And now, as the Town embarks on an historic new path, we wish much success in advancing to its first Mayor, to members of its new Town Council, and to the scores of local residents whose vigorous discourse has made Weymouth a model of participatory democracy—over the last 375 years, and into the next millennium.

Honoring the Birthday of William Christopher Shuler

HON. HAROLD ROGERS
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, November 22, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House that on November 28, 1999, my grandson, William Christopher Shuler, will celebrate his first birthday. I have enjoyed myself immeasurably over the last few months watching little William grow, and my wife Cynthia and I are looking forward to many more birthdays as we head into the new millennium.

We often hear our colleagues on the floor honoring those constituents who are celebrating their 100th birthdays, and as we listen, we are able to reflect on the wonderment of the 20th century and appreciate just how much the world has changed over their lifetime. Those people born in 1899 have witnessed first-hand the advent of modern aviation, from the first flight by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk to the landing on the Moon's Sea of Tranquility. They have seen the dawn of a world connected by the Internet, where e-mail and video replace ink and paper for communication. They have seen a technological revolution unfold before their eyes. They have also watched our brave young men and women travel to foreign lands to fight for freedom and democracy in five separate wars.

Now imagine what a one-year-old today will experience as he heads into the 21st century. It's hard to fathom what the world will look like—fifty, seventy-five, or one hundred years from now. Yet, little William sits on that exciting threshold—filled with great opportunity and hope.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in this celebration, and to always keep our young ones in mind as we continue in Congress to make this nation a better place for them all.

Health Care for All

HON. KAREN McCARTHY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, November 22, 1999

Ms. McCarthy of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the importance of addressing the multi-faceted issues involved in providing access to health care for all Americans. In a country of unsurpassed material resources, no one should be without health care. Yet, this number of uninsured and disenfranchised populations that have to limit their exposure even to basic primary health services, has reached staggering proportions.

If we are to successfully turn-around this untenable situation, we must develop comprehensive, coordinated, targeted approaches that proactively address systemic health-related issues in our communities.

I have recently become aware of the efforts of the Carondelet Health System (CHS) to develop a “Community Outreach Network” that would serve as a model for universal access to health services in multi-cultural communities. CHS, comprised of more than 50 hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home care agencies and physician groups across the United States, has a strong presence in the State of Missouri with its national headquarters located in St. Louis, and a number of institutions in my own district. Since its inception, CHS has focused on its commitment to the uninsured, disenfranchised medically underserved members of the community. One-third of the population reached by CHS members is Hispanic, and there are a growing number of ethnic minorities who come to CHS institutions to find a home in an increasingly complex health care delivery system.

Given the multicultural community that CHS serves, CHS has launched a national collaborative initiative to increase community health access; provide a comprehensive continuum of care for the uninsured; and focus on minority health status improvements. Breaking down barriers to health care by enrolling medically underserved children and families in available programs; coordination and integration of community health resources on the local level, and cultural competency training for medical staff who serve diverse, multicultural communities will be key elements of the CHS Community Outreach Network.

National health systems such as Carondelet, with unique expertise in reaching out to the uninsured and under-served, can play a highly beneficial role as collaborative partners with the federal government in developing models for community health access that can be replicated by others in health care community. As the Department of Health and Human Services develops its budget and Congress sets its spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2001, I wish that attention will be paid and resources will be allocated to pilots and demonstrations that support current Administration goals to increase access to community health services. This is imperative in multi-cultural communities where language and other cultural differences present barriers to achieving community health objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. Porter, and the Ranking Minority Member, Mr. Obey, for their commitment to insuring that access to health care for all Americans is a fundamental and basic right.

I look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the upcoming session of Congress to find ways to increase support for critically needed minority health initiatives.