

able to enjoy conservation, water quality projects, and recreation—including a local trailhead connecting a bike and equestrian path from the Angeles National Forest to the Pacific Ocean.

I wish to offer the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy my sincerest congratulations on its five year anniversary and the dedication of the Duck Farm. I am looking forward to many more projects in the future so the children and families in the San Gabriel Valley can have safe places to play and enjoy the outdoors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO MS.
SAMAKI VARIETY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroines, the late Ms. Samaki Variety, who we recently lost at the very young age of 47. Her passing on Sunday, December 19, 2004 leaves a deep void in our community.

Throughout her life, Samaki raised a brave voice to the struggles of the poor and the homeless, especially those afflicted with the deadly virus of HIV-AIDS across our community and beyond. She also portrayed the unjust and inhumane treatment of newly arrived immigrants, particularly the Haitians, against the backdrop of policies and regulations that continue to negatively impact their lives to this very day. Samaki worked as a Community Outreach Coordinator to my mother, former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, where she was noted and loved for her dedication, effectiveness, positive attitude and happy spirit. I reserve to her the highest respect and admiration for her insatiable quest for simple justice and fairness for the less fortunate among us, particularly the children and the youth.

Ms. Samaki Variety symbolized the resilient and unyielding voice for those who were disenfranchised and who bore the brunt of inequality of opportunity. She was a loving mother, an indefatigable community-builder and a catalyst par excellence who was completely unselfish in her endeavors. The authenticity of her stewardship on our behalf was defined by her utmost consecration to her calling as God's faithful servant, bringing laughter, hope and optimism to hundreds of ordinary folks and countless teenagers whose lives she deeply touched, never holding anyone at arm's length.

This remarkable lady was our community's friend and confidante. She will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of community service on behalf of the less fortunate. Her faith was deep and genuine, and her love for us was real and unforgettable. No one who knew Samaki—and having been struck by her sunny disposition and unflinching optimism—went away unchanged. She was truly a caring and passionate person who brightened the lives of all who knew her.

We will truly miss her, and we will never forget her.

I ask that the following article from the Miami Herald be included in the RECORD:

[From the Miami Herald, Dec. 23, 2004]

FORMER OUTREACH CHIEF RAISED AIDS
AWARENESS; SAMAKI VARIETY

(By Monica Hatcher)

Samaki Variety, admired for her work within South Florida's HIV/AIDS community, died Sunday in Atlanta of pneumonia. She was 47.

Variety, the former community outreach director for Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, spearheaded several city-sponsored AIDS events, including the Tree Lighting Ceremony commemorating World AIDS Day and the Youth March for Life, which brought thousands of school-age children marching through downtown last year to raise AIDS awareness.

"Her passion for HIV education may have had a great deal to do with the amount of HIV we see in the black community here," said Alex Paulmer, who worked with Variety on AIDS-related projects. Variety was born in San Francisco and studied psychology and social science at Fort Valley State University. After college, she met Lee Variety. The couple married and moved to Miami in the mid-1970s. The couple worked as entertainers and owned Boo-key Productions, which booked and promoted acts.

"She had a gift for singing, dancing and acting, but God also gave her a gift for helping people," recalled her mother, Annie Lacy. In the late 1980s, Variety used her talents and her own money to host a Saturday radio youth talk show on 1490 WMBM called "What's on Your Mind." The call-in program, aimed at teenagers, tackled such issues as pregnancy and child abuse. Samaki and Lee Variety had two children together, Leronce and Dom'Unique. The couple later divorced.

"She had a high spirit and was a positive thinker," said Dom'Unique, 14. "She was dedicated to her job and loved to help people and she pushed people to be the best they can be."

Variety worked in the public sector as an aide to Congresswoman Carrie Meek for five years. "She was a rare combination of talent, intelligence and ability," said U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, who knew Samaki when she worked with his mother. Variety worked for a time in the Miami-Dade County School System and with former County Commissioner Charles Dusseau.

In 2002, she joined Diaz's office of Faith-Based Initiatives and Community Outreach. "Samaki will be deeply missed by all of the people she encountered and the many, many lives she touched," Diaz said in a statement. Variety left the mayor's office in October to care for her mother in Georgia.

In addition to her mother and children, Variety is survived by a grandmother, Nazaree Foster; brothers, Roland and Wayman Hindsman; and sisters Jaqueline Shire, Jakkie Kidd and Betty Wallace, as well as three grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF REGGIE WHITE

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Americans are mourning the loss of Reggie White. He was a great player—a magnificent player. Without him, my Packers would not have won Super Bowl XXXI. But, athletes

come and go—even great ones. My friend, Reggie White, will be long remembered because he was so much more. He may have left the playing fields, but he never left his fans, and he never stopped caring for the needs of his neighbors. Reggie and his wife Sara launched Urban Hope in Green Bay—a program that helped start some 400 small businesses and create 1,100 jobs. Reggie believed in active faith—in putting his values and talents to work on the field and in the streets. We have lost a great player, but we have lost a greater man.

HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORD-
ABILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, education—and higher education in particular—is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country.

Let me give you some sobering statistics:

According to Nellie Mae, the average undergraduate student loan debt has increased the last 5 years from \$11,400 to \$18,900.

Today, 70 percent of federal student aid is made in loans; Grants account for only 22 percent of aid. Thirty years ago, student loans accounted for about 25 percent and grants about 70 percent of all federal student aid.

Seventy-five percent of full-time students now work to help cover their college expenses. Twenty percent of working students work 35 or more hours a week while enrolled in school full-time.

In 1975–76 the maximum Pell Grant award covered eighty-four percent of an average tuition at a state school; today it covers forty percent.

The generation often referred to as the "baby boom echo" will soon enter American institutions of higher education, resulting in record enrollments that will further strain the ability of colleges and universities to deliver a quality education to their students.

That is why I am introducing the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

It would make college tuition deductible, in conjunction with existing tax benefits for higher education. The proposal would further allow a family to deduct up to \$10,000 in tuition expenses. A family would be capped at deducting a total of \$15,000 in tuition expenses in one year if they have more than one child in college. In addition, if a family was ineligible for the Hope Scholarship (due to its income limitations), they would be able to deduct \$5,000 of tuition costs.

The bill would raise the income limits for eligibility for Hope Scholarships. Currently, the income phase-out on the HOPE tax credit is \$40,000 to \$50,000 for singles and \$80,000 to \$100,000 for couples. The proposal would raise the phase-out ranges to \$50,000 to \$60,000 for singles and \$100,000 to \$120,000 for couples, allowing more families to benefit.

In order to ensure that savings go to the intended beneficiaries, the bill directs the Inspector General of the Department of Education to conduct an annual study to examine

whether the federal income tax incentives to provide education assistance affect higher education tuition rates.

Access to an affordable, quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health. We must do everything possible to support this and that is why I have introduced the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. FELIX GALAVIZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mr. Felix Galaviz. Mr. Galaviz retired in June of 2004 after serving tirelessly for 30 years in the field of education.

Mr. Galaviz co-founded the Puente Project and is retiring as its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Puente Project has been recognized by numerous organizations throughout the Nation as a model academic preparedness program.

After beginning in 1981 at Chabot College, the Puente Project has flourished and grown. Today it is conducted in over 50 community colleges and 35 high schools across the State of California. Under the leadership of Mr. Galaviz, the Puente Project has shown consistent results and helped students achieve their higher education goals.

Mr. Galaviz has used his wonderful ability to educate and counsel Latino youth to work throughout his career. Furthermore, he has strived to share that gift with others, often conducting presentations to help others learn how to counsel and mentor Latino youth.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Galaviz on his inspirational work. He was a priceless asset in the field of education. I know him personally and am very familiar with his work. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Chisholm charted a whole new course for black Americans. She was the first black woman elected to Congress and paved the way for dozens who came after her, including my mother, former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. Shirley Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a pioneer in civil and women's rights issues, and was the first black of either gender to run for President of the United States.

Her determination and passion for the issues she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she never ceased to push for a better country for all Americans.

Congresswoman Chisholm is an inspiration to me and every Member of Congress. Her legacy will never be forgotten, and I will always consider her path-breaking career as a motivation to serve the people of Florida's 17th Congressional District as best I can.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COL
THOMAS W. SHUBERT FROM THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Col "Tom" Shubert for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he served as the Chief, Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He managed, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and state and local governments.

Colonel Shubert began his illustrious Air Force career as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at East Carolina University and was commissioned in 1974. Following graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1975, his operational assignments included piloting B-52 strategic bombers and T-39 airlift support mission aircraft both in the United States and in the Far East.

From April 1986 to April 1989, Colonel Shubert served as a Political-Military Affairs Officer on the Joint Staff at Headquarters, United States Pacific Command. He then served as the Assistant Air Attaché for Operations at the American Embassy in Canberra, Australia until June of 1993. Colonel Shubert was then assigned as a Congressional Inquires Liaison in the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force.

In June 1995, Colonel Shubert entered Danish language training and then served as the Air Attaché at the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 1995 to July 1998. He then returned to the Pentagon, where he served as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, until October 2000.

From October 2000 to June 2002, Colonel Shubert headed the Assessments Branch, Policy Division, Defense Technology Security Administration, which reviewed both Munitions and Dual-Use export license applications.

In July 2003, Colonel Shubert assumed duties as the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force. During this time, Colonel Shubert escorted scores of Members of Congress on more than twenty Congressional Delegations, in furtherance of Members' oversight responsibilities.

Colonel Shubert assisted me and Members of the Committee on Agriculture during trips to Afghanistan, Iraq, and, last year, to Africa. He

upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and his thorough and efficient planning assured that these trips were a complete success. He will be missed.

Colonel Shubert holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honor Graduate) from East Carolina University, a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to COL Tom Shubert for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and to the United States Air Force.

I wish him, his wife Kathy, and their daughters Victoria and Joanna, the very best as they face new challenges in the coming years. I will miss his unfailing good humor and hard work. Colonel Shubert has consistently conducted himself in a professional manner and therefore brings great credit to the United States Air Force.

REINTRODUCTION OF
LEGISLATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on this first day of the 109th Congress to introduce several pieces of legislation that I have been pursuing over the years, and for which I will continue to advocate these next two years.

First, I am excited to again introduce legislation to help all American savers. My legislation, the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act of 2005, simply eliminates the taxation of interest earned in savings accounts, such as passbook savings accounts or bank certificates of deposit. I think at least some of this interest should be tax-free, as we have been working towards for other forms of non-earned income. This legislation would end a punitive tax, especially assist low and middle-income earners, and ultimately contribute toward the goal of encouraging individual responsibility and taking charge of one's own financial destiny.

Next, for years I have authored legislation to repeal the 2 percent excise tax on private foundations. The United States is blessed with a deep spirit of philanthropy, and charitable organizations serve the interest of both the individual and the community. Under current law, however, not-for-profit private foundations generally must pay to the IRS a 2 percent excise tax on their net investment income, which diverts from the purposes for which these foundations were founded. Optimistically, this body passed a reduction of this charitable impediment to 1 percent in the 108th (H.R. 7), but as it failed to become law, I am reintroducing this legislation and we shall try again.

Next, I am pleased to again sponsor the Health Care Tax Deduction Act of 2005. This would allow deductions for amounts paid for health insurance premiums and unreimbursed prescription drugs. This would provide much-needed relief to individuals struggling with the high cost of health insurance and prescription