

times higher than the rate in Hispanic men. In Chicago, African American women represent 75 percent of all women living with HIV/AIDS, yet they account for only 37 percent of the general female population aged 13 and over. This disparity is unacceptable. HIV / AIDS is plaguing and destroying African American communities, robbing our community of its fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters.

We must do more to address this problem. We must increase funding for both prevention and treatment. We cannot rely on the failed policies of this administration to ignore strategies proven to decrease risky behavior and lower transmission rates and embrace strategies that do nothing. We must emphasize prevention, not restrict the CDC's prevention budget by 19 percent. We must support the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative and expand Ryan White. This is a public health problem that mandates a comprehensive, intensive public health strategic response. I commend the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, the State of Illinois Department of Public Health, and all of the organizations who actively are working to put at least a dent in this problem. I try to do my part to focus attention on this public health problem. A few weeks ago, I chaired an AIDS walk in Chicago that raised money for awareness and the fight for the cure. I also helped launch the "Quality of Life" Illinois Lottery game called Red Ribbon Cash. Proceeds gathered from the game will fund grants to public and private entities with HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Illinois. In terms of promoting prevention, I myself, have been publicly tested multiple times to convince the African-American community of the importance of being tested. America has within it the resources to address this issue; our political leadership must take action to do so. My fellow colleagues and I and all Americans need to do much more about this problem.

---

HONORING NORMA FISHER-DOIRON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator from my district, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Principal of Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield, Connecticut. This year, Norma has been recognized by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) with the 2008 National Distinguished Principals award.

Since 1984, the National Distinguished Principals Program has recognized educators from communities across this nation and abroad who are committed to academic excellence. To be eligible for this award, educators must incorporate of communal and parental involvement in student curriculum. Educators must also display the use of tailored educational programs that facilitate academic success for all students.

For 15 years, Norma has served as the Principal of Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield Center, Connecticut. Although the Southeast Elementary School community is widespread, Norma was successful in reaching out to all comers of the area to win sup-

port from parents and community leaders to reinforce personal and academic success from Southeast Elementary students.

During her tenure, Norma has also prioritized with her students character building—including appreciation and respect of others—a positive attitude, and coping skills.

On October 16th and 17th, Norma will join 61 other honorees from across this nation and abroad, in Washington, D.C. to celebrate this recognition. While in Washington, the honorees will participate in a U.S. Department of State reception and a White House briefing.

Madam Speaker, the success of our education systems relies on the strength and passion of our academic leaders. Norma has exemplified these characteristics, and I remain confident that she will continue to contribute to successes in our public education system. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing Norma's contributions and celebrating her award.

---

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPIA COLLEGE  
SOLAR CAR

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Principia College Solar Car Team. Since 1995, students and advisors have worked on perfecting their solar car model. This year, they came very close to that goal by finishing second in the 2008 North American Solar Challenge.

The Challenge is a 2,400-mile race from Plano, Texas to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This year, fifteen cars began the race; only five finished. Principia College is a small liberal arts college in Elmhurst, Illinois that does not even have an engineering program. The Principia solar car team beat out much larger schools to finish second in the exhausting ten day event.

On the second to last day of the race, Principia's car experienced electrical trouble and stalled for seventy-five minutes. The team electricians were able to remedy the problem and put the car back on the road. Advisor Joe Ritter and his team remained calm throughout the race, especially during the electrical complications.

The pioneering spirit of the young people on the Principia College Solar Car Team deserves recognition and thanks. These students are the ones who will carry our country forward. I stand with my colleagues today to honor the Principia College Solar Car Team for an outstanding second place finish in the North American Solar Challenge.

---

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McNULTY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and salute the contribution

of MIKE McNULTY as he prepares to retire as one of our best.

Since I arrived in the House, I have been proud to stand with MIKE, as he fights for New York's working families.

He has carried on his family's tradition of public service since 1969 when he first won office—at age 22—as Green Island Town Supervisor. Elected to Congress in 1988, he has distinguished himself as a member of this House over the past 20 years, fighting for the needs of his Albany-based district.

As Chair of the Social Security Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, he has protected Social Security from misguided attempts to privatize it, putting the retirement of millions at risk.

I'm glad to have had the honor to serve with MIKE McNULTY, and wish him a long and happy retirement away from the House.

---

HONORING REPRESENTATIVES  
RAY LAHOOD AND JERRY WELLER

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate two of my distinguished Illinois colleagues—Congressman RAY LaHOOD of Peoria and Congressman JERRY WELLER of Joliet on their retirement from the House of Representatives at the end of this term. Both men provided outstanding service to our state and Nation during their 14 years in Congress.

Congressman LaHOOD and I represent neighboring districts in Illinois. I've known RAY for over 25 years. He is a man I deeply admire and respect. During my short time in Congress, the two of us have cooperated on a number of joint projects important to our districts. We have fought to bring jobs back to our region and improve Central Illinois' broken transportation infrastructure.

Early in his career, RAY earned the respect of both Democrats and Republicans for his willingness to work across the aisle. During times of intense partisanship, RAY remained an unapologetic moderate who placed the needs of his district and our Nation above any political party. As Speaker Pro Tempore, RAY often presided over some of the fiercest debates on the House floor with prudence and evenhandedness.

On a personal note, I will never forget the kindness RAY showed to my predecessor—Congressman Lane Evans—as he fought his battle with Parkinson's disease. I was proud to join with RAY to pass legislation naming a Rock Island post office in Lane's honor.

Congressman WELLER served the 11th District of Illinois with distinction. In addition to his work on international affairs, he advocated raising the minimum wage and sought to increase retirement and disability pay for combat-wounded veterans. I respect Congressman WELLER's commitment to standing up for what he believes in and wish him well in retirement.

Both men will be missed.