

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to community health centers operating in my district which have gone above and beyond just simply being providers of good care but who have also demonstrated a real understanding of the health needs of a community.

Today there are more than 43 million Americans without health insurance. However, despite the staggering numbers of uninsured, a network of health centers in my district have continued to rise to the challenge and provide outstanding care to those uninsured.

Under the tireless leadership of Bill Moorehead, board chairman, and Berneice Mills-Thomas, executive director, the Near North Health Service Corporation provides primary care to women, infants, school age children and their parents who live in medically underserved areas of the City of Chicago.

In addition, Near North operates the Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative. This program seeks out high-risk families via a door-to-door canvass of blighted neighborhoods and the Cabrini Green Housing Development. This program has been credited with reducing the infant mortality rate of the area from 26.6 per 1,000 live births to 12.8 per 1,000 live births.

Healthy Start, Store Smart Moms and Youth Pregnancy Prevention. This program teaches young mothers how to purchase nutritional meals for their children through mobile and satellite clinic programs.

Project Match. This program matches former welfare recipients to real jobs, jobs that provide a real opportunity for families to become totally self-sufficient. Since its inception, Project Match has found jobs for over 800 people who would otherwise still be on public assistance.

Near North Health Services Corporation's record of achievement through its service to the community, City of Chicago, and State of Illinois must be commended for its recent focus on male health.

Another outstanding community health center operating in the City of Chicago is the Erie Family Health Center. Currently undergoing a change in leadership, this community health center is able to serve over 17,000 patients per year in the West Town, Humboldt Park, and Logan Square neighborhoods.

In addition to the excellent primary care services offered at all of the Erie Family sites, Erie Family also administers a wide array of social services to its communities, including the Erie Teen Health Center. This center serves the health needs of at-risk adolescents.

The Erie Integrated Care Program. This is the only bilingual primary care provider serving HIV and HIV/AIDS-infected patients in the City of Chicago.

The Pediatric Care Program in collaboration with the Illinois Depart-

ment of Public Health. This program services children zero to 21 whose income falls below 180 percent of the Federal poverty line. This program serves those children and young adults who would not otherwise qualify for Medicaid.

Near North and Erie Family represents a small fraction of the good Chicago's community health centers are doing for the city. Daniel Hale Williams Health Center, Mercy Diagnostic, Mount Sinai Family Health Centers, Alivio Medical Center, Mile Square Health Center.

The Sinai Family Health Centers, under the leadership of Michael Savage and many other community health centers in the city and in downstate Illinois provide over 500,000 patients per year with quality cost-effective primary care services. These providers are making a significant difference, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in commending the work of community health centers and to make sure that as we go through the appropriation of monies for the next year that community health centers be high on our list of priorities.

APOLLO EXPLORATION AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a historic night. It is by no means an exaggeration to say that the Apollo 11 lunar landing 30 years ago was one of the most significant events in human history. To me, it is still the most significant single historic event in my lifetime that I recall. In fact, I remember watching it on TV. I was in St. Louis at the time, and it was just a little bit later time than this evening.

The Apollo program not only was and still is one of our most significant technological accomplishments, but also marked the first time that mankind left the planet to explore another celestial body. As Neil Armstrong said just last week, "The important achievement of Apollo was demonstrating that humanity is not forever chained to this planet. Our visions go rather farther than that, and our opportunities are unlimited."

The Apollo program demonstrated that it is possible for Americans to accomplish anything if they have a dream and a vision and work to make it come true. Today, as we have more and more technology and ability, we somehow seem to have less and less of that vision that Neil Armstrong talked about. As astronaut Walt Cunningham said, "Today, we fail not because of our inability to do something; we fail today because of our unwillingness to tackle it in the first place. We are unwilling to take a chance, stick our neck out and go and do some of these things."

The Apollo astronauts have continued to stand as living monuments to that drive and vision. Many of today's adults were not even born at the time of the Apollo landings, even though they and their children hold the potential to be the generation that first steps foot on Mars. The vision is still a living vision, however, because it is rekindled by the Apollo astronauts who continue to bear witness to the possibility of making even seemingly outlandish dreams come into reality.

Just last week, however, we had another sad reminder of just how precious these men are with the death of Apollo 12 astronaut Pete Conrad, who was laid to rest yesterday in Arlington National Cemetery. Four of the twelve men to have set foot on the Moon have now passed away. A total of seven of the Apollo astronauts are no longer with us. Just outside this chamber stands the newest addition to Statuary Hall, a statue of Apollo 13 astronaut Jack Swigert of Colorado, who was elected to the House but was never able to serve.

Despite the contemporary accolades given to the Apollo astronauts in the 1960s and 1970s, America has never provided a fitting tribute to these men for their bravery and historical accomplishments on behalf of this Nation. Today, I am introducing a bill which would direct NASA to present an Apollo exploration award to each of the Apollo astronauts or their families, all 32, to commemorate their historic and singular contributions to history and to provide a fitting thanks from a grateful Nation.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), who represents the space coast of Florida, has introduced this legislation with me. It would contain an authentic Moon rock recovered on the Apollo missions by the work of these men.

In my view, there could be no better recognition for these heroes, nor a better way to rekindle the accomplishments of Apollo in the public imagination. The only fitting commemoration for those who have touched the Moon or made that great achievement possible could be a piece of the Moon itself, and such recognition is long overdue.

Let me point out that NASA has recovered more than 2,000 different samples of the Moon in six landings. So the rocks required for the presentation would be a minuscule portion of our total holdings. My bill also maintains careful control over the lunar rocks, preventing them from being sold or transferred to anyone besides the astronaut, his family, or a museum. The lunar material, 80 percent of which has not been researched yet, could be recalled by NASA if needed for scientific research and then promptly returned.

Mr. Speaker, America was founded on the principle of exploration. We have it