

proposed cuts, including cuts to environmental protection, first responders, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It also makes room for the expansion of children's health insurance coverage, and includes reforms to improve Medicare for beneficiaries and reforms of the Higher Education Act to make college more affordable.

H. Con. Res. 312 is not perfect. I wish it included less spending on unnecessary, outdated weapons programs, and more spending on domestic priorities for relief for the millions of Americans who are struggling to make ends meet amidst higher energy, healthcare, and food costs; and for the people in our society who need the most help. However, I am grateful to Chairman SPRATT for crafting a budget that rejects the President's cuts.

I am also proud to support the Congressional Progressive Caucus substitute, which provides over \$550 billion for domestic non-military discretionary spending in FY09—over \$130 billion above President's request—to restore the President's harmful cuts. This budget contains a second economic stimulus package that would include an extension of unemployment insurance, an increase in assistance for food stamps, Medicare payments to states, and foreclosure relief, as well as over \$300 billion to rebuild our Nation's crumbling schools and roads. It also provides \$1.22 trillion to cut the poverty rate in half over the next decade, starting with redress and reconstruction for Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina. It does this by cutting down on waste, fraud in the Pentagon and by eliminating certain cold war weapons systems; as well by closing egregious corporate tax loopholes and rolling back the President's tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Chairman, the President's last budget is no more than a sad continuation of his failed fiscal policies. I'd like to thank Chairman SPRATT once again for all of his hard work on the budget, and am proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues to support a budget that rejects the President's cuts and reinvests in our domestic priorities.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE T. DETITTA FOR 37 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO HAUPTMAN-WOODWARD MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. George T. DeTitta on 37 years of devoted service to Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute in Buffalo, NY. Dr. DeTitta's commitment to the study of human health is a brilliant example of dedication to community and fellowman. I commend Dr. DeTitta for his work and congratulate him on his return to the lab after 7 years serving as executive director and chief executive officer of Hauptman-Woodward.

Following his undergraduate work at Villanova University and completion of his Ph.D. in biochemistry and crystallography from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. DeTitta started out at Hauptman-Woodward as a postdoctoral research fellow in 1973. He then served as a

research scientist until 1999 when he became executive vice president. In 2000 he became executive director and chief executive officer.

During his time in leadership, Dr. DeTitta instated a new state-of-the-art structural biology center as well as the Center for High-Throughput Crystallization Laboratory, one of the Nation's 10 Protein Structure Initiative Centers. He also initiated and developed the University at Buffalo's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Structural Biology Department. During Dr. DeTitta's tenure as CEO, he cultivated a new, young faculty at Hauptman-Woodward. His contribution to medical research and the study of disease is invaluable, and I commend him for his commitment to the success of Hauptman-Woodward.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Dr. George DeTitta for these great accomplishments and wish him and his family the best. His work should inspire us all to serve our communities and fellowman with dedicated hearts and committed lives.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, on this, the 81st anniversary of his birth, I would like to join my colleagues in honoring Cesar Chavez, an individual that the late Senator Robert Kennedy called, "one of the heroic figures of our time." I also join the call to pass H. Res. 76, establishing a national holiday in his honor. San Jose, the city I represent in this great House, became the hometown to Cesar and his family beginning in 1939, and since then our community has always had a special place in its heart for Chavez.

A man of extraordinary accomplishments, Chavez continually called attention to the plight of those who, like him, had to struggle to attain their piece of the American dream. In remembering him today, we keep in mind those Americans working every day on farms in California, and around the country, to secure a better future for their family.

An American who heeded his Nation's call to service in World War II, Chavez remained committed to making his country stronger by empowering the least powerful of its citizens. A tireless organizer, he inspired countless individuals to participate in the democratic processes that make this country great.

As Americans, we do well to remember Cesar Chavez today. His calls for economic justice resonate in 2008 just as they did 50 years ago, and his early leadership on environmental issues serves as a reminder that we are all stewards of this land.

Cesar Chavez was, without a doubt, a true American hero. As we honor his life and remember his many achievements, we in this great body must not forget the hard-working Americans he fought for. Though no longer with us, Cesar Chavez's work continues.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARE-
NESS MONTH

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House passed with unanimity a resolution recognizing March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I was regrettably detained in Minnesota due to the snowstorm which blanketed the Midwest. But had I been here, I would have joined my colleagues in supporting the resolution to raise awareness of this terrible disease.

While colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, it is not as well known or frequently discussed as many other forms of cancer. Whatever the reason for this relative obscurity, we must recognize the fact that both men and women are at risk for colorectal cancer and that while most cases occur after age 50, it can strike at any age. Most important of all, however, when detected in its earliest, most treatable stages, colorectal cancer has a 90 percent survival rate.

That being said, in 2000, the Prevent Cancer Foundation partnered with champions in Congress to designate and commemorate the very first National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Consequently, over the past 8 years, awareness of the disease has grown. Moreover, the American Cancer Society now currently funds 113 colon cancer research grants nationwide totaling more than \$62.1 million.

Nonetheless, while strides have been made against colorectal cancer, statistics show there is more work to be done. In fact, it is estimated that this year in Minnesota, 2,500 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 900 will die from the disease. However, screening tests can detect precancerous polyps, which, when removed, can stop colon cancer before it starts.

It is important that Congress support the observance of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in order to continue the progress that has already been made. Through increased awareness and education about this disease, a cornerstone of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, we can dramatically decrease deaths and limit the suffering this disease inflicts on the United States. As Dr. David Perdue, of the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health stated, "Bottom line, colorectal screening saves lives."

PRAISING HOUSING PARTNERSHIP
TO PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP
IN UNDERSERVED BROOKLYN
COMMUNITIES

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give praise to the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) and NeighborWorks America for their commitment to form a partnership to promote homeownership in underserved neighborhoods in the great state of