

level to better combat international piracy and counterfeiting. This bill enjoys widespread support, and everyone from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the Teamsters supports it. I am glad that it passed with strong bipartisan support.

Finally, I note that I would have voted against the Flake and Cantor Motions to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2419, the "Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG, AMERICAN ARTIST

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's greatest art pioneers of the 20th century, Robert Rauschenberg, who passed away on Monday at the age of 82 on Captiva Island. He led an extraordinary life and his unique approach to abstract expressionism helped to pave the way for a new generation of contemporary artists.

Mr. Rauschenberg was born in 1925 in Port Arthur, Texas. His love for art grew while he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and had a chance to visit an art museum at the age of 18. When he returned home from the war, he used his GI Bill benefits to pay his tuition at art school.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Rauschenberg's portfolio was varied and diverse. He rejected abstract expressionism and searched for a new method of painting. Incorporating his enthusiasm for popular culture, he turned to pop art, and used materials traditionally outside of the mainstream. He was also a sculptor and choreographer.

Mr. Rauschenberg moved to Captiva Island in the 1970s. Perhaps the thing that Mr. Rauschenberg will most be remembered for in southwest Florida was his contributions to the art community in our region. He generously donated to the gallery on the Edison College campus in Fort Myers, giving them the rights to reproduce his prints and posters and thus allowing the institution to support itself financially.

In addition, Mr. Rauschenberg enjoyed sharing his love of art to art students and the general public and was often on hand at gallery openings to support local artists. He was also a strong supporter of Arts for ACT, a charity that supports a shelter for abused women.

Although Mr. Rauschenberg is no longer with us on earth, his memory will live on in the paintings he loved so much, the art community in southwest Florida he fostered and supported, and the people he met and inspired every day.

HONORING MR. IRV ZAKHEIM

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Irv

Zakheim, recipient of the Eastern Washington University 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year award. I am pleased to join with the EWU Center for Entrepreneurial Activities in honoring Mr. Zakheim as a key business leader, locally and globally.

Built on humble beginnings, Mr. Zakheim has grown his company, Zak! Designs, from a small business to a major global competitor with nine offices worldwide. Today, anyone with children would recognize the products that first brought national attention to Zak! Designs.

Zak! Designs is a company that creates dinnerware, drinkware and lunch kits featuring popular animated characters. They have recently added travelware for on-the-go lifestyles, additional products at the forefront of tabletop trends, and customized programs that bring fresh looks to retailers.

In addition to his business pursuits, Mr. Zakheim plays an integral role in the community. He is the founder of the Zak! Celebrity Open, an annual golfing fundraiser that has brought in more than \$1.5 million for charitable organizations in its eight years of existence. Last year alone, the Zak! Celebrity Open raised \$450,000 for the Rypien Foundation and YWCA's Child and Youth Services.

Madam Speaker, Irv Zakheim embodies the entrepreneurial and giving spirit that makes this country so great. I commend Mr. Zakheim for his important contribution to the business community and invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on receiving this award.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THIS COUNTRY'S ORGAN DONATION CRISIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note—with alarm—that organ donations are not keeping pace with need in this country, resulting in the deaths of 18 patients per day as they wait idly for lifelines. The shortage proves particularly detrimental to minority patients, who together make up a staggering 50 percent of people on the transplant waiting list. Because of a paucity of minority donors, and the bruising effect of disparate and unequal access to health care, minority patients find themselves most vulnerable to a deepening crisis that should rally all Americans to the cause.

The health of our citizens should remain foremost on our minds. As the leading power and example in the world, this country should strive to carve out a premier health care system that works for everyone, not just the politically connected, not just the moneyed. For every American, we have safeguarded the promise of life, liberty, and happiness—and we ought to make good on that. We can have none of the three without adequate health care. This should be our national pride: to continually develop and improve upon our remarkable successes in medicine, to shape and mold a health care system that is the envy of the world.

An April 22 New York CARIB News piece, titled "Organ Donation A Crisis Among Minorities" and written by Dr. Jennifer Wider, denotes these concerns and offers solutions.

ORGAN DONATION A CRISIS AMONG MINORITIES

The number of people needing organ transplants is rising faster than the number of donors, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Roughly 77 people receive organ transplants per day in the United States, but 18 people die each day waiting for transplants that will never happen due to the shortage of available organs.

Organ transplantation involves putting organs or tissues from one person into the body of another person, whose organs or tissues have been damaged or are no longer working.

"The recipient has to be immunologically matched to the donor well enough that the organ won't be immediately rejected," says Mark Schnitzler, Ph.D., assistant professor of health administration at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "Blood type match has to be acceptable and the recipient can't be already sensitized to the donor's tissue types."

The need for transplants is particularly high among minorities, especially among African-Americans. Of the 83,000 people on the national transplant waiting list, approximately fifty percent are minorities, according to United Network for Organ Sharing.

According to a recent study in the American Journal for Respiratory Critical Care Medicine, David J. Lederer, M.D., and colleagues at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York found that, "After listing for lung transplantation, African-American patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were less likely to undergo transplantation and more likely to die or be removed from the list compared with Caucasian patients." Unequal access to care is among the likely reasons Lederer and his team cited for this disparity.

Organ donation recipients are more likely to match up to others of their own race and ethnicity. "Both blood type and tissue types have racial and ethnic patterns," Schnitzler said. That is why it is important to look into ways to increase minority organ donations.

The need for more donor organs among minority women is especially great because minority women suffer disproportionately from certain diseases of the kidney, heart, lung, pancreas, and liver that can lead to organ failure.

"Minority women are well represented as a share of the total population that donates organs, but their need for transplants is greater," said Sherry Marts, Ph.D., vice president of scientific affairs for the Society for Women's Health Research, a Washington, D.C., based advocacy organization. "Because of a shortage of appropriate donor organs, minority women often have to wait longer for doctors to find a match. Sadly, many die waiting. With more donated organs from minority women, finding a match will be quicker, waiting times will be cut and more lives will be saved."

Further complicating matters are studies that show the biological sex of the organ donor and recipient can affect transplant success. At least one study has found that the combinations least likely to result in organ rejection are female recipient-male donor, followed by male recipient-male donor.

"These findings have not yet affected clinical practice because of the organ shortage,"