Of Hopi Sioux, great American Indian blood
. . . a fine woman of soul . . .
A healer, a great Hawaiian . . . For, but the
gift of life . . . to so give, as what you
chose . . .
A light,
In the darkest of days and nights . . .
Which burns bright, as a Morning Star . . .
can cheat death, can so bless . . . and
can give fight!
Out in darkness of evil war, out in harms
way . . .
Amidst the darkness and solemn gray . . .
amidst the death, and all of that sad
decay . . .
To save a life, to hold a dying hero's hand
until that night . . . Morning Star,
that was your way . . .

As there, in The ER . . .

You'd hear the screams, and the devil's roar
it seems . . . trying to save life, you'd
go far!

All in the midst of his evil gore, all in the
face of hell . . . you fine heart choose
to swell, for one life more

Living in the shadow of death,
Pouring out your very heart and soul, until
none lies left . . .

As with your God given skills, the gift of life
and hope you instilled . . . staying
with the dying until death!

A young hero's last vision, before they were
gone . . .

A bright Morning Star, holding their hand
. . . as was your decision, not leaving
them alone . . .

The last Angel they would see on Earth,
showing your worth . . . with tears in
eyes your mission honed!

And in the coming years,
There will be many a tear, when in that moment
it all comes back to you . . . so
here . . .

But, what baby born . . . to save the world
. . . or love so great, to this our world
adorned that you saved here!

And for all of those Mothers of Sons,
And all of those Fathers of Daughters, who
so lost their most precious of all loved
ones . . .

They may gain strength, in knowing what
your love to their dying loved ones so
meant! At the end!

A Morning Star,
Yes, my Lady . . . that's who you are . . .
A light which shines so very bright . . . so
very far, into the night, that's who you
are!

High above,
With your gift of life, your gift of love . . .
Holding a dying hero's hand, On The Wings
of a Dove!

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the 261 Members who supported H.R. 505, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007. I also want to encourage my colleagues who did not support the bill to talk to me and Congressman ABERCROMBIE to learn more about the merits of the legislation. The passage of the bill has been celebrated by the people of Hawaii—Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiian alike. I thank all the members of this body for the respectful and deliberate manner in which the debate was conducted.

During the course of my remarks on the bill, I was privileged to place into the record several recent letters of support for H.R. 505, including letters from the Governor of the State of Hawaii, as well as the National Congress of American Indians and the American Bar Association, two of more than 50 national and state organizations that worked hard on behalf of the bill.

After the vote on the bill, I received another letter of support from the Japanese American Citizens League, one of many civil rights organizations championing the efforts of Native

Hawaiians to regain their right of self-governance and self-determination.

Americans of Japanese ancestry fought their own battles against discrimination and subjugation, although for a shorter duration, when they were sent to relocation camps during World War II. They understand all too well the deprivation suffered by the Native Hawaiians, since their sovereign government was overthrown, and have lent their full support to the Native Hawaiian cause, which I deeply appreciate.

It is therefore important that this letter from the Japanese American Citizens League be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect the support of the JACL for this historic vote to recognize the inherent sovereignty of the indigenous, native people of Hawaii. I thank the members of JACL for their valuable support.

JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE,

Washington, DC, Oct. 23, 2007.

Hon. MAZIE K. HIRONO,
1229 Longworth House Office Building, U.S.
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HIRONO: The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, fully supports the passage of H.R. 505, The Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007 (NHGRA), introduced by the Members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation. The bill is scheduled for a vote before the House on Wednesday, October 24th and I ask that you vote in favor of the bill and against any motion to recess H.R. 505.

A process of U.S. recognition is already available to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and enactment of NHGRA extends a similar process to Native Hawaiians. There are over 560 federally recognized Native governing entities functioning in the U.S., along side local, state and federal governing entities. Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai'i, whose ancestors practiced sovereignty in their ancestral lands that later became part of the United States. The establishment of a process of federal recognition for Native Hawaiians moves us toward fairness in federal policy toward American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Protection of Native Hawaiian culture, as well as existing Native Hawaiian programs is critical for future generations. Perpetuation of distinct, living cultures requires self-determination, and that is necessary for the Native Hawaiian culture as well. Enactment of NHGRA protects this greater self-determination, and thus the distinct culture. It protects existing programs because it establishes a single U.S. policy reaffirming that as the indigenous people of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian people have a special political and legal relationship with the U.S., consistent with the Hawai'i Constitution, over 150 existing Federal laws addressing Native Hawaiians and the U.S. Constitution regarding Native people of the lands of the 50 states.

Sincerely,

FLOYD MORI,
National Director.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY
AIR AND CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 29, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Healthy Air and Clean Water