

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. JOHN DIAMANDIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of my dear friend, Dr. Themistocles "John" Diamandis, endearingly known as Dr. D.

Dr. D was born on April 11, 1929, in Tarpon Springs General Hospital in Tarpon Springs, Florida. It was a foreshadowing that Dr. D started off life in that tiny, 12-bed hospital. He started off his medical career in 1961 at Tarpon Springs General Hospital, where he was one of three doctors on staff. He spent the next 47 years as a dedicated general practitioner there.

He earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Florida in 1951. Prior to medical school, he worked as a pharmacist at Webb's City in St. Petersburg, Florida. He earned a medical degree from the University of Miami in 1958. While in medical school he worked at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served his country in the Army during the Korean war.

A proud member of the Tarpon Springs community Dr. D cared for generations of Tarponites, including the pioneers of the Tarpon Springs sponge industry.

He started his career with his assistant, Cally Catroulis, who remained with him, amazingly, for 47 years, until his retirement. He opted not to hire nurses, preferring to spend as much time himself with each patient by taking, for instance, each blood pressure reading himself. While he often ran late having meaningful discussions with his patients, I can attest to that, others were happy to wait their turn for him, knowing that they would be the subject of his extra care and attention.

Dr. D was always on call for his patients, day or night. He is known for making late night and weekend house calls. Before going to bed each night, he would check in on his patients at home or at the hospital, amazingly. He never failed to treat a sick person, and never asked if they had insurance. Sometimes he was paid only with a hot meal or a Greek pastry after a house call.

As a matter of fact, Dr. D was a mentor to my brother, Dr. Emanuel Bilirakis.

In addition to his tireless dedication to his patients, Dr. D has been an activist in his community, frequently speaking out on local, State and Federal issues, on issues near and dear to his heart such as affordable health care, lower taxes, and improved infrastructure. He also remained active in his church, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and also various civic organizations such as AHEPA.

Madam Speaker, Dr. D is a rare breed of physician and humanitarian. Many describe him as an old fashioned doctor, but his practice embodied all that was and is still good in medicine, the strength and importance of the relationship between a primary care doctor and his or her patients.

That tiny hospital where he was born and started his medical career was the same one he retired from this past September of 2008. Now known as Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital, it has grown to a 168-bed facility with 356 staff physicians, a legacy of Dr. D.

Madam Speaker, I can only think of one word to describe Dr. D—axios.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. ROGERS, Michigan

#### WHO'S GOING TO SPEND THE MONEY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we took up the issue of the Troubled Asset Recovery, whatever TARP stands for. \$350 billion has been thrown, as one man wished it to be, as he directed.

There's another \$350 billion that has been allocated. Now, the question is, who's going to spend it?

Now, I've got a bill that I filed, it was, I think, the first bill laid down over here on the Clerk's desk the minute after we were sworn in, and it's a bill to allow the people that earned the money to spend it. The Treasury Secretary would have to put it in the general revenue and use that to cover any shortfalls from withholding not coming in.

This isn't some rebate where we spend millions to let people know you may get a rebate check, and then millions to process it, and then by and by, pie in the sky, they get a rebate check down the road for \$300, \$600. This is real money we're talking about, in the account, in the hands of those who earned it as soon as they get their pay-

check. If we pass this bill next Thursday that I've proposed, people on their Friday paychecks could have all of their Federal withholding in that check, all of their FICA withholding in that check.

So anybody that's working, performing services, including self-employed, they have a 2-month tax holiday. That money is immediately in their hands, in the economy, not some bureaucrat in Washington who is so arrogant that he thinks you couldn't possibly know where to spend that money to help the economy and help yourself.

So, we've asked, we surveyed people who have e-mailed in and asked, what would you—look at the withholding and see what, tell us what you would use your money for. Number 1 answer? Pay off credit cards, catch up on loans, including the mortgage.

Well, Paulson's out there spending hundreds of billions of dollars to try to loosen up lending so people can refinance and borrow more money to catch up on the mortgage they got behind on in the last year, many, back when gas prices were \$4 a gallon. Let them catch up with their own money. They don't need another loan.

Others said they'd go out to eat. They'd stop, they'd use it for entertainment. Others said they'd invest it in their small business to develop it. Others said they'd invest it in the stock markets. That would help the market.

Ten percent of those said they'd use it to buy a new home. That would help them with their down payment. There's so much in the withholding. Others said they'd use it to buy a car. Some said they'd put it in savings. But that would give banks more money to make more loans, so that would be a good thing as well.

Some got very specific. They said they'd buy farm supplies, help with their college education this year. Some said they'd buy insulation for their home to help on the energy bill. One said he'd buy a stove and an oven. Another said he'd use—well, there were many who said they'd repair and remodel their home. Others said they'd pay for medical procedures that they need. How about that? It's not some guy in Washington paying. It's the people that earned the money that would get to spend it.

Another was going to put on a new roof for his home so his family would be dryer and warmer. The people that earned the money know what to do with it.

It is the height of arrogance that in this body, we'd say, no, no, no, GOHMERT's got this bill, H.R. 143, that lets the people that earned it have a 2-month tax holiday. We can't do that. We can't let that come to the floor for a vote.

I proposed this amendment yesterday. Got shut out. They didn't want it on the floor. Probably pass. People would be afraid to vote against the people. And that's what that vote is.