Tribute to Carlos Beltrán

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Carlos Beltrán, an outstanding Puerto Rican athlete and a very successful baseball player. On November 10, 1999, Carlos was selected as the 1999 American League Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Carlos previously was honored as the league’s top rookie by Baseball America, the Sporting News, and Baseball Digest.

Born in Manati, P.R., Carlos turned in Rookie of the Year performance last season, hitting at a .293 clip with 112 runs scored, 52 home runs, and 108 RBIs. He became the first American League rookie to collect 100 RBIs since Los Angeles’ Mike Piazza in 1993 (112)

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through the establishment of the African-American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIm–Hi). AIM-HI is reaching out with counseling and assistance for people who suffer prevalent chronic diseases. AIM–Hi provides screening results, patient education and participant referrals, monitoring appointment compliance and providing assistance with finding treatment for underserved participants who test positive. The locus of AIM–Hi program services is in the Metropolitan Detroit area, where 75 percent of the Michigan target population resides.

In addition to screening, educational, and treatment access services, AIM–Hi is also developing a tool to evaluate the quality of health care delivered to African-American men with diabetes and other chronic diseases. This “report card” assesses health care quality and effectiveness across a set of performance indicators that have been developed jointly by a panel of experts and community advocates. This initiative, sponsored by the Henry Ford Health System, is now in an embryonic stage and has had to confine itself to a narrow target population and program scope due to limited resources. Yet, it is resoundingly clear that this particular model has the potential to make a significant impact in affecting positive outcomes and health status improvement for African-American males.

I would hope that as the Department of Health and Human Services develops its budget for Fiscal Year 2001, strong consideration will be given to investing federal resources in collaborative partnerships with integrated health systems in urban settings that have the expertise to develop innovative models for minority health improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. PORTER, and the ranking minority member, Mr. OBEE, for their clear commitment to improving the quality of health care for all Americans in Fiscal Year 2000. I look forward to working with the subcommittee in the next session of Congress to increase support for critically needed minority health initiatives.

Recognizing the contributions of Sonosite, Inc.

HON. JAY INSLEE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Sonosite, Inc., a company located in my home State of Washington. Sonosite, is a spin-off from ATL Ultrasound, has revolutionized the quality and portability of ultrasound equipment by using advanced technology to provide for ultrasound delivery through a handheld device that represents and their patients around the country will benefit from this new high-tech, ultra-portable diagnostic tool that is expected to expand the use of ultrasound in medical care.