

workers, it is also a bill about expanding treatment options for children in need. Expanding treatment options expands the opportunities for children with mental health concerns and allows them to grow and become happy and productive members of our society.

The hope and the potential for endless possibilities that we, as a people, attribute to children are diminished with each child who struggles with mental illness and who does not receive adequate treatment. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to lend their support for my Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1256, the "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act."

This bill will provide the FDA with the authority to restrict the marketing and sale of tobacco products, prohibit false or misleading product claims, and establish tougher tobacco product standards to better protect the public health. It also requires premarket approval of all new tobacco products and sets forth new, stronger standards for warning labels.

Although we've known about the dangers of tobacco use for decades, smoking remains alarmingly common among our Nation's youth. Every day 1,000 youths become regular, daily smokers, and almost 80 percent of new tobacco product users were underage when they started smoking.

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in our country and, according to the Institute of Medicine, accounts for more deaths than AIDS, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crashes, and fires combined. Furthermore, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that cigarette smoking costs over \$193 billion per year in health care costs and lost productivity.

We cannot allow tobacco companies to continue to engage in underhanded product design, marketing, and sales tactics directed toward our children. Stopping the tide of underage smoking will improve our public health, lower our Nation's health care spending, and cut down on preventable deaths. This bill is a significant step forward in the fight against underage smoking, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, I was not present for rollcall vote 170.

Had I been present for rollcall 170, H.R. 577, the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF TEMPIE LYNN ARMSTRONG PATRIOT AND VETERANS' ADVOCATE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional American, Ms. Tempie Lynn Armstrong, who suddenly passed from us on January 27, 2009.

Born February 22, 1967 to Paul and Sara Jane Armstrong as their youngest of 5 children, she was raised with her sisters Patricia, and Jeanie and brothers David and Paul in Wagontown, Pa. Tempie and her siblings were very close and loved each other dearly. Her relationship with Jeanie was the closest of all. There were so inseparable, they were frequently considered to be twins. Each was always there for the other through good times and bad. Their lives traveled parallel paths and their love for one another is eternal.

Tempie also had great affection for, and took enormous pride in, her nephews and nieces, Bryan, Paul Jr, Michael, Amanda and Emily. Her relationship with each was loving and unique. However, as Tempie, Jeanie, Donald and Bryan all shared the same home she had a special relationship with Bryan and was always certain that he would be grow to become a truly great man.

A 1985 graduate of Coatesville Area High School, Tempie was a very good student. While in high school, she entered into a work study program at Coatesville Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC). Immediately, she knew that she wanted a career in the Veterans Administration helping those extraordinary men and women in their time of need. She fulfilled that ambition and in twenty-five years of honorable service with our government, she proudly served thousands of hospitalized veterans and their families. Her colleagues would often hear Tempie cheering up Veterans by joking with them about her cats "Phil and Lil", and her dogs "Bear, Maggie, and Rupert". Her love of animals was just behind that of her family 'her Vets'.

For the past seventeen years, she served as the Administrative Support Assistant for the Coatesville VAMC Community and Congressional Affairs office. In that capacity she worked very closely with her supervisor and true friend, Andy Pahountis. The two of them fought tirelessly to meet the daily needs of our nation's Veterans. In addition to their considerable responsibilities at the medical center they also created a superior outreach program to make the public aware of the worthy mission and noble patients of Coatesville VAMC. The love and respect they had for each other was unsurpassed. Tempie was also a close friend to Andy's wife, Carole and considered part of the family by Andy's children Leah and Gregory. Together they spent countless hours at the beach along with Andy's Labrador retrievers Maddie and Lexy. Their friendship will never be forgotten and always treasured.

For the past eight years she was the hub of the Coatesville VAMC community. Her relationships with her friends and co-workers, Jack, John, Jeff, Judi, Wayne, and many others were founded on mutual respect and affection. She worked very closely with Congressional Offices in Pennsylvania, New Jer-

sey and Delaware as well as dozens of Veteran Service Organizations. Everyone who worked with Tempie knew they could depend on her.

Madam Speaker, tragically and unexpectedly, Tempie Lynn Armstrong died recently during surgery for a cardiac condition. When she passed there was great sorrow throughout the proud Coatesville VAMC and among thousands of patients past and present. There, life without Tempie will never be the same. I ask that this chamber pause and join Veterans and their families everywhere in acknowledging the many contributions made by Tempie Armstrong to her family and friends, our Veterans and our nation. We have lost a great American.

WILLARD V. MEYER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Willard V. Meyer of Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto. Pastor Meyer is retiring after 40 years of ministry. Thirty years of his ministry has been served at Zion Lutheran Church.

Pastor Meyer started his service at Zion Lutheran Church as the Youth Minister and later became the Senior Minister. Pastor Meyer, and his wife Stephanie, are well loved by their congregation and his service will be missed.

As the church is celebrating their sesquicentennial this year, Pastor Meyer was quoted in The Telegraph saying,—"Although many, significant, and profound changes have taken place at Zion over these 150 years, what has been constant and unchanging are the proclamation of the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and the ministry of sharing that love of Christ throughout the community and the world." Pastor Meyer's remarks could have well been said about his own ministry, constantly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Meyer's words also bring to mind Colossians 3:23-24, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." For the last 40 years, this could be said of Pastor Meyer's ministry as well.

I praise God for Pastor Meyers 40 years of service to Him. I extend my best wishes to Pastor Meyer for an enjoyable retirement celebration on April 19, 2009. May God richly bless him and his family in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PSI GAMMA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY IN KENT, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Psi Gamma Chapter of the

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, a proud heritage reflecting four decades of leadership, service, unity, academic achievement and pride.

In March of 1968, the first young men were initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Kent State University. On April 1, 1969, the Psi Gamma Chapter was chartered at Kent State University. The '68 founding line, the Devine 9, built a foundation of brotherhood and social action, taking up the torch that their brothers carried before them. In 1969, the Defiant 9 were the first bloodline to form at Psi Gamma Chapter at Kent State University, living up to their name as leaders in defiance of social injustice, ignorance and racism, and champions of the Four Cardinal Principals: Manhood, Scholarship, Uplift and Perseverance.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity of Kent State University collectively stands on the courageous shoulders of the young men of Howard University in Washington, DC, where the first young black men united in brotherhood and in their universal goal of advancement, civil rights and opportunity for all.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every member and leader of the Psi Gamma Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Kent State University, as we join them in celebrating forty years of young black men in brotherhood, service to others and action for the cause of civil rights. The young black men of Psi Gamma Chapter, and the young black men of black fraternities across the country, were a critical influence in the changing course of race in America—and continue to serve as a force of advancement, hope and change—one young man, one chapter at a time. This brotherhood, fortified with an education and unified agenda proudly raised the torch of freedom and the hope for justice and liberty for all, paving the way for civil and human rights and changing the social landscape of our nation forever—from the Psi Gamma Chapter House of Kent State University, to the White House of Washington, DC.

HONORING MARY BARCIKOWSKI

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mrs. Mary Barcikowski, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the 2nd Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council. Mary has been selected to receive this award because of her volunteer service at the VA, based on her outstanding dedication to serving the needs of veterans within her community.

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have dedicated themselves to protecting the lives of every American. Their service to our Nation deserves the highest level of gratitude. It is of the utmost importance that we take the time to recognize the individuals who give of their time and talents to support veterans and ensure their comfort, care, and well-being.

Mrs. Barcikowski is the Business Manager of Public and Community Relations at the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care

Center (BRECC). Throughout her years of service as an employee of the VA, she has served as the Coordinator of Voluntary Services at the BRECC, and has been employed at Perry Point VA Medical Center. Despite obligations to her family and her ailing father, Mary has given time and money to support veterans on several occasions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mrs. Mary Barcikowski. Her compassion and dedication to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces has become an inspiration to us all, and is deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mary on her exemplary service as an advocate and a volunteer.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 85, the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010.

Budgets are all about priorities. This budget makes it clear that the priorities of this Congress are the priorities of the American people. During the greatest economic crisis our country has seen in a generation, the budget before us starts us on a pathway to recovery.

The resolution makes critical investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence that are necessary to restore our economy and put the country in a position to remain globally competitive. Additionally, the budget begins the tough work of returning to responsible fiscal policies.

This budget builds off of the strong commitment Congress made earlier this year in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which provided approximately \$53 billion for the Department of Education, with further support for early childhood education, the tools to achieve high standards for elementary and secondary school students, and efforts to help more Americans obtain a college degree. By investing in our children, we are investing in our future and the prosperity of our country.

I remain convinced that in order to turn our country's economy around, we must transform our outdated, inefficient, and costly health care system. This budget commits to doing so. Not only does the budget resolution make critical investments in medical research and innovation, it also provides a framework for comprehensive health reform. I look forward to working with the Speaker to achieve this critical goal.

It is clear that if our country wants to remain competitive, modernizing our health care system is not our only challenge. We also must reduce our dependence on foreign oil. This addiction does not just undermine our national

security, but it threatens our environment. The energy challenges our country faces are severe and have gone unaddressed for far too long. Although there were significant investments and tax incentives made in ARRA, this budget goes further by supporting more renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. Finally, the budget includes instructions on legislation that will promote energy independence over the long run.

Finally, and most importantly, this budget cuts the deficit in half in just over four years. In 2001, the previous Administration inherited record budget surpluses—\$5.6 trillion projected over ten years—but squandered it all and more, leaving a record deficit of over \$1 trillion for 2009 alone. The President did a very tough and honorable thing this year when he presented his budget to Congress with an honest assessment of our financial situation, marking a return to budgeting and fiscal responsibility principles that will help get our fiscal house back in order.

Serious and swift government action was absolutely needed at the beginning of the year to help put our economy on the road to recovery, but now that ARRA has passed it is equally as important to start addressing unfunded obligations we will have down the road. I have long been a proponent of a fiscal commission to examine our long term fiscal obligations and make legislative recommendations to Congress. I fully supported the bipartisan budget summit earlier this year and was happy to participate in the meetings. I know the President is as committed to this issue as I am and I look forward to working with him further on solving our long term fiscal challenges. This budget is a good step in the right direction.

The Budget Resolution before us today makes the tough decisions to get our economy and country back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this common sense responsible Budget Resolution.

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Americans have a long history of volunteerism to better their communities and help their fellow citizens. Benjamin Franklin created one of the first volunteer fire departments in Philadelphia in 1736. In 1881, Clara Barton created the American Red Cross to provide assistance in response to disasters. Six years later, the first United Way was created in Denver to help plan and coordinate local charitable services. In each case, people sacrificed their time and money for a cause in which they believed. This model has not only served our nation well for over 250 years, but has also taught generations of Americans the value of sacrificial actions. The vast majority of charitable programs still operate with great success using unpaid volunteers.

After centuries, some now believe that government should take over this practice and pay people to "volunteer." In 1993, AmeriCorps was created, implementing this