with the information that they need to ensure that they receive the best health care possible? We all talk about the importance of extending prescription drug benefits to the American people. Mr. Speaker, my bill, which will benefit the American people by enabling them to have access to accurate and timely information about prescription drugs, is an important first step, and I sincerely hope that this House will recognize it as so.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ERIC McDANIEL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Eric McDaniel, who was consecrated by his Senior Bishop, Sherman Watkins, in Columbus, OH, during the Holy Convocation of the Higher Ground Assemblies on June 23, 2001.

Bishop Eric McDaniel is the oldest of four children born to Bishop Allen and Lady Richardine McDaniel, and the proud father of Brittney and Bria McDaniel. As a child, Eric McDaniel demonstrated a gift for a life in ministry, in the areas of music and the preached word. At the age of 13, he became the church organist and choir director. At the age 16, he accepted his call to ministry and preached his initial sermon.

His combined musical talent and personal faith in God inspired Bishop McDaniel to write songs. He had no idea that one day his songs would reach the level of success that they have. Some of his songs include: ''It Shall be Done,'' ''Spirit Touch Me One More Time,'' ''Thank You,'' ''Come Unto Me,'' ''Restore Your Joy,'' ''When We Reach That Place,'' among many others.

In May 1993, Bishop McDaniel responded to the call of God to the office of pastor, and founded the Lord's Church Family Workshop Center, Inc., in the Bronx, NY. In June 2000, he was appointed to the office of Bishop and was consecrated one year later by his Senior Bishop.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop McDaniel is a fine example of a great community leader and a person dedicated through his faith to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bishop Eric McDaniel and in wishing him continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 592

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 592 in Belleville, Illinois.

The Knights of Columbus organization was founded in 1882 by a 29-year-old parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Today, more than a century later, the Knights of Columbus has become the largest lay organization of the Catholic Church. The order has been called ''the strong right arm of the church'' and has been praised by popes, presidents, and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need. As recently as 1992, Mother Theresa of Calcutta praised the Knights in a speech on the occasion of her reception of the first Knights of Columbus Gaudium et Spes Award.

Thanks to the inspired work of Father McGivney, as well as the millions of other Knights over the past century—the Knights of Columbus now stands at its pinnacle of membership, benefits, and service. Currently there are over 1.6 million Knights of Columbus—more than ever before in the order's history. Together, with their families, the Knights are over 6 million strong. They have grown to more than 12,000 Councils in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam, and Saipan.

One of the largest Knights of Columbus Councils in Illinois and one of the most active in the nation is observing its 100th Anniversary. Council 592, which has grown from 35 members to more than 900 today has a long history of service. Council 592 started in the old Lovingston Building in East St. Louis and served as its first headquarters. As their membership increased, the Council moved to the old Odd Fellows building in East St. Louis.

Council 592 has always played an important role in the community. Its civic, fraternal, and charitable projects were numerous. One such event that Council 592 started was their annual picnic. Started in 1922, the picnic was the forerunner of the Knights of Columbus picnics now held across the United States.

Inspired by the results of their activities, the Council's members started an extensive building program. The new Knights of Columbus building was opened in 1925 at a cost of a half a million dollars. The building, a brick structure of combined modern and Gothic architecture, was one of the most attractive buildings in East St. Louis and one of the finest Knights of Columbus buildings in the country. This new building served as the scene of the city's many dances, wedding receptions, meetings and other functions. It had a swimming pool, bowling alley, gymnasium, cafeteria, meeting hall, and a 41 person bachelor quarters. In the late 1960's the Council decided to move its operations to Belleville, Illinois on the edge of East St. Louis on Lebanon Road. The new facility opened in 1969.

Council 592's first, second, and third degree teams have repeatedly been acknowledged as the best in the Midwest. The Council's members have also been instrumental in starting nearly 20 other Knights of Columbus Councils in the area since 1901. A large number of Council members served in World War I and II as well as the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Many members remain part of our armed forces today.

Charity remains a part of Council's 592's efforts. Their main charitable event is the annual Tootsie Roll day with the proceeds going to charitable organizations. The Council continues to hold numerous activities during the year for families of members. They work with the Ainad Shrine Bonds for Braces as well as the Crippled Children's Hospital.

The Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, and defense of the priesthood. The Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are unequivocal in their loyalty to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on Earth. It is firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception to natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family. It was on these bedrock principles that the Order was founded over a century ago and remains true to them today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 592 and to honor its members both past, present, and future.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Conyers-McKinney-Schakowsky Amendment and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Last year, this House approved funding for Plan Colombia, ostensibly to fight the drug war in Colombia. Now repackaged as the Andean Initiative, it is the same failed policy that we have been pursuing for the past decade. It will not work because it ignores the fundamental realities of the region. It is impossible to stem the flow of illegal drugs from Colombia without addressing the civil war, paramilitary violence, unequal distribution of wealth and the breakdown of civil society.

Continuing to fund the Andean Initiative will result in more violence in Colombia. It will increase the number of displaced people. It will allow paramilitary violence to continue. Already this year paramilitaries have killed 529 people. It will continue a civil war that all military experts agree is hopelessly stalemated. And to the degree that it has any impact on eliminating coca production in Southern Colombia, it will simply shift that production to other parts of Colombia or neighboring countries. Crop substitution and alternative development projects, already underfunded in Plan Colombia, have not even begun. Because of U.S. funding, fumigation of coca fields has begun, leaving these farmers without any source of income. Imagine you were a poor farmer in Colombia, what would you do to provide income for your family?

Aerial fumigation may successfully kill coca plants, but it also contaminates other food sources. And it certainly creates fear and suspicion among the people in eradication areas.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we can reduce coca production in Colombia and the Andean region. However, military helicopters and aerial