

Agriculture Improvement Reform Act or FAIR Act—legislation authorizing the majority of U.S. agricultural programs until 2002. And BILL has been a leader in his efforts to improve education in rural communities across the United States, particularly as a respected Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee. BILL's hard work and dedication on Agricultural matters will be missed, he leaves some very large shoes to fill come January.

Then there is the matter of our resemblance. Some have claimed that BILL and I are similar in appearance. To compound matters even further, there is a third Member, TOM EWING of Illinois—and TOM is also retiring this year—who is said to share our resemblance. Well, I can't say for certain which of the three of us gets the better end of that comparison, but I do know that I wouldn't mind being confused for BILL BARRETT when it comes to this enthusiasm for smaller, more efficient government. Since helping to bring a Republican majority to Congress in 1994, BILL BARRETT has been a steadfast voice in bringing fiscal responsibility back to the federal budget process. His efforts to ensure a balanced budget and to restrain federal spending over the past ten years have been instrumental in bringing about the budget surplus that we enjoy today. That is something that BILL can be very proud of during this retirement years.

I've known BILL and Elsie since I was first elected to this House in 1992. BILL quickly became a trusted friend, one who could always be counted on to provide clear and useful information, wise insight, and good, solid counsel. To a freshman Member of Congress in 1992, BILL's friendship and wisdom meant a great deal to me. It still does. I place the highest value on that friendship.

I wish BILL and his family heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and I thank him for his many years of public service to America.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and a sense of loss that we ponder the passing of a truly great public servant, Sidney Yates. I had the pleasure of working with Sid during my entire career in the U.S. House of Representatives. During that time, I came to know him as a tireless servant to the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois and the nation as a whole.

Sid served with distinction in the House of Representatives for 24 terms. During his tenure, he was a constant champion of the arts and, as Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, an unswerving advocate for the conservation of our public lands. To many of his colleagues, however, Sid was an inspiring example of dedication, character and integrity. He has been and will continue to be missed in the halls he walked in for so many years.

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN S. TAMRAZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American who has been honored with the AMVETS Silver Helmet Americanism Award, Lincoln S. Tamraz.

Lincoln S. Tamraz has been an active member of AMVETS for over 50 years. He has held numerous leadership positions, including being elected national commander of AMVETS. He worked successfully to establish the Assyrian American AMVETS Post No. 5. Mr. Tamraz is serving his second term as national president of the Past Association of National Commanders.

In addition to his extraordinary leadership of AMVETS, Mr. Tamraz has also dedicated himself to spreading the ideals of the American flag. He has been an active member of the AMVETS Flag Day committee where he has assisted with the establishment of the Avenue of Flags, which places flags on the graves of veterans in Illinois cemeteries. He has also tirelessly worked to ensure that Chicago public schools receive an American flag each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Lincoln S. Tamraz and his superb leadership and patriotism of over half a century. I am exceedingly proud to know him and honor him for making our country a better place for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 592, H.J. Res. 123, the 13th Continuing Appropriations Resolution, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH
DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my House colleagues JOHN LEWIS, BENNIE THOMPSON, CHARLIE NORWOOD, and JESSE JACKSON, Jr. who are champions in this important effort to address the issue of minority health disparities. This is a matter of deep concern to not only African-Americans, but also to Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, and other minorities who are clearly underserved by the American health care system.

Despite continuing advances in research and medicine, disparities in American health care are a growing problem. This is evidenced

by the fact that minority Americans lag behind in nearly every single measure of health quality. Those measures include life expectancy, health care coverage, access to care, and disease rates. Ethnic minorities and individuals in medically underserved rural communities continue to suffer disproportionately from many diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. There have been numerous studies in scientific journals showing the severity of racial and ethnic health disparities and the need for action in order to remedy this grave problem.

For these and countless other reasons, it is time for the Nation to focus on this problem and to work to bring fairness to our minority citizens in the Nation's public and private health care systems. There is no better place to start this effort than the focal point for Federal health research, the renowned and highly respected National Institutes of Health.

Since 1996, Congress has increased funding for basic medical research at NIH from \$12 billion to over \$18 billion—over a 50 percent increase. These funds support 50,000 scientists working at 2,000 institutions across the United States. I have been proud to support these increases, but I think it is now time that we target some portion of those funds on the Nation's most acute health problems among our minority citizens—and I might add, minority taxpayers.

Let me say that I am delighted to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3250. Among other provisions, this legislation will elevate the existing office of Research on Minority Health at NIH to a National Center for Research on Minority Health. This upgrade to the level of National Center would in itself underscore the importance of this work, and along with expanded research and education, improved data systems and strengthened public awareness, we will be taking a great leap forward in addressing this critical national problem.

The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act will increase our knowledge of the nature and causes of health disparities, improve the quality and outcomes of health care services for minority populations, and aid in bringing us closer to our mutual goal of closing the long-standing gap in health care.

I am deeply committed to this legislation, and I urge you to support my colleagues and me in our effort to rectify this inequality in health care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, I missed several votes. Had I been here I would have voted as follows: Roll No. 588, that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 2—"no"; Roll No. 589 to agree to H. Con. Res. 397, Violation of Human Rights in Central Asia—"yea"; Roll No. 590, Holt Motion to Instruct—"yea"; Roll No. 591, Wu Motion to Instruct—"yea."