

Even the Nazis asked why African American men would fight for a country that treated them so unfairly. Yet the Tuskegee Airmen were eager to fly and die for a Nation that had done little for them.

These men, like over a million others who fought in World War II, fought two wars: One was in Europe, and the other in the hearts and minds of Americans.

As a poignant example, the white commander of the Tuskegee airfield was once asked—with all seriousness—how do African Americans fly? He said, “Oh, they fly just like everybody else flies—stick and rudder.” Little by little, every victory at war was translated to a victory here in the United States.

On February 2, 1948, President Truman, in no small part due to the bravery of the men of Tuskegee, announced in a special message to Congress that he had, “instructed the Secretary of Defense to take steps to have the remaining instances of discrimination in the armed services eliminated as rapidly as possible.”

President Truman’s former colleagues and drinking partners, the Senators from the Southern States immediately threatened a filibuster. The typically bull-headed man from Missouri forced the issue by using his executive powers. Among other things, Truman bolstered the civil rights division, appointed the first African American judge to the Federal bench, named several other African Americans to high-ranking administration positions, and most important, 60 years ago on July 26, 1948, he issued an executive order abolishing segregation in the armed forces and ordering full integration of all the services.

Executive Order 9981 declared that “there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.” By the end of the Korean conflict, almost all the military was integrated.

The men and women I am proud to represent in Missouri’s Fifth District have contributed a great deal to this Nation we love. They have fought wars, supplied the expansion the West, founded religions, painted masterpieces, composed symphonies—but perhaps none have done more to shape the face of the earth than President Truman. May history always remember Executive Order 9981 as quintessential Truman. In classic Truman style, the order was an example of making a decision not because it was easy, but because it was the right thing to do.

RECOGNIZING THE ESCAMBIA FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN’S CLUB UPON ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club upon their 50th anniversary.

For the past 50 years the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club, EFRWC, has been working to better the government at all levels. Since 1958, these women have do-

nated thousands of volunteer hours to ensure Republican victories in endless political campaigns. The election of countless county, State, and Federal representatives is due to the hard work and dedication of its spirited members.

In addition to their civic dedications, the EFRWC is also a large force in the local community. Favor House, ARC Gateway, and the Ronald McDonald House are just a highlight of the local charities that have benefitted from the outstanding philanthropy of these women. The Lillian Baines Memorial Scholarship for Political Science and Communications students is another program funded by the EFRWC’s benevolence. The group also benefits political education locally by mentoring young Republican women, thereby strengthening conservative values and viewpoints in the areas they serve.

The EFRWC persistently serves the community and its volunteers play a vital role in the physiology of elections. They take on numerous responsibilities and assist with the vital aspects of campaign work. The women of EFRWC have exceeded the expected duties of volunteers and their 50th anniversary is evidence of their immense philanthropy. The EFRWC’s dedication and devotion to Republican candidates benefits the entire community and their outstanding accomplishments have distinguished them as one of the great organizations in Northwest Florida. Escambia County is greatly indebted to their service and is honored to have them as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club on its 50th anniversary.

ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO MAKE GRANTS REGARDING BACKUP PAPER BALLOTS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Backup Paper Ballot Bill. This bill will ensure our commitment to improving a secure, reliable, accessible voting system for all Americans, and help secure our nation’s confidence in the election result.

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights in our democratic system. The U.S. Constitution promises every eligible American an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the political process. In order to keep our country strong, we must encourage our citizens to vote and when they vote, we must guarantee that their vote will count.

The 2008 election promises to bring out record numbers to the polls. In past elections, such as Florida and Pennsylvania, machine failures caused voters to be turned away and long lines at the polls. Encouraging the use of emergency paper ballots will help ensure that every voter will have their vote count, and make it less likely that voters will be turned away from the polls because of machine malfunction. Although many states require backup paper ballots they don’t have the resources to do it.

This bill will provide grants to state and local governments to purchase backup paper ballots in the event that an electronic voting system fails to operate properly or there is some other emergency situation. Participation would be voluntary and states would have to institute eligible programs.

We must take the necessary precautions to ensure that the voices of all Americans are heard in the 2008 election. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to submit for the RECORD a letter from several health organizations supporting the Public Health Emergency Response Act of 2008, which I introduced earlier today.

JULY 22, 2008.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. LOIS CAPPS,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN AND REPRESENTATIVE CAPPS: The undersigned organizations join in supporting your introduction of the Public Health Emergency Response Act (PHERA), legislation that would put a turn-key process into place which would ensure that victims of a public health emergency have immediate access to medically necessary healthcare services and help ensure that we have a functioning health care system.

A public health emergency, such as a natural disaster, biologic attack or infectious disease outbreak, could strike at any time. The September 11th attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have underscored the need for rapid access to healthcare services during and immediately following a public health emergency. Following Hurricane Katrina, Congress ultimately approved \$2.1 billion for grants to certain states to cover the Medicaid and SCHIP matching requirements for individuals enrolled in these programs, and the cost of uncompensated care for the uninsured. However, it took six months for Congress to pass the Deficit Reduction Act, which provided for these funds. This unnecessary delay could have been prevented. PHERA would put into place ahead of time a framework for providing reimbursement for uncompensated care in the event of a major public health emergency.

The temporary benefit established through this bill would help remove a disincentive for uninsured individuals to promptly seek medical care. Any delay in seeking care could result in lives lost, particularly during an infectious disease outbreak when immediate identification and isolation are very important, and delay in seeking care could render treatment ineffective. At a time when our health care system could be overwhelmed with patients, it is vital that reimbursement issues not dissuade providers from offering care. A study by the Center for Biosecurity estimated that U.S. hospitals could lose as much as \$3.9 billion in uncompensated care and cash flow losses in the event of a severe pandemic. By helping to reduce the burden of uncompensated care, PHERA would help ensure the solvency and continuity and our

health care system during a catastrophic emergency.

Specifically, PHERA would provide a temporary emergency health benefit for uninsured individuals and individuals whose health insurance coverage is not actuarially equivalent to benchmark coverage, in the event that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declares that a public health emergency exists and chooses to activate the benefit. It would clarify who is eligible for this benefit, including individuals displaced by a public health emergency, limit the amount of time for which the benefit would last, and stipulate what providers would be covered under this Act. It would not use Medicare, Medicaid or SCHIP funding. The funding mechanism would be the Public Health Emergency Fund, a no-year fund available to the Secretary. The bill authorizes funding for the administration of the fund, together with a public education campaign on the availability of the benefit, but further funding would not be necessary until Congress appropriated funds in the event of a declared public health emergency.

Past experiences have shown that Congress will step in to help defray the costs of uncompensated care resulting from a catastrophic emergency. Determining the scope of such coverage ahead of time will help ensure the solvency of our health care system and help eliminate a disincentive for individuals to promptly seek care. PHERA would help ensure that when tragedy strikes, time and lives are not lost as Congress debates a course of action. It would create the turnkey process ahead of time, thereby allowing for timely care to individuals affected by a crisis.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing this legislation and look forward to working with you on this and other public health initiatives in the future.

Sincerely,

American Red Cross.

CENTER FOR BIOSECURITY,

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

Infectious Diseases Society of America.

National Association of Community Health Centers.

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America.

Trust for America's Health.

TRIBUTE TO DON BETTS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Betts as the recipient of the 2008 Educator of the Year from the Iowa Association of Alternative Education and for his outstanding service as a teacher and director at Carrie Lane Alternative School in Charles City, Iowa.

The Educator of the Year award is presented each year to an alternative educator who makes a significant contribution to alternative education in Iowa. Don currently is the only teacher at Carrie Lane. He understands that in alternative education, relationships based on encouragement are necessary, and he continues to build upon those relationships well after graduation. His hard work and motivational skills have helped many students per-

severe and earn their high school diplomas, and the confidence he instills in his students opens doors to learning opportunities and future success.

I congratulate Don Betts on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to touch the lives of many students in his community. It is a great honor to represent Don in the United States Congress, and I wish him continued success at Carrie Lane Alternative School.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, 34 years ago, Turkish troops invaded the Island of Cyprus, resulting in the death and displacement of thousands of Greek and Turkish Cypriot citizens; leaving behind a state of conflict within a civilization that can trace its history back more than ten thousand years. A 113-mile long divide was created as the Turks began their occupation of one third of the island, which exists to present day.

Today, we recognize this tragic event, but we also look at, with hope, the future that lies ahead.

As part of a congressional delegation last November, other members of Congress and I discussed this long-standing conflict and the path toward resolution with members of the Cyprus government. I am encouraged by the recent overtures made by leaders on both sides of the Cyprus question.

I am hopeful that the meetings between President Christofias and Mr. Talat will continue, and that the work of the mutually established Working Groups and Technical Communities may ultimately lead to a unified Cypriot nation.

I am confident that through tolerance, compromise and the continuation of diplomatic efforts, lasting solutions to the remaining differences will be attained.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPTAIN SCOTT J. FERGUSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the significant achievements of Captain Scott J. Ferguson whose service with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo were concluded today during a change of command ceremony on 1 Fuhrmann Blvd.

As the Commander of the United States Coast Guard Sector Buffalo, Captain Scott J. Ferguson was responsible for a 570 mile coastline stretching from Massena, NY, to Vermillion, OH, including three of the five finger lakes, St. Lawrence River, Niagara River, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Erie Barge Canal. Captain Ferguson has been awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, a Navy

Achievement Medal, and the Transportation 9-11 Medal, along with many others.

Captain Ferguson has done a great deal for Sector Buffalo during his time as Commander. He always made it his mission to ensure the complete safety of those in his area of responsibility. He ensured that all personnel working in Sector Buffalo were properly trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation. Captain Ferguson continually worked on fulfilling his firm belief that Sector Buffalo was the "gatekeeper" of the Great Lakes.

Captain Ferguson truly worked on promoting safe boating practices. In doing so, Captain Ferguson hosted a Safe Boating Week in Sector Buffalo to educate citizens on safe water and boating practices. In addition, he created the Annual Eastern Great Lakes Water Safety Expo, which included safety demonstrations, free recreation vessel inspections and tours of the Sector Buffalo Coast Guard base and the Buffalo Lighthouse.

Captain Ferguson will be leaving to serve as the chief of prevention at the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Captain Scott Ferguson for all that he has done for Western New York and Sector Buffalo and wish him every success in his future.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Cyprus who have experienced an illegal occupation that has divided their nation for the last 34 years. On July 20, 1974, an unlawful Turkish invasion created a division between the northern and southern parts of the island. This division still exists today despite the best efforts of the United Nations to broker a solution. However, I am encouraged by recent events that the reunification of Cyprus is now a real possibility.

The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was followed by widespread condemnation in the international community. The invasion and occupation drove nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. Sadly, about 5,000 Cypriots were killed in the attack and 1,400 Greek Cypriots remain missing and unaccounted for. Nearly a decade after the attack, Turkey advanced a "unilateral declaration of independence" in the northern area of the island occupied by the Turkish military. In response, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 541, which denounced the claim of an independent state and called for the withdrawal of the declaration.

I am greatly encouraged by the progress currently being accomplished in Cyprus. At his inauguration this February, incoming Cypriot President Demetris Christofias announced that solving the Cyprus problem is going to be the first priority of his government. In response, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mehmet Ali Talat, said that a solution in Cyprus is possible by the end of 2008.

The current state of affairs in Cyprus presents an opportunity for the United States to show leadership by working together with the