

that “. . . our health care system is not delivering value for its stakeholders . . . if current spending and utilization trends continue, the Medicare program is fiscally unsustainable.”

Today I am introducing two bills to address this looming problem. The first would change the financial incentives in our health care system to reward low-spending Medicare regions through a 5% bonus payment. Currently, there is no financial incentive for high-spending regions to reign in spending. This would create that incentive and reward regions that have made a concerted effort to efficiently use health resources.

The second would lay the foundation for better, more accurate research for Congress to use in analyzing Medicare policy recommendations. The legislation will change MedPAC's statutory mandate to include an annual report to examine each Medicare region, evaluating access to care, quality of care, increases or decreases in volume of services, and the potential effects of other policy recommendations under consideration. This new report will provide critical data and result in more accurate and targeted policy recommendations that take into effect geographic variations and recognize that distinctly different delivery systems should be treated differently.

These strategic investments in Medicare will lay the groundwork for future improvements and refinements to the program as we promote efficiency and quality in all regions of the country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2346,
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Defense Supplemental both as a member of the House and as a Commander (select) in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

My fellow soldiers need the resources this bill will provide, and they need them as soon as possible.

I know there is much consternation on the other side of the aisle regarding funds contained in this bill for the International Monetary Fund. I, too, share those concerns, but, I cannot in good conscience vote against the many provisions in this bill that will assist our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen deployed around the world. These provisions include: \$500 million for National Guard and Reserve Equipment, \$4.5 billion for MRAPs, over \$331 million for high priority intelligence and surveillance, and over \$1 billion to help defeat the threat caused by Improvised Explosive Devices.

Finally, this legislation will compensate 185,000 service members who have been involuntarily extended since September 11th, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to support our soldiers who are bravely defending this nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO RAY
BURKHOLDER

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to a man who has dedicated 60 years to making weather observations for Northwest Ohio. Today, Ray Burkholder of Pandora, Ohio will celebrate this great milestone achieved by earlier weather recorders Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service was started in 1807, when the Nation's first scientific agency, the Survey of the Coast, was established. In the 1890s, NOAA established the Cooperative Weather Observation Program. Starting in 1949, when Mr. Burkholder was brought into the NOAA in Northwest Ohio, he became an integral part of the Administration. Up to this day, Mr. Burkholder has taken nearly 21,900 observations. The data collected by Mr. Burkholder benefited federal, state, and local agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

In addition to the Cooperative Weather Observation Program, Mr. Burkholder has served on the local area school board, and was the president of the Pandora Medical Center and the Mennonite Disaster Relief Service of Western Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Ray Burkholder. Mr. Burkholder's selfless commitment and dedication to the National Weather Service and Northwest Ohio has served our communities well. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize the service of Ray Burkholder.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY BROWN

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Brown, the President and CEO of Brown's Super Stores, Inc. The first Brown's Family Shoprite opened in Philadelphia in 1988 under the leadership of Jeffrey Brown. The Brown's Family Shoprite franchise is one of the last major family grocery businesses left in the county, and counts 2,500 residents as employees. Brown's Family Shoprite has earned a well-deserved reputation of strong community involvement, working alongside local organizations, businesses, and neighborhood groups for events and outreach in the eleven communities where stores are located.

Mr. Brown leads the franchise he founded by example, and he is a fourth-generation Philadelphia grocer. As CEO, he is actively engaged in working with local groups that fight hunger, prevent violence, and help give youth a better future through career preparation. Mr. Brown is an officer and member of the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Youth Network. He has recently supported the "Goods

for Guns" Program, an exchange that encourages community members to surrender firearms. He has been commended by the NAACP, and actively assists minority businesspeople in achieving their entrepreneurial goals. Mr. Brown has also been recognized by the City of Philadelphia and South Jersey for his work. Mr. Brown and his franchise have been strong supporters of the arts and other community events throughout the years.

Brown's Family Shoprite is a member of the Wakefern Food Corporation, the largest food cooperative in the United States. Mr. Brown's involvement in this cooperative allows him to share his knowledge and experience outside of the district. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Food Merchants, New Jersey Food Council, and Philadelphia Urban League. He has aided grocers across the country in understanding marketing and business development in urban areas, as well as the serving of diverse communities.

Jeffrey Brown has been a community leader and business innovator. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Brown for his extraordinary accomplishments, and am extremely honored to serve as his Congressman.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO THE WOMEN
AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for S. 614, which passed the House yesterday by voice vote. This resolution recognizes Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASP. These remarkable individuals were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between 1942 and 1944, these courageous women volunteered to fly noncombat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed in combat.

These women set a fine example of bravery and helped lead the way for the women of today's armed forces. For too long their deeds have gone unnoticed. This legislation grants these extraordinary patriots the recognition they so deserve by awarding them a Congressional Gold Medal.

There are 300 women pioneers still living today and I am proud to serve as the representative for one of these women. Emily Kline, who resides in Blairstown, New Jersey, served our nation valiantly in World War II. It is because of individuals such as Emily Kline that the current generation of Americans is able to live and work in a nation as free as ours.

The companion bill to S. 614 is H.R. 2014 and I was proud to be one of the 335 cosponsors of this bill. The generation of men and women who served in World War II have come to be known as the "greatest generation." Women such as Emily Kline were part of that generation and for her service she deserves our gratitude.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chair, H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, authorizes funding for the Department of State, the United States Peace Corps, and various international organizations. I cannot support H.R. 2410. This legislation recklessly overspends American tax dollars, fails to enact any much-needed reforms of international organizations, and actively supports a radical social agenda that conflicts with the majority views of the American people.

By authorizing more than \$40 billion over five years, the House Democrats are again recklessly spending money that the American people do not have. At a time when so many Americans are struggling to make ends meet, exorbitant increases in foreign policy spending are absolutely inappropriate.

H.R. 2410 authorizes additional funding of 13 percent for the State Department, 32.4 percent for the Peace Corps, and 35 percent for State Department salaries. These types of increases clearly demonstrate that Congressional Democrats are failing to be good stewards of the nation's treasury.

H.R. 2410 also provides billions of dollars for the United Nations and other international organizations without demanding any reforms. Without serious reforms the United Nations will continue to fail to meet the challenges facing our world. This legislation does nothing to reformulate the U.S. payments to the United Nations to more accurately reflect current economic conditions. It fails to implement a code of conduct for UN employees, does nothing to reform UN procurement or budgetary procedures, fails to freeze the UN budget, and does not address the UN's continued push for an international tax. Providing billions of American tax dollars without conditions weakens any effort to bring about meaningful reform.

Most concerning, though, is that H.R. 2410 aggressively advocates for a radical social agenda. American foreign policy should advocate for the national interests of the American people, not a divisive, extremist policy to placate liberal activists.

First, this legislation establishes an Office for Global Women's Issues to promote the task of "women's empowerment internationally." Given the rescission of the Mexico City Policy and this administration's strong commitment to abortion, there were serious concerns that this office will be used to promote the legalization of abortion abroad. The Obama administration and Democrat leadership clearly intend to use this office to promote international abortions.

All doubt was removed when Republicans offered a substitute amendment to ensure this office would not advocate for international abortions. It was defeated on a party-line vote.

H.R. 2410 also takes an extraordinary step to require the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to track violence or restrictions based on "perceived sexual orientation and gender identity." The bill would also require that the annual human rights report include information about violence or discrimination based on "perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." Finally, the bill would require Foreign Service officers to take instruction on identifying violence or discrimination based on "perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." Our tax dollars are not well spent monitoring the treatment of homosexuals worldwide.

This legislation furthermore mandates that American diplomats make overturning other country's laws regarding homosexuality a foreign policy priority. During committee consideration of the bill, Rep. MIKE PENCE offered an amendment that charged the State Department with continuing in their work to "to protect all people against gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, as described in section 116(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961." This language would have committed the U.S. to the protection of homosexual people—as they would any person—against torture, cruel, inhuman treatment, or "other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, and the security of person." Unfortunately, this amendment was voted down by committee Democrats.

U.S. foreign policy should be focused on progressing clear national security interests of the American people. Carving out special considerations regarding homosexuality, irrespective of larger foreign policy goals, could hinder vital diplomatic efforts. U.S. foreign policy should not be used as to promote special interests concerns, but the vital common strategic interests of this nation.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2410.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2892—the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010:

As requested by me, Rep. ANH "JOSEPH" CAO, H.R. 2892—the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010, provides for the City of New Orleans Emergency Medical Services ("EMS"), New Orleans, LA in support of an Emergency Operations Center. This is in the FEMA—State and Local Programs—Emergency Operations Center Account in the amount of \$750,000. This will benefit the City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 4W07, New Orleans, LA 70112 in the form of upgrades and retrofitting of a new permanent Emergency Operations Center for the city's sole 9-1-1 emergency medical service provider. This funding will help secure and store equipment and medication, and provide a training center and base of operations for the emergency medical services. Currently, Emergency Medical Services are operating

from a pairing of FEMA trailers staged underneath the Crescent City Connection overpass. Moving to the new facility on City Park Avenue and making the proposed changes to the facility will provide for the critical operational needs. Having a secure medication and equipment storage area, training areas, and a protected emergency operations center will help the department serve the citizens of New Orleans and better secure the city.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN GLADDEN
MACK**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazing communicator and deaf friend, Joan Gladden Mack, upon her retirement after a 28-year career in television and radio. Ms. Gladden is a remarkable woman who I have known since our days as students together at South Carolina State College.

Joan Gladden was born in a close-knit Gullah community on James Island, South Carolina. She graduated as salutatorian of Gresham-Meggett High School in 1960, and received scholarships to attend South Carolina State. Joan was gifted in the sciences, and majored in biology with the intention of pursuing a career in medicine or physical therapy. But her brothers persuaded her to join them in New York, where she took a job as a program director for the New York City Youth Board.

After four years in the "Big Apple," Joan decided to return home where she continued her work with youth as the program director for the YMCA. She later served as a caseworker for the Charleston County Department of Social Services and a teacher in the County's Manpower Program. It was during her time at the Manpower Program, that Joan's career path changed.

In 1972, many media outlets, including WCSC-TV in Charleston, started recruiting African Americans for on-air positions. While Joan had no formal training in broadcast journalism, many leaders in the black community encouraged Joan to apply. She went to apply during her lunch hour and was asked to stay for an interview. She returned the next day for an on-air audition and, as they say, the rest is history.

Ms. Mack was hired the same day as her audition and became the public service director and co-host of "Kaleidoscope," a morning talk show on WCSC-TV. Despite landing the job, Joan was unsure of the longevity of her new career and decided to continue teaching with Manpower in the evenings just in case things didn't work out.

Her talent and tenacity ensured Joan's success. She became a local celebrity and a role model for both blacks and whites. After spending five years at WCSC-TV, Joan moved to WCBF-TV where she became a news reporter and later anchored the news. Yet she yearned to do more reporting that would allow her to have an impact on the community. She became an investigative reporter and covered three stories of which she is especially proud: one involving teen pregnancy, another prison overcrowding and the third involved abuse in the state mental hospital.