

Act, H.R. 4836. As some of my colleagues who have worked on issues relating to diabetes may be aware, the Federal Government spends over \$80 billion per year treating diabetes and its complications.

Since 1980, the number of Americans suffering from diabetes has doubled to more than 20 million, and that number is projected to double again by 2025.

The serious complications stemming from diabetes—including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, blindness, amputation and renal disease—are well documented and even more importantly, they are largely preventable with proper management and treatment.

To that end, H.R. 4836 would establish a National Diabetes Coordinator to coordinate research and prevention activities throughout the federal government, including agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

We need this kind of comprehensive approach to get our hands around what is rapidly becoming an all-encompassing epidemic. A recent study found that one out of every eight Federal health care dollars is spent treating people with diabetes. The total amount of money spent on diabetes is nearly equal to the entire budget for the U.S. Department of Education, roughly \$80 billion.

While we expend vast resources on this effort, of that \$80 billion, less than 1 percent is spent on direct diabetes prevention. When you also consider that 18 of 21 Federal agencies spend money on diabetes, there is a clear need for a National Coordinator to establish a strategy to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications.

We have seen evidence that this approach can work. A recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, study demonstrated that Medicare and Medicaid could save \$2.5 billion a year by presenting diabetes and its complications with appropriate primary care. The city of Asheville, North Carolina saved \$2,000 per employee with an innovative diabetes management program. The NIH-sponsored Diabetes Prevention Project proved that we can prevent and delay diabetes and its complications by 58 percent.

A National Diabetes Coordinator will provide the Federal leadership necessary to maximize the funds the Federal Government is currently spending to save money and lives. Further, a National Diabetes Coordinator with specific responsibilities to work across agencies to prevent and reduce diabetes and its complications will be a model for how the U.S. can deal with other chronic diseases such as heart disease.

As we consider how to move forward in the fight against diabetes, I encourage my colleagues to think of these statistics: one in three kids born today will get diabetes, and that figure rises to one in two in minorities. Further, 32 percent of the Medicare program is spent on the 18 percent of beneficiaries with diabetes. We need Federal leadership provided in H.R. 4836 to help reverse these trends and make a difference for future generations.

## MOURNING THE DEATH OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA MAY CARSON

SPEECH OF

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA MAY CARSON, a committed and valued voice for justice, who passed away on December 15, 2007. Congresswoman CARSON was born on July 8, 1938 in Louisville, Kentucky. She grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana where she would lead a remarkable life committed to justice for all. Congresswoman CARSON was loved by many for her effervescent personality and fighting spirit. She served her constituents of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana for 6 terms in the United States House of Representatives. She was the first African-American and woman elected to serve Indianapolis in Congress.

In her youth, Ms. CARSON overcame obstacles created by race, gender and poverty as the child of a single teenage mother. She attended and graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1955, a deeply segregated school in Indianapolis. However, her battles with injustice motivated her to pursue degrees in higher education at Martin University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her career in public service began in 1965, when she was hired as a staff assistant and aide to Congressman Andrew Jacobs, Jr., her mentor and predecessor in the 7th District of Indiana. She worked diligently on casework and other important legislative matters until 1972, when she ran and won a seat in the Indiana State House of Representatives. She served in the Indiana State House from 1972–1976 and in the Indiana State Senate from 1976–1990. In 1990, she was elected as a trustee for Center Township in downtown Indianapolis. As trustee, she was a just leader and a voice for reform. Her thoroughness and fiscal responsibility helped her manage the welfare rolls by providing assistance to those that needed it and removing those that did not. As a result, she transformed the office's \$20 million debt into a \$6 million surplus. She served as trustee for 6 years prior to her election to Congress.

In 1996, after a competitive campaign, Congresswoman CARSON replaced her mentor and predecessor Andrew Jacobs, Jr., as the representative for Indiana's 7th District. On January 3, 1997, she missed her congressional inauguration due to health problems. Her congressional tenure was replete with obstacles from failing health to closely competitive campaigns, but her tenacity and love for her district would not let anything impede her sincere dedication to her constituents. She never stopped caring for her district and she never lost a race. One of her most notable achievements in the House was passing a measure awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. Another milestone accomplishment was a bill she cosponsored with Senator RICHARD LUGAR to remove blocks on child health insurance created by government agencies. She always sponsored legislation that helped the poor and homeless, veterans, and faithful American taxpayers. She served on

the House Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Her 10 years in the House were a testament of perseverance, devotion and inexhaustible compassion.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commend the life and mourn the passing of Congresswoman JULIA CARSON.

## A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEARY E. BONNETT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett. Reverend Bonnett, a native of Guyana, completed the General Certificate of Education and high school examinations through the University of London before migrating to the United States.

Reverend Bonnett earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Queens College of the City University of New York. He went on to pursue a Master of Arts Degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri as well as a Master of Divinity Degree from New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Bonnett is currently completing work towards a Doctor of Ministry Degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, specializing in spirituality and leadership for the 21st century.

Reverend Bonnett enlisted in the U.S. Army after college in order to fulfill a deferred draft commitment granted to full-time students during the Vietnam War. He attended Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. After 13 years of distinguished military service, he separated from active duty with rank of Major. His military decorations include the U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal; the U.S. Army Achievement Medal; and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

Reverend Bonnett is the former Executive Director of a parochial day school in the Rockaway section of Queens. While there he streamlined the curriculum to meet New York State standards. In addition, Reverend Bonnett served with the Salvation Army providing therapeutic crisis intervention to at-risk youths. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, he joined a team of family support specialists with the American Red Cross to providing benefits and support to family members who lost loved ones or were injured in the terrorist attack.

Reverend Bonnett is currently the Director of Christian Education at the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Silence The Guns, an educational organization dedicated to eliminating handgun usage among America's children. He is also the author of two books; *Failure is Not the Problem*; and *Joy Cometh in the Morning*.

Reverend Bonnett resides in Brooklyn with his wife, Dr. Terry Jan Blackett-Bonnet. He has three children, Kimbia, Amilcar and Haron.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Bonnett's selfless contributions and his works as a mentor to the children of Brooklyn.