

their destination. They were United Nations employees and aid workers serving private charities, police officers taking time off their regular jobs to help bring peace to Kosovo, doctors and scientists, and the crew that flew the route regularly for the World Food Programme.

Mr. Speaker, we have discussed on this floor what the onset of winter will mean for refugees who returned to their homes in Kosovo to find only rubble. We have worried over their fate and tried to provide funding for people who would act on our shared concerns—people like those who died Friday.

In a region riven by bitter clashes between ethnic groups, the ethnic background of those who have come to their aid is remarkable for its variety. Those who died personify this coming together for the sole purpose of easing suffering: 12 Italians, three Spaniards, two Britons, an Irishman, a Kenyan, a Bangladeshi, an Australian, a Canadian, an Iraqi, and a German.

Theirs are the faces of the United Nations, faces that signify hope to millions of people around the world. We sometimes forget that the U.N. has a very human face—and a remarkable number of dedicated employees. The World Food Programme, which provides food aid to 75 million people in 80 countries, is just one example of the United Nations at work. Since 1988, this organization has lost 51 employees to work-related accidents, illnesses, and attacks—including three who died last week. They died fighting the hunger that gnaws away the lives of one of every seven people in the world, assisting in projects that too often exacted the heaviest human cost.

Mr. Speaker, as we look forward to our Thanksgiving meals next week, let us pause a moment to reflect on those who died last week trying to eradicate starvation—much as our dear friend and colleague, Congressman Mickey Leland, did 10 years ago.

Together with Mickey, we remember Roberto Bazzoni, Paola Biocca, Andrea Curry, Velmoro Davoli, Nicolas Ian Phillip Evens, Abdulla Faisal, Marco Gavino, Kevin Lay, Raffaella Liuzzi, Miguel Martinez-Vasquez, Jose Maria Martinez, Alam Mirshahidul, J. Perez Fortes, Richard Walker Powell, Daniel Rowan, Thabit Samer, Paola Sarro, Laura Scotti, Antonio Sircana, Carlo Zechhi, Julia Ziegler, Andrea Maccaferro, Antonio Canzolino, and Katia Piazza.

They all were heroes to the hungry and suffering people of the world, and they all deserve our thanks and our prayers for the families they left too soon.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE STOWERS INSTITUTE FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH IN KANSAS
CITY, MISSOURI

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim and Virginia Stowers on the launch of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research located in my district in Kansas

City, MO. Their generous support of biotech research will profoundly impact upon the lives of those who suffer from cancer, and benefit the friends and family members of those who battle the disease. On this occasion, I salute the Stowers for their selfless contributions to the field of science in establishing their institute to bring "Hope for Life."

To our community, Jim and Virginia Stowers are local heroes. To those who will one day benefit from their charity, they will no doubt be referred to as saints. Their remarkable story is triumphant and inspirational. In 1958, Jim Stowers founded Twentieth Century Investors and created what would later be known as the American Century Companies. Today, Mr. Stowers heads the company as chairman of a successful multi-billion dollar firm investing in mutual funds across the nation. His wife, Virginia, worked as a nurse to support her growing family and her husband's dream. She shared her husband's vision and confidence by working to help her family and those most in need in her nurturing professions as nurse, wife, and mother.

Their commitment to cancer research is derived from their own hardships and personal survival experiences. Mr. Stowers was diagnosed in 1986 with prostate cancer. Mrs. Stowers fought breast cancer in 1993 followed by years of treatment, and their daughter, Kathleen's current encounter with cancer was the impetus for the creation of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. Jim Stowers serves as president with Virginia serving as vice president over every aspect of their legacy to scientific research.

The Stowers Institute is attracting the most highly sought researchers in biology, technology, and engineering who want to join in this exciting and worthy venture. World renowned experts from the University of Washington, the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Berkeley, the McLaughlin Institute, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City are exploring the make-up of our DNA and analyzing the forthcoming information in a facility where research into life systems will produce a better understanding of the nature of cancer. Scientists and doctors would then be able to use this research in developing treatments, medicine, and ultimately, a cure.

Our community has watched the construction of this facility which is anticipated to be in complete operation next year. It rescues from urban blight the site of the former Menorah Hospital near universities and cultural centers. The Stowers endowed to the Institute a gift of \$336 million to fund the ongoing research of scientists so they can dedicate their valuable time to science instead of raising money for their work. Investment of the multi-billion dollar assets in mutual funds, contributions by other donors, and the gift of the estate of Virginia and Jim Stowers is expected to reach \$30 billion or more in the next millennium, which will secure financial support for the Institute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Virginia and Jim Stowers for their tremendous gift, which assures their ongoing mission for "Hope for Life." I look forward to the successes of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and share the same hope they have inspired.

HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE CAN
HELP PARENTS MOVE TOWARD
SELF-SUFFICIENCY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the issue of quality improvements in our nation's child care centers. As a member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources with jurisdiction over the federal welfare system, I voted against the 1996 overhaul of our welfare system because of the dangerous effect it would have on the health and well-being of children and families in our country.

Congress was warned by advocates for low-income and poor families that without the proper work supports—health care, food assistance, and child care services—welfare reform's efforts to push mothers into low-paying, low-skill jobs could not succeed. Now as more and more families with children are forced to send both parents (or the only parent) to work, the absence of child care hampers the ability of mothers to successfully make that move.

Families are stuck between a rock and a hard place. Child care is in short supply, is too expensive for many families to afford, and often is of poor quality. When families try to get child care, they encounter long waiting lists—even for crummy programs—or the care available is unaffordable. The message to low-income families is that they must take any care they can get. More often than not, parents end up patching together a number of child care arrangements and go through the day anxious that part of the child care chain will fail. Many mothers are reporting that the child care assigned to them by welfare case-workers would place their children in a low-quality setting that would make them susceptible to physical harm and do little to prepare children for school.

Working parents need to feel secure about the arrangements they've made for their children during work hours, because the quality of care children receive can make a difference in parents' ability to work. Evaluations of GAIN, the job-training program for welfare recipients in California, found that mothers on welfare who were worried about the safety of their children and who did not trust their providers were twice as likely to subsequently drop out of the job-training program.

We must increase both the quantity and the quality of the care offered. My bill, the Child Care Quality Improvement Act (H.R. 2175), promotes quality child care by providing incentive grants to states to help them set and meet long-term child care quality goals. My bill would base a state's eligibility for future funding on the progress made in increasing training for staff, enhancing licensing standards, reducing the number of unlicensed facilities, increasing monitoring and enforcement, reducing caregiver turnover, and promoting higher levels of accreditation.

Congress has wrongly refused to require significant quality standards for the billions in child care dollars we allocate each year. The federal government should give states the resources to improve child care quality at the