

Justice Ortique was a man of community, of faith and of family. He was a man who loved justice and pursued it for himself and others his entire life. Our Nation is better for his service, his leadership and his commitment to his country. We pray God's comfort for his wife of over 60 years, Miriam; his daughter, Rhessa; and her husband, Alden; and his grandchildren, Chip, Heidi, and Todd.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL
INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, and call attention to one example of important NIH-supported research being conducted through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIDCD.

Of the five standard senses—sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—hearing is the one that people are most likely to lose. Approximately 32 million American adults have some form of hearing loss, ranging from mild to profound. Loss of hearing can occur at any age. Between two to three out of every 1,000 infants in this country are born deaf or hard of hearing. This impairment can make it difficult for a child to learn and adversely affect his or her social and emotional development. Older adults can experience social isolation and depression. Needed supportive care and services can be very costly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the average lifetime costs for one individual with hearing loss is \$417,000. These costs include direct medical costs such as doctor visits, direct nonmedical expenses such as special education, and indirect costs such as lost wages when a person cannot work due to hearing loss.

With NIH funding, scientists have made tremendous strides during the past decade in understanding the basic biology that underlies hearing loss. Research has already led to the development of the cochlear implant which helps people with certain types of hearing loss understand speech and other sounds. Researchers are also exploring the possibility of regenerating cochlear hair cells in humans; the destruction of these hair cells is the primary factor in most cases of hearing loss. Before, it was assumed that damaged cochlear hair cells could not regenerate in people and other mammals. However, in 2005, NIH-funded research has enabled scientists to identify a gene that may one day enable hair cells to regenerate in mammals.

These findings indicate exciting new possibilities for hearing loss treatments by regenerating the hair cells that transform and send sound waves as electrical signals to the brain, thus making it possible to hear better. In addition, there are new technologies on the horizon for diagnosing hearing loss in infants, thus enabling hearing-impaired children to receive early intervention that can help them develop language skills similar to that of their peers.

For example, scientists and clinicians working collaboratively at the Boys Town National Research Hospital with the support of NIDCD developed an approach for testing the hearing mechanism of infants in a matter of minutes in the first days of life. This technology is now in widespread use in many birthing hospitals in the U.S. as part of their universal newborn hearing screening programs.

This is but a few examples of how the research funded with taxpayer dollars at the NIH is improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

CONGRATULATING JAKE MILLER,
RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 HOUSE
FELLOWS PROGRAM FROM THE
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to congratulate Jake Miller, on his acceptance of the 2008 House Fellows Program from the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

The House Fellows Program, an initiative created three years ago by the Office of the Historian, extends the opportunity for high school Social Studies teachers to visit Washington, D.C. in order to learn, first hand, the intricate structure and proceedings of the U.S. House of Representatives. The program brings together twelve teachers during this week-long workshop, from June 23–27, 2008, selected from Congressional Districts throughout the country.

The purpose of this program is to advance the knowledge of the history and practices of "The People's Branch" so that the selected teachers can bring back an enriched understanding of the legislative process. While the focus of the program is Congress, the Fellows will also participate in conferences at the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress. These teachers will then be able to take these details they learn back to their students.

Jake Miller is recipient of this honor from our 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. He is a resident of Summit Hill and is a teacher at Panther Valley High School located in Lansford. As a teacher at the high school, Jake instructs freshman in U.S. government and seniors in economics. To help aid his professional development as a teacher, Jake tutored students in biology, algebra, and literature and co-founded an organization that assisted in registering and counseling individuals on the voting process. When he is not supporting students in the classroom, he is the faculty advisor for numerous student activities including student council and yearbook.

Additionally, Jake worked for Pennsylvania State Senator John Gordner where Jake coordinated various activities in Senator Gordner's office including issues pertaining to schools within the state. The knowledge gained by this professional experience un-

doubtedly has a positively impacted on the lessons he passes on to his students in the classroom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Jake Miller on his acceptance to the competitive House Fellows Program. His commitment to education, the government and his community greatly benefits his own students and those throughout the Pennsylvania educational system.

A TRIBUTE TO MAURICE
CALDERON, A TRUE CIVIC LEADER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved community leader in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, and one of the most caring individuals I have ever known, Maurice Calderon of Banning, California.

The son of a laborer, Maurice Calderon is a shining example of living the American dream to the fullest. He began with night classes at the local community college and an entry-level job as a teller at Redlands Savings and Loan. His long career led him to become the senior vice president for governmental affairs and community development with Arrowhead Credit Union, which he helped to become a community institution.

Even as he was beginning his career, Maurice became the first Hispanic elected official in the city when he won a seat on the Banning Unified School District board in 1967. He served for nine years, becoming a champion of educational opportunities for the large Hispanic community. He later was elected as a trustee of the Mt. San Jacinto Community College District, serving for another nine years.

His community involvement has been legendary. He has served on the foundation boards for the University of California, Riverside and California State University, San Bernardino. He was a leading member of the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Inland Empire African American Chamber of Commerce and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership. He served as president of Sinfonia Mexicana and Chairman of the Inland Empire Hispanic Leadership Council.

The list of his commitments to his community is impressive, but it does not do justice to the depth of Maurice's involvement. When he takes an interest in an organization, he brings a warmth and dedication that quickly make Maurice one of the most valued members. He has been a civic-minded connection tying all these groups together and making them all more effective.

He has also helped Arrowhead Credit Union become a force for bringing the American dream to minority and working class neighborhoods throughout the Inland Empire. He led the drive to open the first banking office in the African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods in west San Bernardino. The credit union has been honored for its minority outreach programs.

For his efforts, Maurice has received accolades from numerous cities and the two counties. He has had Banning street named in