

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING
DIABETES

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution expressing our continued commitment to the fight against diabetes.

Diabetes is one of the most costly health problems in America. More than 1 out of every 10 health care dollars in the United States, and about 1 out of every 4 Medicare dollars is spent on care for people with diabetes.

The devastation caused by diabetes, however, goes far beyond the financial costs. Over 16 million Americans suffer from this chronic disease for which there is no cure. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States.

While over 10 million Americans know that they are living with diabetes, another 5.4 million people are not even aware that they have the disease. Many people only realize that they have diabetes when they develop a life-threatening complication like blindness, kidney disease, nerve damage, heart disease or stroke.

Early diagnosis and treatment can help reduce the risk of these terrible complications. I am pleased to note that constituents in my district have access to a number of outstanding diabetes education programs, including those at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, Columbia Hospital, Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center, Waukesha Memorial Hospital, and West Allis Memorial Hospital. The resolution before us today recognizes the important role that these dedicated health professionals and volunteers play in the fight against diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, these health providers and their patients need our help. Improvements in technology and the general growth in scientific knowledge have created unprecedented opportunities for advances that might lead to better treatments, prevention, and ultimately a cure. Congress has a responsibility to support this critical, life-saving research. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and affirm their commitment to find a cure for diabetes.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN P.
POWELL**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John P. Powell, who was honored on November 14, 1999, at the official dedication of the newly named J.P. Powell Middle School in Chambers County, Alabama.

John P. Powell was born in Chambers County, Alabama, on September 13, 1912. After graduating from Florida A&M University,

he began his teaching career at Langdale School in 1949. On September 24, 1954, he became the principal of the Chambers County Training School (renamed Southside Elementary School during the 1970-71 school year) and remained its principal for 27 years until his retirement on May 28, 1976. The Chambers County Board of Education by official action renamed the school, now a middle school for grades 6-8, in Professor Powell's honor on May 19, 1999.

During his career and after his retirement, Mr. Powell was active in the Lafayette, Alabama, community. He served on the Chambers County Industrial Board and was active in the Chambers County Extension Service. His community involvement included the Red Cross, the United Givers Fund, Powell Chapel United Methodist Church, the Chambers County Retired Teachers organization and senior citizens' groups. Even now, at the age of 87, Professor Powell is president of the Birmingham Rehabilitation Center where he resides.

In 1991, the Lafayette City Council proclaimed John Powell Day in Lafayette. In the resolution issued, Mr. Powell was commended for his community involvement and his leadership, particularly in the fields of education, industry and race relations. Now, once again, he is being recognized for what he has done to promote respect between races and the value of education for his students. Most important, however, he is recognized for his life-long commitment to public service.

I join the residents of Chambers County in thanking John P. Powell and saluting him on this special day of recognition.

CONDEMNING ARMENIAN
ASSASSINATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the violence that recently took place in Armenia. The Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament, as well as other prominent Armenian politicians, were killed in a hail of gunfire on the floor of the Armenian Parliament.

Besides my deep concern and sympathy for the individuals who were brutally murdered and for their families and friends, I fear that this event could cause a delay or postponement of the peace talks currently underway between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Thankfully, both governments have stated that the peace process will not be interrupted by this tragic event.

Armenia should step up its efforts to push the peace process along. The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been going on for 11 years now, and more than 30,000 people have been killed and over a million refugees created on both sides, including over 800,000 in Azerbaijan. It is time to reach a peace agreement, and Presidents Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Robert Kocharian of Armenia have met four times in recent months to discuss such a settlement.

As original sponsor of legislation designed to repeal Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, I would like to draw your attention to a statement in the New York Times, that appeared on November 3, urging to lift "the ban on giving Azerbaijan the same kind of economic assistance that it provides to all other former Soviet republics. This would serve both to recognize the risks that Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's President, has taken for peace and begin to bring about more realistic attitudes in Armenia. If we are to be an effective broker, we must adopt a balanced approach."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, during the following rollcall votes, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 587, "yes"; rollcall No. 588, "yes"; rollcall No. 589, "yes"; rollcall No. 590, "no"; rollcall No. 591, "yes"; rollcall No. 592, "yes"; rollcall No. 593, "yes"; rollcall No. 594, "yes"; rollcall No. 595, "no".

A PROPOSAL TO GUARANTEE
HEALTH INSURANCE TO EVERY
AMERICAN CHILD BORN IN THE
NEXT CENTURY: SEEKING IDEAS
AND COMMENTS ON THE PRO-
POSAL**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is a national disgrace that 11.1 million children in the United States still do not have health insurance as we enter a new millennium.

What we have done so far has not worked. Since 1996, the numbers and percentages of children without insurance have actually crept upward. They have not yet reached a statistically significant degree of increase, but we are moving in the wrong direction.

The web of programs we pieced together in 1997, CHIP/Medicaid/transitional Medicaid, are failing to get health insurance coverage to more children.

We need to come back to this question, and find something that will work. America's children deserve health insurance.

I have begun to develop a bill to address this problem, currently in a rough draft form, which is based on the idea that we need a simple and comprehensive solution:

We want every child in America to have health insurance.

Every child in America is issued a birth certificate and social security number at birth. Let's automatically enroll every child at birth into a Medicare-type program; call it "MediKids."

MedKids will be both an umbrella and a safety net for all of the other programs insuring our children, so that no child will ever fall

through the enrollment cracks again, much less 11.1 million children.

Our current approach places the burden on already disadvantaged parents. State and local enrollment and welfare workers are unable to determine which families match various programs—much less process pages of forms and documentation in order to enroll children in health insurance.

Instead, I propose we do what's right, sensible, and directly accomplishes the goal of health insurance for all of our children: (1) Enroll every child in MediKids automatically at birth; and (2) allow parents who do have other choices for a child's health insurance to attach evidence of coverage to their tax forms, thus exempting themselves from the premiums used to finance MediKids.

Children are relatively inexpensive to insure, but this program will have a budget impact. I am developing a plan for covering the costs of this program. Ultimately, however we pay for it, we must make the stand that some things are worth spending money on, particularly in this time of unprecedented, record-breaking economic growth.

My staff and I will be refining this bill over the holiday recess. For example, we will want to adjust the MediKids program to cover the specific services which children need. As our work progresses, we will be posting our drafts on our website, <http://www.house.gov/stark> and we invite everyone to visit the site and offer their input.

We plan to introduce this bill at the start of the next Congressional session—the first of the new millennium. I invited all of my colleagues, and everyone in America who cares about the health of our children, to join us in developing this idea, and to co-sponsor this important effort to get every millennium baby off to a good start.

IN HONOR OF THE PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION AND SAVAS C. TSIVICOS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Panpaphian Association, its members, friends and special honoree, this year, Savas Tsivicos.

The Panpaphian Association was founded in 1987, by a group of Cypriot-Americans of Paphian ancestry in order to encourage and help promote awareness of the customs and traditions of the region of Paphos and Cyprus. It is a vital philanthropic organization concerned with education, the health and well-being of students from the United States and Cyprus, and the liberation of Cyprus from the Turkish invasion of 1974.

This year's honoree, Savas Tsivicos, exemplifies the honorable characteristics of the people from Paphos. He came to the United States in 1982 from a farming community in the village of Inia to live the "American Life." His life embodies the dreams, hopes and aspirations of thousands of immigrants who arrive

in the United States to construct a decent life. Mr. Tsivicos holds a Bachelor's Degree and MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Masters Certificate from George Washington University, where he received numerous scholastic awards and honors.

Mr. Tsivicos has also become an outspoken community leader. He serves on the Ethnic Advisory Council of New Jersey and he has been elected President of the Cyprus Federation of America. He is a member of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Church of America and is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Mr. Tsivicos is on the Advisory Board of the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies of Queens College, and on the Board of Directors for the Foundation of Hellenic Studies, the Greek American Chamber of Commerce, and the Council of Overseas Cypriots.

Savas Tsivicos is a proud American who has not forgotten his roots. He is imbued with determination to bring justice and freedom to Cyprus and has served as Vice President of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus. A very successful businessman, Mr. Tsivicos is president and owner of Paphian Enterprises, Inc. He is married to Maria Tsivicos and they have three children, Haralambos, Elpetha and Evangelos ages 11, 9 and 6.

The Panpaphian Association is now led by Florentia Christodoulidou, and supported by: George Sophocleous, Debbie Riga Evangelides, Spyros Stylianou, Michael Hadjiloucas, Kyriaki Christodoulou, Irene Theodorou, Andreas Pericleous and George Theodorou, plus the Advisory Board, Stavros Charalambous, Annoula Constantinides, Andreas Chrysostomou, Anna Chrsostomou, Savvas Konnaris, Georgios Kouspos, Chrusi Kleopas Notskas, Ismini Michaelides, and Evan Tziadas.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Mr. Savas Tsivicos and the work of the officers and friends of the Panpaphian Association of America.

1999 INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate this year's recipients of the 1999 International Press Freedom Awards, presented by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

CPJ was founded by American journalists in 1981 to defend the "human and professional rights of journalists around the world." CPJ works to protect reporters who are threatened by authoritarian regimes and other foes of accurate, independent journalism. Its annual awards honor those journalists working under the most onerous of conditions.

This year's honorees, who have been beaten, jailed, or had their lives threatened because of their work, will receive their awards at a ceremony in New York next week. I join CPJ in congratulating: Jesus Joel Diaz Hernandez, who is serving a four-year prison sen-

tence in Cuba for starting an independent news agency; Baton Haxhiu, editor of Kosovo's leading independent newspaper, "Koho Ditore," which he continued to publish from exile after eluding Serbian police; Jugnu Mohsin and Najam Sethi, publisher and editor of "The Friday Times" of Lahore, Pakistan—last spring, Sethi was beaten, abducted, and jailed after the paper published charges of government corruption; and Maria Cristina Caballerio, a reporter for Colombia's "Semana," who received frequent death threats as a result of her work covering the country's civil war.

Mr. Speaker, too often we take a free press for granted. CPJ and this year's honoree's remind us that press freedoms are vital to the functioning of democratic government and that journalists often risk their lives to assure that the rest of us know the truth.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR RECENT ELECTIONS IN REPUBLIC OF INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 211. First let me thank Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. HASTINGS for co-sponsoring this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the contrasting events in India and Pakistan over a single 24 hour period speak eloquently about the new challenges and opportunities that we face in South Asia. In India, we have seen hundreds of millions of voters enthusiastically exercise their votes in a free and fair election. In Pakistan, we witnessed a military coup.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, recognizes that the people of India have a deep and abiding commitment to democracy and it salutes them for the passion with which they choose their own destiny. No country reflects our own values more in that part of the world than does India.

It is high time we seriously begin to recognize this fact and graduate from mere platitudes to some tangible policy changes toward India.

I believe that it is time to re-examine our basic premise regarding U.S. policy in South Asia. We should abandon old paradigms and Cold War hangups and see that India, a democracy, is our natural ally in the region.

The best way to demonstrate our commitment to the people of India is by ensuring that the President travels to India as soon as possible, as the resolution urges him to do.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.