

unprecedented damage to the Gulf Coast, including my home state of Alabama. Americans will never forget the images of storms that overwhelmed a city and region and left hundreds of thousands of people homeless and destroyed its infrastructure, including schools and educational facilities.

However, Congress would be shortsighted if we don't recognize that natural disasters happen across the country, across all seasons. Whether it's wildfires in the west, floods in the Midwest, ice storms in the north, hurricanes in the Gulf, or tornadoes throughout the country, our schools are also damaged when Mother Nature strikes.

The specific need for this amendment came to my attention because of the ongoing struggles that a community in my district has experienced. On March 1, 2007, a tornado ripped through the town of Enterprise, Alabama. In the middle of its 180-meter path of damage was Enterprise High School, full of children going about their daily routines and preparing themselves for their futures. The tornado left eight children dead, and left a community devastated by more than just material losses.

Over two years after the tornado, Enterprise is still struggling to fully rebuild, and the memories of those departed weigh heavily on the minds of the city and surrounding Coffee County. The high school continues to conduct classes out of nearby Enterprise-Ozark Community College. Though construction for a new school is underway, the city and school board has exhausted most of their options for fully funding the rebuilding of the school. Whenever I talk to Mayor Ken Boswell and Superintendent Jim Reese, finding a way to get Enterprise High School reopened as quickly as possible is always at the top of their priority list.

I cite the example in Enterprise because I'm sure other school districts across the country will experience similar issues as they recover from natural disasters. Over the past two months, my district alone has seen flooding and storms that have led to at least one federal disaster declaration. Small towns across America are simply not equipped to rebuild a mainstay in their communities like schools when they are destroyed by natural disasters. This is a way for the federal government to lend a helping hand to school districts in need.

Moreover, I am a believer in the old adage "if you're going to do something, do it right." Rebuilding and repairing these schools to 21st Century and environmentally efficient standards will help create a positive and healthy learning experience for our students. The families and students who utilize these schools will be able to take pride in them for years to come.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and his staff on the Education and Labor Committee for their attention to this issue and working with my staff to help draft this amendment. I would also like to thank the Rules Committee for ruling in favor of the amendment and allowing me to present it on the floor today. Finally, I thank my colleagues from Texas HENRY CUELLAR and AL GREEN for their continuing support and commitment on this issue.

I urge passage of this amendment, and passage of the final bill.

ALEXANDER WATSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Watson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Watson is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Watson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Alexander Watson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHT TO
A SECOND MEDICAL OPINION
ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Right to a Second Medical Opinion Act of 2009 to ensure the accessibility and coverage of medical second opinions.

Imagine that your doctor tells you that you must undergo surgery that may threaten the use of a limb or leave you with a serious chronic condition. It is only natural to want a second opinion from another doctor when facing such a serious health event.

Besides giving patients much-needed peace of mind, second opinions can benefit health plans by reducing the number of invasive procedures and result in better patient care through increased dialogue about treatment options. Some health care groups see the value in such requests and provide patients with a second opinion.

When I was a member of the California State Assembly, I heard from a number of patients who experienced a glitch in their health care coverage. They noticed the absence of a clear process for obtaining medical second opinions. These patients, many struggling with challenging health conditions, had difficulties obtaining second opinions through their health plans.

After meeting with patients, physicians and health groups, I authored a law in California that guarantees coverage of second opinions. The law in California was a good first step. Unfortunately, only a small number of states have similar laws on the books. It is time to extend second opinion coverage to health plans nationwide.

Americans deserve quality and comprehensive health care coverage. I urge you, Madam Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation into law.

A TRIBUTE TO BILLIE WESTERNOFF, CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONNECTION FOOD BANK DIRECTOR

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Billie Westernoff, who is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service at the Calaveras County Connection Food Bank.

Ms. Westernoff's career at this important community facility has been solely based on her desire to serve the public. Her vibrant personality and remarkable ability to connect with people have brought national recognition to the food bank. Furthermore, her determination to provide comprehensive programs and services related to nutrition, prevention and intervention for families in Calaveras County has strengthened my district and our Nation.

Let me also say that in 2007, Ms. Westernoff testified before Congress on the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables as a part of a child's daily diet. As a result of her testimony, the Mother Infant Child Harvest program was piloted in Calaveras County and served as the model for the federal Women Infant Children program nationally.

Her dynamic focus and ability to inspire others to assist individuals in need will be her legacy. It is an honor to recognize Billie Westernoff for her immense dedication to improving the quality of life for so many individuals and for her commitment to collaboration and equality. She has served my district and our Nation proudly.

INDIAN ELECTIONS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the people of India on their successful election concluded Saturday. I want to congratulate Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his United Progressive Alliance for winning the most seats, 262, in what is a month long voting process with as many as 700 million eligible voters.

Prime Minister Singh has been instrumental in forging a stronger alliance between India, the world's largest democracy, and the United States, the world's oldest democracy—including the U.S.-India civilian nuclear agreement which will mean jobs and cleaner energy for both our nations. As evidenced by the vibrant success of Indian Americans in American commerce and society, the shared values of our two nations are stronger than ever before.

I have met Prime Minister Singh in New Delhi and Washington, and I wish him and the people of India much success moving forward. There are tremendous challenges in that region, but I know that working together with their neighbors and allies, India can have a bright future.

CHARLIE WAGNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Charlie Wagner who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Charlie Wagner is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Charlie Wagner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Charlie Wagner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU FIRST ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to convey my support for the Taiwanese president, Ma Ying-jeou, his many successes, and the guiding principles of his country. President Ying-jeou is to be commended for championing strengthened ties between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, since assuming office on May 20, 2008.

It is with tremendous pride that we will collaborate with our long-time friend and ally, the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the upcoming World Health Assembly (WHA) later this month in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the first time since 1972 that Taiwan has been afforded international standing among sovereign nations at a United Nations event. This Congress most recently honored the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship with the passage of H. Con. Res. 55, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations. The passage of this Act illustrates the commitment and friendship between our two great nations. The strong leadership and cooperation of President Obama and President Ma Ying-jeou will unquestionably help strengthen our nations' unity.

Charged with the task of promoting global public health, the work of the WHA assumes great significance particularly in the midst of H1N1, HIV/AIDS, SARS, and avian flu threats. We welcome the meaningful cooperation of world-wide partners to make for safe and sensible solutions amidst continued dangers that jeopardize public health. I am confident of Taiwan's intention and ability to help combat these threats and help meet the ever-changing demands and needs of its people and the global community at large.

I urge my colleagues of the 111th Congress to please join me in extending continued best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou on his first anniversary in office on May 20, 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUSAN J. SPUNGIN'S RECEIPT OF THE MIGEL MEDAL FROM THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Susan J. Spungin. In March of 2009, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) awarded the M.C. Migel Medal to Dr. Spungin at their Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute in Washington, DC.

The M.C. Migel Medal was established in 1937 by the late M.C. Migel, the first chairperson of the American Foundation for the Blind. The award was created to honor professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements have improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired. It is the highest honor in the blindness field.

This year's recipient, Dr. Spungin recently retired from her position as Vice President of International Programs and Special Projects at the American Foundation for the Blind, and as Treasurer of the World Blind Union.

An internationally renowned expert on the education and rehabilitation of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, Dr. Spungin joined AFB in 1972 as a national specialist in education. In this capacity, she identified nationwide issues affecting blind, deaf-blind, and severely visually impaired children and youths, and worked in partnership with schools, agencies, state departments of education, universities, the federal government, and other organizations to resolve those issues. Additionally, she was instrumental in shaping the American Foundation for the Blind's research and policy work, specifically, its national programs in the areas of early childhood development, aging, employment, rehabilitation teaching, low vision, orientation and mobility, and career education.

Dr. Spungin's leadership and influence within the field of blindness and vision impairment are evident in her many publications and workshops, lectures, and keynote speeches she's presented around the world; in her mentorship of newer leaders in the field; and the awards and honors she has received and the enormous respect and reverence that greet her wherever she goes.

Dr. Spungin's forty-four years of distinguished work on education and rehabilitation of blind people in national and international arenas is commendable and fully deserving of the commendation of the M.C. Migel Medal.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY SAVAGE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, each May, I hold a small business procurement con-

ference at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri. Through the years, many individuals have contributed to the success of this event, which helps entrepreneurs and small business owners to cut through bureaucratic red tape associated with the procurement process and to make business connections.

One individual who was particularly helpful in gluing together my annual conference was Wes Savage, a good friend and expert in entrepreneurial studies and business development. Wes passed away rather unexpectedly last July, so the 2009 conference will be the first one without him.

As I prepare for this year's event, let me take a moment to reflect on the life of a truly outstanding figure at the University of Central Missouri, a good family man, and a friend to so many people.

Wes was born on May 25, 1937, in Decatur, Illinois. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering & industrial engineering from the University of Missouri—Rolla and a master's degree in production management & human resource management from Butler University. He also completed continuing education courses in psychology, banking, and basic programming.

Wes enjoyed working and became an expert while being employed in a wide range of industries and organizations. He was a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri and gave time to the Engineers Club of Kansas City. He was affiliated with the Missouri Board of Architects, the Engineers and Land Surveyors, and the National Development Council.

In 1987, Wes began working at the University of Central Missouri as the Consulting Engineer for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and became coordinator for the SBDC in 1990. Wes served as the Center's director until he became Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development at the University.

In his role at the University, Wes assisted and advised numerous Missouri business owners and entrepreneurs. He gave sound advice to help Missourians begin or improve business operations, which in turn, helped to create jobs and boost economic productivity in the Show-Me State. I have heard from many individuals through the years who have expressed gratitude for working with the SBDC because of the Center's positive impact on business.

Wes also cared deeply about teaching university students about entrepreneurship and the unique opportunities and business tools available to people in this country. This is why he was particularly thrilled when the University created the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development and why he helped create an online course and co-taught with staff the first entrepreneurial course at the University.

Wes Savage applied the things he learned in education and in life to his professional career. He was an experienced manager who motivated those around him with his strong work ethic and his relaxed, friendly demeanor.

I know Members of the House will join me in expressing gratitude for Wes's life and for extending best wishes to his wife, Jane; his sons and their wives, Craig and Deana Savage, Scott and Gina Savage, and Grant and Erika Savage; his six grandchildren; and all of his friends and colleagues.