

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd as the 105th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RECOGNIZING RILEY HOSPITAL
FOR CHILDREN'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise today to celebrate Riley Hospital for Children's 75th birthday.

Founded in 1924, Riley Hospital is named after the famous Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley. Upon his death in 1916, Mr. Riley's heartfelt love for children inspired his friends to decide that a children's hospital would be a perfect memorial for Mr. Riley. More than 40,000 Hoosiers gave over 1.2 million dollars to build the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for children.

As the New York Times observed on October 10, 1924, "Indiana has made her mourning [to Riley] one of ministry rather than of mourning . . . The institution which bears his name will do much to make the children of Indiana what he imagined them to be. Indiana has made, as human monuments go, the perfect memorial to her poet."

Since opening its doors on October 7, 1924, Riley Hospital for Children has cared for thousands of children from the City of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and indeed across the country. Annually, there are more than 135,000 patient visits, including 7,100 admissions and more than 128,000 outpatient visits. Riley Hospital cares for children from each of Indiana's 92 counties. In 75 years, no Hoosier child has been turned away because of an inability to pay.

To continue to meet the needs of children and families, Riley Hospital has grown as it spanned the decades of the 20th century. Today, Riley Hospital is one of the ten largest children's hospitals in the nation, and is Indiana's only children's hospital located on a university campus. It is also one of the two most care-bedded children's hospitals in the United States.

As it has grown, Riley Hospital has endeavored to maintain a standard of excellence respecting patient care. In 1971, Indiana's only pediatric burn unit opened at Riley Hospital. In 1989, Riley Hospital performed Indiana's first newborn and infant heart transplants. Eighty to Ninety percent of Indiana's children with cancer are treated at Riley Hospital's—and Indiana's only—Children's Cancer Center. In addition, Riley Hospital houses the only pediatric dialysis center and pediatric stem cell transplant unit in the State of Indiana.

Though the medical technology at Riley Hospital is remarkable, it is the caring staff that the children and their families depend on to see them through difficult circumstances and turbulent times. Whether it be a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, teacher, administrative staff or maintenance worker, their professionalism is unparalleled.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, the children, families, and communities of Indiana have been enriched by the life-saving work of Riley Hospital for Children. As we approach the threshold of the 21st Century, I am confident that this wonderful tribute to James Whitcomb Riley will continue to make a brighter horizon for our children.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE REHABILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM ON THE JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to authorize and direct the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study with regards to the rehabilitation of the municipal water system of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, located in the State of New Mexico. I am very pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in the introduction of this important bill—including the other two Representatives from New Mexico, Congressman SKEEN and Congresswoman WILSON; as well as Congressmen KILDEE, HAYWORTH, YOUNG, MILLER, KENNEDY, and BECERRA.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation relies on one of the most unsafe municipal water systems in the country. While the system is a federally owned entity, the Environmental Protection Agency has nevertheless found the system to be in violation of national safe drinking water standards for several years running—and, since 1995, the water system has continually failed to earn renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit.

The sewage lagoons of the Jicarilla water system are now operating well over 100 percent capacity—spilling wastewater into the nearby arroyo that feeds directly into the Navajo River. Since this river serves as a primary source of groundwater for the region, the resulting pollution of the stream not only affects the Reservation but also travels downstream—creating public health hazards for families and communities both within and well beyond the Reservation's borders. Alarmingly, Jicarilla youth are now experiencing higher than normal incidences of internal organ diseases affecting the liver, kidneys and stomach—ailments suspected to be related to the contaminated water.

Moreover, because of the lack of sufficient water resources, the Jicarilla Tribe is not only facing considerable public health concerns, but it has also necessarily had to put a brake on other important community improvement efforts, including the construction of much needed housing and the replacement of deteriorating public schools. For all of these reasons, the Tribal Council has declared a state of emergency for the Reservation and has already appropriated over \$4.5 million of its own funds to begin the process of rehabilitating the water system.

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Following a disastrous 6-day water outage last October, the Jicarilla investigated and discovered the full extent of the deplorable condition of the water system. Acting immediately to address the problem, the tribe promptly contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and other entities for help in relieving their situation. Yet, due to budget constraints and other impediments, these agencies were unable to provide financial assistance or take any other substantial action to address the problem. In particular, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, having found itself to be poorly suited for the operation and maintenance of tribal water systems, has discontinued its policy of operating its own tribal water systems in favor of transferring ownership directly to the tribes. Unfortunately, however, the dangerous condition of the Jicarilla water system precludes its transfer to the tribe until it has been rehabilitated.

Fortunately, the Bureau of Reclamation is appropriately suited to assist the Jicarilla Apache and the BIA in assessing the feasibility of rehabilitating the tribe's water system. In consultation with the Jicarilla Tribe, the Bureau of Reclamation has indicated both its willingness and its ability to complete the feasibility study should it be authorized to do so as required by law. Recognizing this as the most promising solution for addressing the serious water safety problems plaguing the Jicarilla, I and my fellow cosponsors are introducing this important bill to allow this process to move forward. I hope the rest of our colleagues will similarly join us in passing this bill to remedy this distressing situation.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BAY
COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization which has done much to increase awareness of domestic violence in the United States as well as in my home town of Bay City, Michigan. The Bay County Women's Center provides essential support services for victims of physical or sexual assault, many of whom are women in violent domestic situations.

The Women's Center was established in 1975 by twelve dedicated volunteers who had recognized the need for a local support organization which provided essential services for abused persons. The Center now offers victims a wide range of crisis intervention services, such as counseling, advocacy, information and referral services, as well as extensive community education services. This means that a woman who is being abused has someone to turn to twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. The Women's Center has truly proved to be the saving grace for thousands upon thousands of women.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics on domestic violence are staggering. Approximately one family in three will experience domestic violence. And in our country, four women are killed