

December 15, 2000

at the Hospital de Damas in San German, Puerto Rico. She is a graduate of Central High School in Santurce, Puerto Rico. Also, she studied Health Education at Columbia University in New York and Cosmetology at the Master Headdresser Academy in Passaic, New Jersey.

Maria has always been an active and involved leader. One of her most important accomplishments was her founding of the Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center (HMPSC) in Paterson. She is currently the Executive Director of the center. The HMPSC is a highly respected agency that provides free social, educational and recreation services to the residents of Paterson and Passaic County.

This remarkable woman is a trailblazer for Latino elected officials in Passaic County. In her political career she has set many important milestones. In 1989, she became the first Hispanic Woman to be elected as the President of the Paterson City Council. Her vision and leadership has made it easier for all Hispanic Americans to seek and win elected office.

On the Council and in her daily life Maria remained devoted to the City of Paterson and the Hispanic community. She has served as Deputy Mayor of the city, as well as the Administrator of the Mayor's Office Division of Planning. In addition, she was a coordinator of the city's service programs for the Hispanic community and the nutritional programs for the city's Hispanic senior citizens.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Councilwoman Magda has served her community in a variety of positions. She was the Commissioner of the Board of Social Services and the Board of Health in Paterson. She was also a member of the Board of St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson. She has served as a liaison between the Paterson City Hall and the community at-large. She was a member of Women in Government, the Paterson Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia University Health Panel and the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors. In addition, she has served as Chairperson of the Paterson Great Falls Committee, and in 1976, she was the President of the Puerto Rican Parade.

Councilwoman Magda continually touches the lives of the people around her. She has received a myriad of awards including recognition from the United States Department of Defense, the Irish Culture Society, the New Jersey State Assembly and the Italiana Society.

Maria Magda O'Keefe was born on July 22, 1938. She has three siblings. Maria has two wonderful children Debra Ann Martinez and John Mitchell Morales. She has four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, as a former mayor of Paterson that has worked with Maria for many years, I can say that I can think of no elected official who works harder or cares more about her constituents. Perhaps the greatest tribute to her is the unwavering faith of the voters of Paterson. They have demonstrated this by electing her time and again to her position.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Maria's family and friends, the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Maria Magda O'Keefe.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE  
JOLENE MOLITORIS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a distinguished public servant and a truly remarkable woman, the current Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Jolene Molitoris.

A true champion of railroad safety, Jolene Molitoris was appointed by the President of the United States William J. Clinton, to be the first female Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration in 1993. In her tireless effort to improve safety in the United States and around the world, Administrator Molitoris established zero tolerance for any safety hazard as the industry standard. In addition, she created partnerships with rail labor and management, achieving historic increases in all safety categories. As a testament to the outstanding leadership of Administrator Molitoris, the FRA began its transformation from a traditional regulatory agency into a result and consumer-focused organization.

Under Administrator Molitoris' management (1993-1999), the public enjoyed the safest seven-year period in history. During this period there was a 43-percent reduction in employee injuries and fatalities and a 30-percent reduction in grade crossing injuries and deaths.

Throughout her years of public service, Administrator Molitoris has received many honors, including being named by Railway Age Magazine as one of the 16 most respected and admired "Great Railroaders of the 20th Century." In 1999, Administrator Molitoris received three awards: the Ellis Island Medal of Honor awarded by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations Foundation, Inc; and the Jolene M. Molitoris Golden Spike Award created by the Indiana High Speed Rail Association. Also, in 1999, the New Jersey Division of the Polish American Congress honored Administrator Molitoris as their Millennium Woman of the Year.

On a personal note, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with Jolene Molitoris on a great many initiatives. I have great respect and admiration for her public service career. She is a person of solid integrity who possesses a true desire to serve the public's best interest. She is an individual of tremendous talent and her leadership of the FRA will be long remembered.

I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable public servant for her distinguished years of service, and her dedication to making our Nation's railways safer.

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ON EHEALTHINSURANCE.COM

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, books, toys, flowers, clothes and insurance? Now you can shop for just about anything on the web, including insurance. I recently window-shopped for insurance using [ehealthinsurance.com](http://ehealthinsurance.com); the same program Republican health care staffers received a briefing on last week.

My window-shopping included looking at available health insurance options in Florida, Montana, Louisiana and Georgia through the eyes of people who were 25, 35, 45, 55 and 60, both married and single.

The data reiterated our findings from March, which proved that in order to help the uninsured we cannot simply give them refundable tax credits; the tax credits have to be coupled with major insurance reform.

Many people who are uninsured are working poor and may not qualify for Medicaid; therefore if the tax credit does not cover almost the entire cost of insurance they will still not be able to afford it.

The results also proved that with age, tax credit becomes even more useless because health insurance prices rapidly increase as one ages. For example, a 25 year old low income couple in Billings, Montana could initially get by with a \$316.00 credit per month, but by the time the couple reached age 60 they would need \$1,032.00 per month to sustain the same plan from the same insurance company.

Shopping on the web is like shopping at wholesale; it allows us to buy books, clothes and the like at prices that most people can afford. The same thing cannot be said about insurance: without insurance market reform, health insurance will remain unaffordable for tens of millions.

To view charts relating to this issue, please visit my website at [www.house.gov—stark](http://www.house.gov—stark).

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ALPHA PHI OMEGA

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity.

On December 16, 1925, Frank Horton formed Alpha Phi Omega with a group of students at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Horton's service in World War I, and his subsequent introduction to the Scout Oath and Law, helped to inspire him to found the fraternity as a way to encourage young people to help others and to bring about a better, more peaceful world.

Alpha Phi Omega members are united by the principles of leadership, friendship and

service. These principles are designed to aid fraternity members in discovering and developing their leadership abilities, not only by making last friendships, but also by planning and providing helpful service to others.

Since its founding, Alpha Phi Omega has chartered chapters at more than 700 campuses nationwide, and more than 300,000 Americans have been inducted into the organization. The fraternity is proud to count Members of Congress and even Presidents of the United States among its many distinguished alumni. Today, Alpha Phi Omega is active on about 350 campuses, large and small, with 18,000 current members throughout the country.

For its members, Alpha Phi Omega is much more than an extracurricular activity. It is a way for members to make their campuses, their communities and their world a better place for all of us. Alpha Phi Omega begins as a college experience, but its members have made it a lifetime commitment to turning Frank Reed Horton's noble ideal of a better and more peaceful world into a reality.

I commend Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity for a successful first 75 years, and I would like to thank my friend and constituent, Mr. Ed Richter of Franklin, Ohio, for bringing this significant milestone to my attention. Mr. Richter currently serves as National Service/Communication Program Director for the organization.

I join my colleagues in wishing continued success to Alpha Phi Omega and its distinguished members and alumni.

THANKS TO MY CONGRESSIONAL  
AND SUBCOMMITTEE STAFFS

**HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the best Congressional staff in America: mine. My outstanding Chief of Staff, Ginny Hotaling, and my staff at home: Linda Maneck, with nineteen years of experience, Ed Kelly, with fourteen years, Carol Joy Cunningham, Dee Jay Kweder, eighteen years with me and five with my predecessor, Bob McClory, Mary Jane Partridge and Nancy Johnson, and my Press Secretary, Linda Mae Carlstone, now in her second tour in that position—all have done superior work in serving me and our constituents. In Washington, my acclaimed Administrative Assistant, Katharine Fisher, my Office Manager, Jerri Lohman, with me for twenty years, my Legislative Director, Spencer Pearlman, the Executive Director of the Human Rights Caucus, Jeanette Windon, my Scheduler Jori Frahler, Mike Liles, Eric Rasmussen, and David Fabrycky—they have also been incredibly responsive to the challenges of a very active and demanding office, and I can never thank each of these wonderful individuals enough.

My subcommittee staff is also simply the best on the Hill. Its exemplary Clerk, Tony McCann, and his colleagues: Carol Murphy, Susan Firth, Francine Salvador, and our detailees, Jeff Kenyon and Tom Kelly, have

been knowledgeable, hard working and loyal. It has been a real privilege to work with them and with their predecessors, Bob Knisley, Sue Quantius, and Mike Myers, and I hope we can remain close in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF WARREN-CENTER-  
LINE STERLING HEIGHTS CHAM-  
BER OF COMMERCE HALL OF  
FAME RECOGNITION BANQUET  
HONOREES TARIK DAUD, MARK  
STEENBERGH, AND GERALD  
ELSON

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only as a member of the United States House of Representatives but also as a member of the Honorary Committee for the Warren-Center Line-Sterling Heights Hall of Fame Banquet. This is the event's first year, and I am proud to be a part of honoring three exceptional individuals for their commitment to the betterment of their business and civic environments—Mayor Mark Steenbergh, Gerald Elson, and Tarik Daoud. One simply needs to view the landscape to see the tangible evidence of the impact these individuals have had on the economic environment there.

Since Warren Mayor Mark Steenbergh became mayor of Warren, taxes are down, property values are up, and businesses are racing to take root in the city. Mayor Steenbergh's vision of a better Warren is evidence in the hard work and dedication to prosperity that he has put into the city. To many, the closing of the TACOM headquarters on Van Dyke spelled doom for the City of Warren. Mayor Steenbergh did Warren residents proud with his commitment to working with state and local officials to build a successful industrial park on the site. The crown jewel of Warren will shine in 2002, when the new Warren Community Center opens its doors. As Mayor of Macomb County's largest city, Mark Steenbergh is friend to all those who live and work in the Warren community.

Working his way up from design engineer, to his present position of Vice President of General Motors and GM of Operations for the North American Car Group, Gerald Elson personifies the hard working attitude of Western Macomb. His meteoric rise from the small town of Merrill, Michigan outside Saginaw to one of the highest ranking officials at the top company on Fortune Magazine's Global 500 shows proof of his brilliant ingenuity and business sense. In this capacity, and as Chairperson for the GM Warren County Relations Committee, Elson has served as the architect of General Motor's commitment to the City of Warren. Nowhere else in the world is the economy so reliant upon the auto industry as it is in Michigan, and Elson's committee to keeping GM on top makes him invaluable to the community's neighborhoods and business environment.

Community leader, business owner, and philanthropist, Tarik Daoud has been a part of the Macomb County Community since 1964.

As owner of Al Long Ford in Warren, Daoud has recently been named a finalist for the 2000 Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award. This distinguished honor comes as a result of Daoud's tradition of exceptional performance not only as a car dealer, but also to the community. Daoud sits on numerous Boards including Salvation Army and the Warren YWCA, in addition to his work with the International Visitor Council, which hosts foreign visitors to the Metro Area. Tarik Daoud has earned his reputation and respect throughout the community not only for his success as a businessman, but also for his education and charitable contributions.

Please join me in thanking the Chamber of Commerce, and congratulating these three outstanding individuals for their devotion to their work and the betterment of our communities.

REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN  
OF THE FORGOTTEN WAR: AFRI-  
CAN AMERICANS IN KOREA

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 15, 2000*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, September 13–16, 2000 marked the 30th anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Legislative Conference, the most significant socio-political gathering in the country to discuss issues of importance to the African American community. On September 15, 2000 Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (D-GA) and I convened, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration, another well attended, although highly emotional, 12th Annual Veterans Braintrust forum entitled: "Remembering the Forgotten of the Forgotten War: African Americans in Korea."

For the past several years my distinguished friend and colleague SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. and I have hosted the Annual Veterans Braintrust during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference because we both care a great deal about the well-being of America's veterans. Nevertheless, this year I was overwhelmed to be in the room with so many true heroes, and spoke for all my colleagues in thanking them for their service to this great nation. It makes me very proud that the Veterans Braintrust is one of the best attended forums during the Annual Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. This year's event was particularly important because of the limited time we have to set the record straight on the sacrifices and service of African Americans during the Korean War. Because throughout the Korean War, African American soldiers were waging a war on two fronts. They fought gallantly beside their comrades in the most trying conditions, while battling the bigotry and racism that were still prevalent in the United States military. These same veterans continued their fight against racism at home by joining the grassroots of the Civil Rights Movement. Although Korea is known as the "Forgotten War," we told them that we will never forget, and we won't let our