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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Miss McMORRIS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC
May 16, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CATHY McMORRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 2 minutes.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SAVES MONEY AND LIVES

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, today I had the pleasure of meeting with a group of bright students from Jeannette High School in Jeannette, Pennsylvania. In today's world, so many high school and college students make information technology a common part of their everyday lives. They have learned so much about technology that it is commonplace in America to use a card to access your bank machine. In fact, anywhere in the world

one can do that. We even take it for granted that you can take your car to have an oil change, and the person who is doing that oil change will be able to tell you all about your car, when your last oil change was done, where, how much, et cetera.

But in America today if you try and access the same sort of information about your own health, your needs in a hospital, hospitals are often at a loss to gather that information. Even the best hospitals in America have that trouble. So today in America thousands of patients are having unnecessary tests, undergoing surgeries they do not need and taking harmful drugs due to our paper-based health care system, and the consequences are deadly and costly. Because of this, sadly, hundreds of patients will die today and thousands more will be put at risk. And all of this can be prevented. Simply put, paper kills.

To solve this problem, I have introduced, along with my colleague the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) the 21st Century Health Care Information Act, to make it easier for doctors to take advantage of new technologies, including electronic medical records and electronic prescribing into their everyday practices. Electronic medical records and electronic prescribing centralizes patient information in a secure and confidential manner to improve patient safety and increase the quality, availability and accessibility of health care.

Congress can no longer ignore the over \$100 billion in savings and the countless number of lives that can be saved by these new technologies. If you believe in saving lives and saving money, I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation to prevent further medical errors from taking the lives of those whom we hold dear.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues if they wish to learn more about the benefits of health information tech-

nology and this act to visit my website at murphy.house.gov.

CLOSURE OF CANNON AIR FORCE BASE AN ENORMOUS MISTAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Friday the 13th unfortunately lived up to its ominous reputation when this administration and Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of the Department of Defense announced that they were closing Cannon Air Force Base in Eastern New Mexico. They announced that Cannon was closing and all 2,800 employees would be moved to other areas.

I can tell you one thing; our Congressional delegation, all the Democrats and all the Republicans, along with our Governor, Governor Richardson, are united to fight this, because we believe this is an ill-advised decision, an ill-considered decision and a wrongheaded move. I just want to talk today about a couple of the reasons why this is ill-considered.

First of all, there is the issue of encroachment. When you have an Air Force base, you do not want residential areas nor industrial areas nearby. Of the 56 Air Force bases in this country, this is one of the best in terms of the encroachment issue. The local communities have worked very closely and formed a committee to try to make sure that this Air Force base was not encroached upon. There has been a robust buffer around this base for years and years.

Secondly, there is the issue for our airmen and women of practicing and training in supersonic air space. We have initiated in New Mexico something called the New Mexico Training

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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