

further complicates their chances for successful ongoing treatment. Furthermore, Black women are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS in our state, with an HIV infection rate almost 17 times higher than among non-Hispanic white women.

We are all aware of the success HIV therapies have had on prolonging and enhancing the quality of life for those infected with HIV/AIDS. As the infected population lives longer and becomes increasingly resistant to current treatment regimens; there is a growing need to focus on access to newer therapies for treatment experienced. HIV drug manufacturers are being challenged to meet the treatment needs of this changing population. Federal and State governments, public health programs, medical and community-based providers in addition to drug manufacturers are all challenged to find ways to better serve disproportionately impacted and underserved communities.

Tibotec Therapeutics is also a leader in reaching out to underserved communities highly impacted by HIV. A primary example of this is Tibotec's GRACE study, a first-of-its-kind clinical trial that will compare gender differences in the efficacy, safety and tolerability of an FDA-approved HIV therapy in women, and will also explore racial differences in treatment outcomes.

Tibotec Therapeutics, an operating company of Johnson & Johnson, has a strong history of advancing the science of HIV treatment, and INTELENCE™ is another shining example of this cutting-edge research and development. INTELENCE™, also known as TMC 125, is the first new drug in the NNRTI class to be approved in a decade. It brings new hope to HIV patients, whose HIV virus has become resistant to other HIV therapies, including drugs in the same NNRTI class. Notably, the FDA approved INTELENCE™ through an accelerated approval procedure—a process that is reserved for the early approval of drugs that show a meaningful therapeutic advantage over existing treatments for serious or life-threatening diseases.

Finally, Tibotec Therapeutics acted responsibly in pricing INTELENCE™, a fact recognized by many leaders in the HIV community. In fact, one leading HIV patient advocate stated, "With the introduction of INTELENCE, Tibotec Therapeutics has demonstrated exceptional leadership in working with the HIV community in an effort to address pricing and access issues. Tibotec has repeatedly recognized the necessity of responsibly pricing HIV products and should be commended for its leadership in this regard." This type of responsible corporate behavior is especially welcomed in my state of North Carolina, which has struggled in the past to provide access to HIV therapies for eligible lower-income individuals.

In closing, I would like to once again, I commend Tibotec Therapeutics for its innovation and corporate responsibility. I applaud the fact that North Carolinians living with HIV/AIDS will now have access to a new and important treatment option, affording them the possibility of living healthier and productive lives.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD GILMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Donald Gilmer, of Augusta, MI. A dedicated and selfless individual, Don has enthusiastically served the public for the past 33 years.

Don's career has served as an example of the definition of "public servant" and could be added to any dictionary listing.

Don has served Michigan citizens in a wide variety of significant roles, including 11 terms as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, 3 of which he served as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Don has also served on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, as Michigan's lottery commissioner, as Governor John Engler's budget director, and most recently, as Kalamazoo County's Administrator. His services to Kalamazoo County and to the State of Michigan are truly commendable.

As my good friend retires, he closes one chapter of his inspiring career and embarks on a new phase of his life. I am confident that this retirement is far from the end of Don's public service and that he will remain committed to the citizens of our great State and community. Don's humor and kind heart will be greatly missed by his colleagues. I wish Don all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on January 16, 2008, I erroneously voted in favor of an amendment offered by Representative JOE WILSON (SC) to H.R. 2768 (roll No. 8), the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (S-MINER) Act. Please let the record show that I intended to vote against this amendment.

HONORING JACQUELINE MONTEIRO DACOSTA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathies to a wonderful Rhode Island family who has lost a devoted loved one named Jacqueline Monteiro Dacosta and to briefly share with you the impact she had on so many lives just by being kind.

Jackie was a loving mother, sister and daughter who always exuded a sense of comfort to all. That's why she was perfect for her job as a constituent case worker in my district office in Rhode Island. For the past 11 years

she reached out to countless people who sought her advice and help on a multitude of issues and she always put them at ease while they told her their life problems. She reassured them—people she had just met—that she would do what she could to help, and then she did. I have a file of letters in my office from people who wrote to me just to praise Jackie for her hard work and more than that, to recognize her kindness.

Her sudden passing took us all by surprise. We knew instantly our office would never be the same without her presence, her funny stories, her smile. When thousands showed up for her wake and funeral to celebrate her life, it was such a testament to how truly loved she was in the community. No one had seen anything like it. Her family has been overwhelmed with an outpouring of support and sympathy from all over the state.

On my next trip to Cape Verde, her family members and I will plant a tree in Jackie's memory. Her spirit on earth will be forever surrounded by the unspoiled beauty of her homeland and the sounds of the island music she loved so much. We will never forget Jackie and her special qualities that touched so many lives and made life that much better.

We join Jackie's parents, Jose and Adelisa Monteiro; her children Stephanie and Justin and her siblings, Filomena, Osvaldo and Jose Jr. in continuing to honor Jackie's memory and her joyous spirit.

HONORING ISAIAS R. GOMEZ

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a community activist, friend, loving husband, and father—Isaias R. Gomez.

Isaias passed away on January 18, 2008 at his home in Colton, California.

He was born in Gallup, New Mexico, and was a resident of Colton, which is in my Congressional District, for almost 55 years.

While born in New Mexico, Isaias was raised in Jalostotitlan, Jalisco, Mexico. There he met and married his wife, Jessie Gomez. He and Jessie returned to Gallup, where Isaias began to work in the coal mines. Then in 1953, he and Jessie moved to Colton, and Isaias went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Isaias and Jessie's 6 children—Rosa, Eloise, Isaias Jr., Yolanda, Tommy, and Terri—where all raised in Colton. After initially working with the railroad, Isaias eventually became a successful real estate developer and builder.

I had the great privilege of knowing Isaias personally through his daughter Eloise and her husband Frank Reyes, who are both good friends of mine.

In fact, I gave Eloise Reyes a "Woman of the Year" award in 1993, when I was in the California State Legislature. She was recognized for all her great work in the community, and for being a true trailblazer as the first Hispanic, female attorney in the Inland Empire.

Isaias always let everyone know that his family was his greatest blessing. He cherished

his time with them—especially the time he spent with his 9 grandchildren.

Isaias will always be remembered for his amazing work ethic and his unending dedication to friends and family. His great influence on those around him is evidenced in the outstanding character of his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his children and grandchildren, Isaias is survived by his wife Jessie; his sisters Angelita, Alfonsina, and Isabel; and his brothers Joel, Jesus, and Arturo.

Let us take the time to pay tribute to this wonderful man. Let us celebrate the life he lived and the example he led.

Although he is no longer with us, Isaias's legacy and spirit will continue to live on through the lives of everyone he has touched.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with his family at this time.

HONORING MR. STU PIKEN

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Stu Piken upon his retirement from civil service in February.

For the past 10 years, Mr. Piken has served as Deputy District Engineer for Project Management in the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is the senior civilian responsible for more than \$650 million in projects for civil works, military, hazardous and toxic waste remediation and interagency agreements.

After my first election to the House in 2000, I have worked closely with him on a project of great importance to the 7th District that I represent, the Green Brook Flood Control Project.

In September 1999, portions of my district were devastated by Hurricane Floyd. Among the areas hardest hit were the communities of Manville and Bound Brook, New Jersey. The flooding in these communities resulted in two deaths, the evacuation of thousands of citizens, damages exceeding \$100 million, major disruption to municipal services, and disruption to the lives of thousands of my constituents.

The Green Brook Flood Control Project began in response to Floyd and other storms. The Army Corps of Engineers is implementing the project—which includes a system of levees, flood walls, flood gates, pumping stations, and retention basins—to protect low-lying communities along flood plains of the Raritan River and its tributaries. Green Brook has received more than \$65 million in federal funding since 2001, and Mr. Piken has been instrumental in its progress.

Before his current assignment, Mr. Piken served in the North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on a special assignment as the Director of Programs. In that position, he was responsible for the development of the water resources program for the Northeast as well as the management of all military design and construction in the Northeast and Europe.

I join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in thanking Stu Piken for his dedicated service—

especially to the constituents I represent—and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT PHILLIP
A. BOCKS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Sergeant Phillip A. Bocks of Troy, Michigan. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died serving his country.

Phillip Bocks was not one to back down from a challenge. From the time he was five years old, Phillip insisted on skiing adult courses, and at age fourteen, joined a hockey league even though he had never worn a pair of ice skates. While in high school, Phillip was a member of the swim team, acted in plays, and developed a flair for cooking.

After graduating from high school, Phillip joined the Marines in 2000 and was assigned to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, California. As an instructor, Phillip trained Marines how to survive and fight in rugged terrain. On November 9, 2007, while on a mission to a village near Aranus, Afghanistan to make sure the residents had medical supplies and food, Sgt. Bocks was killed in an ambush.

My thoughts, prayers, and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go to Phillip's family. There are no words that can relieve their pain and I can only offer to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Madam Speaker, Sgt. Bocks gave the ultimate sacrifice not only for the freedom and security of his family and our country, but for the people of Afghanistan. I wish to remember his bravery and selflessness as he is honored today.

COMMENDING DISTRICT 02 FIRE
DEPARTMENTS FOR A JOB WELL
DONE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam, Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the brave men and women from the Deer Park, Lindenhurst, North Babylon, West Babylon and Wyandanch Fire Departments. There is no question as to why the firefighters belonging to the FDNY are considered New York's bravest. The exemplary behavior and actions of these fine individuals represent just that, bravery.

When a fire broke out at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch fire fighters' from not only this town, but surrounding towns, joined together. They used their resources and managed to put out a fire that was large enough to severely damage the church rectory, food pantry, and community

outreach center. They managed to achieve this with no fatalities or injuries.

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church has provided outreach services for over 30 years. While it saddens me that an individual would intentionally start a fire at a place that has provided such charity, I feel a sense of ease at knowing that the brave fire fighters worked so quickly to counter these acts.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I want to commend the emergency responders for their bravery and a job well done. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to these men and women for their services not only on December 30th but on every day that they go out and risk their lives for others.

HONORING CATHY AND LEN
UNGER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my colleague, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and I rise to pay tribute to our good friends, Cathy and Len Unger, who are being honored by the American Jewish Committee, AJC, at the Ira E. Yellin Community Leadership Award Dinner on January 24, 2008.

The AJC has chosen to recognize Cathy and Len, two remarkable leaders for their deep commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all people and protecting their essential rights and liberties. For over 100 years, the AJC has been a vital organization in the Jewish community. It has continued its efforts to combat anti-Semitism, promote pluralism and democratic values, support Israel's quest for peace and security, advocate for energy independence and strengthen Jewish life.

As with all of us, Cathy and Len are the products of their family experiences. Len was born in a displaced persons camp after his parents survived the Holocaust. Although Cathy's father is a native Angeleno, Cathy's mother fled Germany with her family in 1933.

Cathy and Len were introduced to the AJC by Cathy's father, but their active participation started after a trip to Israel, organized by Ira Yellin, where they witnessed firsthand the impact of this outstanding organization. Upon their return, they joined the board of the Los Angeles chapter and have worked diligently to help the AJC attain its important mission.

Len graduated from UCLA and received his JD degree from Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley. Cathy also graduated from Berkeley. Len began his legal career in New York, where his pro bono work in a death penalty case earned him a Thurgood Marshall Award from the New York City Bar Association. When he relocated to Los Angeles, he joined the law firm of Levine and Krom, now Levine and Unger, where he currently practices.

Cathy became involved in politics, first working as a staff member for former Congressman Mel Levine during his tenure as a State Assemblyman, and then as a political and non-profit fundraiser. Both Cathy and Len have been politically active at local, State and national levels.