

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL'S CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of that remarkable organization and celebration of that milestone by one of the BSA's premier institutions, the Chester County Council headquartered in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

As we well know, the BSA is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The Boy Scouts provide a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. For a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes—and, through a century of experience, knows—that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

It is the purpose of the Chester County Council to provide the communities of Chester County in Pennsylvania and the northwestern corner of Cecil County in Maryland with the finest of Scouting programs and services. They have done so admirably since 1910 with the fledgling West Chester Troop 1. The following year a more robust Paoli Troop 1 was formed and today it is the oldest continuously documented troop in Chester County.

The Chester County Council is comprised of four exceedingly well run districts: Lenni Lenape serving communities in the West Chester Area and Unionville-Chadds Ford School Districts; Diamond Rock serving the Phoenixville Area, Great Valley, and Treddyfferin-Easttown School Districts; Horseshoe Trail serving the Downingtown Area, Coatesville Area, Owen J. Roberts, and Chester County portions of Twin Valley and Spring-Ford School Districts; and Octoraro serving the Avon Grove, Kennett Consolidated, Octorara, Oxford School Districts and the Cecil County, Maryland communities of Rising Sun and Conowingo. Together these impressive organizations offer 151 sponsored clubs with approximately 13,000 members.

Joining the Chester County Council in its centennial celebration will be two American heroes, Drs. Vincent and Vance Moss. Vince, a cardiothoracic surgeon, and Vance, a renal transplant surgeon, earned the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 14. Soon after, they joined the Civil Air Patrol to earn the second highest honor in that organization—the Amelia Earhart award. Drs. Moss and Moss earned their undergraduate degrees in Science from Pennsylvania State University and medical degrees from Temple University School of Medicine.

While at Temple, Drs. Moss and Moss initiated “Increase the Peace” rallies in and around Philadelphia to help combat violent crimes against African Americans. After graduating from medical school, they were each commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps in 1998, and promoted to Major in 2004. In the course of their military service, these two extraordinary humanitarians have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq as members of the U.S. Army Reserves where they have rendered inestimable assistance to Afghan and Iraqi civilians and our Soldiers in the field. They are role models of the first order and epitomize all that is right in Scouting and the United States of America.

The Boy Scouts' record of achievement is exemplary, and I join all of the good people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our nation in wishing the Boy Scouts of America and its Chester County Council another century of invaluable service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE EXCELLENCE OF SCHOOLS IN THE 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of schools in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate the fourteen high schools in the district that made the list of America's Best High Schools.

U.S. News and World Reports compiled a list of America's Best High Schools by using a formula produced in collaboration with Standard and Poor's School Evaluation Services, a K-12 data research group. Each school was measured and evaluated in a three-step process that analyzes how schools are educating all of their students, then minority and disadvantaged students, and finally their college bound students based on student scores on statewide tests, Advanced Placement tests, and International Baccalaureate tests.

Of the more than 21,500 high schools in the United States, 1,189 earned a Bronze ranking. I am proud to congratulate Corwith-Wesley High School in Corwith; Eagle Grove High School in Eagle Grove; Graettinger/Terril High School in Graettinger; Kee High School in Lansing; Perry High School in Perry; Pomeroy High School in Pomeroy; North Central Junior-Senior High School in Manly; Nashua-Plainfield High School in Nashua; Lake Mills Senior High School in Lake Mills; Turkey Valley Junior-Senior High School in Jackson Junction; Ruthven-Ayrshire High School in Ruthven; Rockwell City-Lytton High School in Rockwell City; West Marshall High School in State Center; and Woden-Crystal Lake-Titonka High School in Crystal Lake; for all earning Bronze rankings. These high schools characterize the high value Iowans have always placed in quality education.

I consider it a great honor to represent the teachers, students, school board members and administrations of each of the fourteen high schools in the 4th Congressional District who made the list of one of America's Best High Schools in the United States Congress. I wish these schools, and all educators in the 4th Congressional District continued academic excellence as they provide a positive impact on our future generations to come.

RETIREMENT OF JOHN B. CATOE, JR., FROM THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John B. Catoe, Jr., who was born and raised in the District of Columbia and returned home to one of the toughest jobs in Washington, the General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA or Metro, which includes the Metrorail, Metrobus and MetroAccess systems). Mr. Catoe is retiring from the agency he led into a new era, the transition from construction of the system toward a core mission of safely operating and modernizing the system. Undertaking such a dramatic change in culture, attitude, and mission is not for the faint of heart. John Catoe was the first general manager of WMATA to take this giant leap forward, and doing so has not been an easy task.

He met the problems of WMATA as he walked into the agency. The agency itself had churned through four general managers in the span of about a year. In the weeks before and after his arrival in January 2007, four pedestrians were fatally struck by Metrobuses. A train derailed, sending 20 people to the hospital. Fire and smoke caused major delays during the morning commute on the busiest Metrorail line. A Metrobus caught fire. Reports of three suspicious packages disrupted the morning commute on a busy day.

Mr. Catoe convened weekend safety meetings with bus operators and supervisors. He established a mentor program for new bus operators, and saw to it that more than 3,200 bus operators were trained to understand traffic from a pedestrian's perspective. His intense efforts effectively put an end to the spate of pedestrian fatalities involving Metrobus.

Catoe faced nearly insurmountable challenges with grace and strength. He expertly navigated a political thicket within the highest levels of government when billions of dollars in funding were at stake for the extension of Metrorail to Tysons Corner and Dulles Airport. Those extensions will go forward due in no small part to John Catoe's leadership.

He helped bring a successful conclusion to the five-year effort to secure a source of dedicated funding for WMATA, which has been

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

authorized to receive \$3 billion from the federal government and from WMATA's jurisdictional partners. He staved off an attempt by the nation's financial industry to collect hundreds of millions of dollars during the financial crisis of 2008 from leaseback transactions entered into by public transit systems. As a result of his leadership both on Capitol Hill and in the national media, the public transportation industry was saved from a financial domino effect that would have devastated not only WMATA but also major transit systems across the country.

Nearly every major political and historic event that took place in Washington, DC, over the past three years has been a success due, in part, to John Catoe. When a new ballpark opened to serve Washington's first baseball team in 40 years, Metro rose to the occasion, and a trip to the ballpark on Metro became part of the entire Nationals experience. When Pope Benedict XVI chose Washington, DC, as the first city in the United States to visit after his investiture, security needs led to restricted travel around the city. With street closures and tight security, Metro was the primary way that hundreds of thousands of people were able to be a part of the historic visit.

With each of these events, John Catoe was preparing his team for the next opportunity for WMATA to take part in history. At the same time, he was undertaking the painstaking work of transforming his agency from one that for years had construction at its center to one whose primary mission was safe operation.

Glimmers of that realignment and evidence of John Catoe's leadership manifested during the most successful week in Metro's history. Metro's performance was nearly flawless in January 2009, for the most historic Inauguration in modern history, as Metro provided a record 17 hours of rush hour rail service; a unique type of rapid bus service on 23 priority corridors; and special outreach to passengers with disabilities to ensure that they too were part of the most inclusive Inauguration in history. The results of John Catoe's leadership on that day speak for themselves: 1.5 million trips were taken on trains, buses, and paratransit, as millions of people from around the world gathered to witness the historic Inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

It seems fitting to me that John Catoe was at the helm of Metro when President Obama was inaugurated. Mr. Catoe grew up in a segregated Washington, DC. When he was a young soldier in the U.S. Army Reserve, John Catoe was denied entry into a restaurant in Maryland while fellow white soldiers were permitted inside. Through all of his experiences, John Catoe retained a quiet confidence and serene grace that have sustained him in times of volatility.

This strength was needed on June 22, 2009, when a rail crash took the lives of nine people, including a Metrorail operator. The weeks and months that ensued have been grueling for families of victims, survivors, and the entire Metro family, particularly its leader, John Catoe. The investigation into that accident continues, and we hope that there will soon be an opportunity to remedy the problems that caused the accident, so that we can prevent others, not only at Metro, but at transit systems around the world. We in the region

have been grateful for John Catoe's compassion during an especially tough period and for his resolve to get to the root of whatever problems exist.

In Washington, DC, the capital of the free world, we deserve the finest executives for our public transportation system. John B. Catoe, Jr., is a rare breed of leader who has proven not only that he can deliver results within the highest echelons of governance, but perhaps more importantly, that he can do so with humility, strength, and grace. This city and this region have been blessed by his leadership. I ask, therefore, that my colleagues join me and the National Capital Region in expressing gratitude to John Catoe for his work in leading Metro into a new era.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I missed 2 votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows.

Rollcall No. 170, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4810, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 171, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4667, I would have voted "yea."

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4810, the End Veteran Homelessness Act. I want to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, on any given night this year, over 100,000 veterans are sleeping on the streets. And this year alone, 300,000 veterans will experience homelessness.

Additionally, there has been an alarming increase in the number of female homeless veterans over the last decade.

Madam Speaker, addressing the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans National Conference, Secretary Shinseki said, "We have a moral duty to prevent and eliminate homelessness among Veterans." I could not agree more and I applaud the Secretary for his commitment to end veterans homelessness in the next 5 years.

Madam Speaker, we have seen how using the media to educate veterans about available services has been extremely effective, and in order to meet this goal, the Veterans Affairs Department should immediately begin conducting media outreach to connect homeless veterans to available programs, services and benefits.

That is why I introduced the Help our Homeless Veterans Act. My bill would direct the

Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a national media campaign to raise awareness about programs and services available to homeless veterans and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman FILNER for including my bill into H.R. 4810 and acknowledge the special attention the committee has made to promote awareness of such assistance available to homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

Madam Speaker, with increased awareness about programs to assist homeless veterans, we can end veterans homelessness by 2014.

No veteran should experience homelessness, and this bill ensures our nation's heroes know where to turn to for help. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4810.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARCTIC MAN RACE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Arctic Man race, one of the most unique competitive events in winter sports. Combining downhill skiing, snowboarding, skijoring, and snowmachine racing, Arctic Man exemplifies Alaska's rugged outdoor spirit.

Every year, 13,000 spectators ride their snowmachines up to a magnificent alpine setting between Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, to watch this impressive spectacle. The race combines athleticism and horsemanship as a two-man team, consisting of one downhill skier or snowboarder and one snowmachiner, navigates a perilous course at high speeds. With the firing of the starting pistol, athletes lunge down a 1,700 foot drop in less than two miles, without the aid of ski poles. As the skiers approach the bottom of the hill, they merge into a narrow canyon and grab a rope tethered to their partners' snowmachine to then be towed at speeds of up to 86 miles per hour for 2¼ miles uphill. This difficult intersection can decide the race, as the snowmachine must perfectly match the skier's or boarder's speed and course while also effectively getting the pull rope into the athlete's hand. Once the team reaches the top of the mountain, the skier or snowboarder releases the tow rope and is slingshotted down another 1,200 foot descent to slip through the gates at the finish line.

When these men and women mount the slopes, they exhibit an admirable model of aggressive athleticism and backcountry moxie to make this one of Alaska's most remarkable competitions. As this year's competitors prepare for the Arctic Man challenge, fine tuning their snowmachines, waxing their skis, and practicing their technique, I would like to wish them all good luck and a safe race!

Having attended this event before, I can attest that it is one of the most exciting and exhilarating competitions which I have ever witnessed. I look forward to joining my fellow Alaskans at this year's Arctic Man to celebrate its 25th year of competition.

TRIBUTE TO MARY GILLEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mary Gilley, the long-time clerk of the Greene County district court, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to her community in Iowa.

For the past 26 years, Mary has worked with the clerk of court's office, providing dependable service to the community. Since 1985 she has been the clerk of the district court. Before her time with Greene County, Mary worked at a law firm in Fort Dodge, Iowa and was employed as a legal secretary in a private practice.

Mary Gilley has left a permanent mark on Greene County and will be truly missed at the district court, although she plans to continue serving the community through volunteer work. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Mary for her outstanding service to her community and congratulating her on her retirement. I consider it an honor to represent Mary in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy future.

HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF THE IKARIA® DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP OF CRITICAL CARE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today concerning a matter of great interest to me, which is the need for greater progress and support for children and infants who require critical care.

Each year, five million Americans are admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICUs), and it is estimated that as many as half a million of these are infants and children. Indeed, estimates show that nearly one-half of infants and one-third of older children who die each year received ICU care.

While medical technologies advance across the world, there unfortunately have been fewer true breakthroughs in critical care therapies in recent years, including those designed for children and infants. Babies and children are the most fragile of critically ill patients; their ability to thrive and survive should be among our highest priorities.

It is for these reasons that I am pleased to observe that today, the Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, D.C. will hold an inauguration ceremony naming The Ikaria® Distinguished Professorship of Critical Care. This chair will be sustained by a donation of \$2.5 million by Ikaria, a bio-therapeutics company which provides acute care products that address significant unmet needs of ICU and neonatal ICU patients. Ikaria, which has manufacturing facilities in my hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, is providing an unconditional gift to endow and establish a distinguished professorship for an outstanding

physician-scientist who will provide leadership to advance the science of critical care medicine.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing the tremendous potential value of this vital research professorship, and to applaud Ikaria and Children's National Medical Center for their vision and commitment to the health of our Nation's children.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES L. MELIN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District who has dedicated his life to defending the people of this country and preserving the basic freedoms and liberties that we hold dear. Brigadier General James L. Melin, of the United States Air Force Reserve, is a true American hero and today I thank him for his 39 years of service. On Saturday, March 27, 2010, General Melin will be honored at his retirement and Change of Command Ceremony at March Air Force Base in California.

General Melin was commissioned through the ROTC program at St. Louis University, Missouri, and graduated in 1971. After graduation, he began active duty and completed his flight training at Reese Air Force Base, Texas, in 1974.

During his career, General Melin's assignments included Administrative Officer, 1550th Aircrew Training Test Wing at Hill Air Force Base; KC-135 Pilot, 28th Bombardment Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base; KC-135 Pilot and Mission Development Officer, 93rd Bombardment Wing, Castle Air Force Base; Instructor Pilot, 931st Air Refueling Group, Grissom Air Force Base; and Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Plans, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Director of Training, Operations Officer, and Operations Group Commander, 940th Air Refueling Wing, McClellan Air Force Base.

In 1997, General Melin commanded the 434th Operations Group, Grissom ARB, Indiana and later assumed command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing. Starting in 2006, General Melin took command of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March Air Force Base in California.

Throughout his exemplary career, General Melin has flown over 5,500 hours and participated in tanker operations in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Joint Forge, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

General Melin's awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and four oak leaf clusters, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), and Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait).

General Melin will retire from the United States Air Force service with more than just his experience, decorated career and remarkable accomplishments; his enduring legacy will

serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be an American patriot and leader. I am grateful for his service and salute him as he retires from the Air Force.

TRIBUTE TO DALI AND FELIX GONZALEZ

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dali and Felix Gonzalez, students at Perry High School in Perry, Iowa, for their efforts in raising money to help those devastated by the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Dali and Felix are siblings who are originally from the Dominican Republic. Growing up in such close proximity to Haiti and having friends and acquaintances still living in Haiti, they felt a calling to help those in need. Felix, who is an avid artist, designed posters to demonstrate how close he used to live to the devastated region, and Dali made English and Spanish announcements about the fundraising effort over the school's PA system. Over several days they collected over \$150.00 at their donation setup in the lunch room. It is estimated that Dali and Felix's efforts will feed more than 750 people.

This collective effort at Perry High School is an example of what Iowa is all about—Iowans motivated and dedicated to personally helping people in need, and in this case those who have lost everything. I consider it an honor to represent Dali and Felix Gonzalez, all of those who donated money to Haiti, and ESL Instructor Julie Walstrom in the United States Congress. Again, I congratulate Dali and Felix for their great act of compassion and charity.

NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1879, "National Guard Employment Protection Act," a bill that amends title 38, United States Code, to provide for employment and reemployment rights for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard duty.

In these challenging economic times, with returning veterans experiencing unemployment rates in the double digits, we must do more to provide for our veterans' basic needs. This legislation shows that the U.S. is grateful for our veterans' service. Just as the military pledges to leave no soldier behind on the battlefield, this nation will leave no veteran behind when they come home.

National Guard is America's oldest armed force—dating back to 1636—and the only branch that serves both the Federal and State governments. The Guard answers to both the president of the United States and the governors of their respective states and territories.

This means that the National Guard can be mobilized any time natural disasters or other emergencies occur within America's borders, and also serve alongside U.S. combat forces in other parts of the world.

The Guard's roots go back to North America's earliest colonial militias: farmers, shopkeepers and everyday citizens willing to put their lives on hold and pick up their weapons to defend their communities and their country. Today, Citizen-Soldiers live, work and go to school in cities and towns all across America and its territories. And just as they have for over 370 years, the men and women of the National Guard are trained, willing and proud to assist their neighbors during emergencies, and to protect their nation whenever they are called.

This bill allows us to show our appreciation and honor the service of veterans who have served in the National Guard. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world.

Madam Speaker, whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude. The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation's call and made supreme sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln's admonition to 'care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family].' Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so to support legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve. As their slogan says, "Always ready, always there. That is the National Guard." Now, it is time for us to be there for them.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to express my strong support for this bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing what is only right—taking care of and honoring our heroes who serve to protect us.

“BE ABOUT PEACE DAY”

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend my constituents in South Mountain Peace Action of Maplewood and South Orange, NJ. These citizens work in their community on behalf of peace and they hold an annual all-day event called “Be About Peace Day” that attracts hundreds of children and parents. Currently, South Mountain Peace Action is organizing a public forum called “Israeli-Palestinian Peace: The Obama-Clinton Program for a Two-State Solution and How We Can Support It” that will be held on March 24, 2010, at Maplewood Memorial Library. The meeting will enable residents to increase their understanding of the issues and to learn how to get involved themselves in the peace process.

There is no greater cause than peace and there is no issue more important for achieving

peace than resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In February, I visited Israel and the Palestinian Territory as part of a congressional delegation and met with leaders of government and civil society to assess the state of American efforts to end the region's conflicts.

We learned much on the trip—seeing firsthand the urgency shared across the region to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a two-state solution. We met the Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah and civil society leaders across the region. In Israel, we heard from settlers and human rights activists. Over and over again, we heard about the importance of American leadership in efforts to end the conflict diplomatically. It is why I am encouraged by groups like South Mountain Peace Action, who are supporting the peace process at the grassroots level.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIONS CLUB OF OGDEN, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lions Club of Ogden, Iowa on their 80th anniversary. The club has been active since November 29, 1929 in Ogden, which is located in Boone County in Central Iowa.

The International Lions Club is a volunteer organization which works together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world, including an end to preventable blindness, cleaning local parks and providing essential supplies to victims of natural disasters.

In records that date back 40 years, the local organization has donated over \$88,000 to various organizations including: Ogden High School scholarships, eye exams and glasses for the needy, the food pantry, Boy Scouts, Relay for Life, and more. The group meets bi-monthly and has 36 active members who honorably live by their motto, “We serve.”

Again, I congratulate the Lions Club of Ogden and current club president, Harry Dannen, on this historic anniversary. The Lions Club of Ogden is an example of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to improving their communities and helping their neighbors in need. It is an honor to represent each member of this remarkable group in the United States Congress, and I wish them an equally storied future.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER FATORA

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Jeffrey Fatora, and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation. It is a great honor for me to thank Commander Fatora for his distinguished service in the Submarine Force. Commander Fatora has proudly and selflessly served our Nation for 23 years,

and he will retire from the naval service on July 1 of this year.

It was during his last assignment to the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriations Matters office that I first came to know Commander Fatora. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Navy and me, my staff, and the Appropriations Committee. For nearly four years Commander Fatora provided valuable assistance to me and to Members of the House Appropriations Committee. He often traveled with Members of the Committee—sometimes into combat zones—and always ensured that the Committee had direct access to Department of Defense facilities and combat units worldwide.

On every occasion, Commander Fatora performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the effectiveness by which he kept us informed of important developments within the Department of the Navy, allowing us to make important decisions on resource allocation based upon the facts.

Commander Fatora began his submarine service aboard USS *Indianapolis* (SSN 697) in Pearl Harbor, completing two Western Pacific Deployments. As a member of the commissioning crew of USS *Louisiana* (SSBN 743), he was the very first officer qualified as Officer of the Deck on the ship. But clearly, his most notable service was as the Weapons Officer aboard USS *Providence* (SSN 719), which was the first American warship to arrive off the coast of Pakistan following the attacks of September 11th, 2001. As the leader of the *Providence* strike team, he ensured that 25 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles found their targets in Afghanistan during the opening salvos of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Later, as a Staff Officer for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he worked diligently with a multi-national task force to execute the anti-terrorist Operation Active Endeavour. Finally, serving as Executive Officer aboard USS *Pittsburgh* (SSN 720), he guided the crew through a very challenging Engineered Overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

In closing, on behalf of the House of Representatives and especially my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the special contribution Commander Fatora has made during his naval service. We wish him and his family continued success and the traditional naval wish of “fair winds and following seas.”

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, the House of Representatives will pass a life-changing measure without a single Republican vote in favor. That vote will impact one-sixth of our U.S. economy and affect every man, woman and child in the nation, now and for generations to come.

In almost every poll, the majority of Americans didn't like this bill or the manner in which it was placed before the Congress for a vote.

According to the most recent Gallup Poll, 66 percent of Americans think the Democrats' massive government takeover of health care would make things worse or make no difference for themselves and their families.

I believe we have started down a path of total government takeover of our health care system at a cost of almost \$1 trillion now, and untold costs to be paid later in taxes, fines and loss of care. As a health care professional, my evaluation of the measure is that it will decrease access to health care, increase costs, put a bureaucrat between you and your physician and place quality care as an afterthought.

I fear the impact on our rural hospitals and I fear this measure puts us on a path of no return, which will be spoken about in depressing and critical terms for decades to come.

One hundred and thirty economists wrote to the President March 18th to tell him that the Health Care bill is a job-killer. Speaker of the House John Boehner released the contents of that letter.

They wrote: "The bill raises taxes by almost \$500 billion over ten years. A significant portion of these tax increases will fall on small business owners, reducing capital and limiting economic growth and hiring."

And they wrote: "The bill will impose a tax of \$2000 per employee on employers with more than 50 employees that do not provide health insurance. The bill will also tax employers that offer health coverage deemed 'unaffordable' by the government. These new taxes on employers will reduce employment or be passed on to workers in the form of lower wages or reduced hours."

It doesn't take much deduction to figure out that if you have 49 employees now, you will never hire the 50th employee. Why would you bring that burden on your business?

Those with 53 or 54 employees will potentially fire four or five employees in order to go below the mandate.

The economists concluded, "The new and higher taxes on America's small businesses and workers included in the bill are detrimental to job creation and economic growth, especially now given the fragile state of the economy."

But the bill will create jobs—for the tax collector. Some 16,500 people will be hired as auditors, agents and other employees needed by the Internal Revenue Service to collect the hundreds of billions in new taxes. The cost of enforcement is estimated to be between \$5 and \$10 billion over 10 years and it is not paid for in the bill.

The wealthier American people will be taxed to subsidize those who cannot afford their health care. And few will be able to afford health care as the mandates take shape and insurance companies are unable to make a profit under the new rules. The eventual result will be rationing of care.

Rural hospitals already suffer from low reimbursement rates under Medicare and Medicaid. Those rates are eighty to ninety cents for one dollar of health care value in Medicare and forty to sixty cents for one dollar of health care value in Medicaid. When the federal government controls the private health care industry as well, no one will be paid the full cost of medical care.

The bill cuts more than \$200 billion from the Medicare Advantage program.

Rural hospitals now get by with a one to three percent profit per year. If that evaporates, small hospitals will close.

Republicans have been vocal in their support of the need to fix our health care system. We have dozens of bills including the "Putting Patients First Act"—a bill I have co-sponsored. It allows purchase of health care across state lines, deals with pre-existing conditions and allows parents to keep their children on their health care plans until age 26. It does all of this without taxes or cuts in Medicare.

We could have agreed on a number of issues. Instead, we have more than 3,000 pages of Senate bill, reconciliation package and manager's amendment that we will be unfolding and deciphering for years to come. The undiscovered, perhaps unintended, consequences will be continuing surprises.

For example, according to The Wall Street Journal, Caterpillar Inc. announced that the bill will increase its health-care costs by \$100 million in the first year—no doubt giving it, and many other American companies, another reason to move American jobs to foreign countries. I fear this is the tip of the iceberg.

WRESTLEMANIA COMES TO GLENDALE/PHOENIX

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome WWE and WrestleMania XXVI (26) to Glendale's University of Phoenix Stadium on Sunday, March 28, 2010. WWE will take over the greater Glendale/Phoenix area during WrestleMania Week from March 24–March 29, 2010.

We are very pleased to welcome the 70,000 fans from 26 countries, all 50 states, and more than 130 members of the international media who will descend upon the Valley of the Sun.

We welcome WrestleMania, the WWE, and their fans because they will experience the culture of our city, the great weather, and have the opportunity to patronize our wonderful businesses. For the last three years, WrestleMania has averaged nearly \$50 million in new economic impact into the local economy. We are happy to have this investment coming to the Glendale and Phoenix regions.

In addition to WrestleMania, WWE has brought a variety of wonderful community activities: WrestleMania Axxess—WWE's interactive fan festival; WrestleMania Art—fund-raiser benefitting the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Arizona and Phoenix Children's Hospital; the finals of the WWE's international literacy program, WrestleMania Reading Challenge; a WrestleMania Pro-Am Golf Tournament with our beloved Arizona Cardinals; the WWE Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony; and WWE's Monday Night Raw.

WrestleMania XXVI will be televised to a global pay-per-view audience in 75 countries.

WrestleMania is truly a family-friendly event that creates an atmosphere where families from around the world can join together to celebrate their love for WWE and their favorite "Superstars" and "Divas."

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the WWE and its fans for choosing to come to Glendale and Phoenix and wish them a wonderful Arizona stay.

ENSURING THAT AMERICAN FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE THE FULL BENEFITS OF COMPETITION IN HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Sunday night, Congress voted to affirm the right of all Americans to quality health care at affordable cost, by fixing our country's broken health insurance marketplace. This is an effort that I and others have been working on for decades, and while the bill does not yet achieve everything we have sought, it is a monumental step forward, of which those who voted to take it, in the face of the relentless campaign of disinformation bankrolled by its opponents, can all be rightly proud.

Now, as this historic effort moves from the legislative arena to implementation, I would like to say a few words, as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, about the critical role for competition in making the health care insurance marketplace work effectively to serve consumers and promote prosperity—and the assistance that the federal antitrust enforcement agencies can and should provide in keeping competition considerations at the forefront.

In implementing this comprehensive legislation, the Department of Health and Human Services will be called upon, as will other federal agencies, and the States, to make assessments in a variety of contexts as to whether the marketplace is functioning properly, or whether abuses are occurring. In making these assessments, and in deciding on appropriate steps to address any abuses or dysfunction, the federal agencies and the States can benefit greatly from competitive analysis provided by our federal antitrust agencies, the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and the Federal Trade Commission. I would urge them to make full use of this assistance.

Both the Antitrust Division and the FTC have a long history of advising other federal agencies, as well as State legislatures and agencies, on ways to formulate policies and make regulatory decisions consistent with maintaining and promoting healthy competitive market incentives. In addition to formal advice, generally in the form of public comments, which both federal agencies provide in areas in which they have developed expertise, the Antitrust Division routinely provides informal guidance to other federal agencies through interagency consultation and through OMB-supervised interagency review and comment.

While the advice of the two antitrust enforcement agencies is non-binding, it is generally given substantial weight. The two agencies are widely recognized as having developed, in the course of antitrust investigations and enforcement actions over many decades, unmatched experience and expertise in analyzing markets for how competition is working, or not working. They can assess whether lack of effective competition is behind a problem, or is worsening it, and if it is, can recommend ways to unblock competition as part of any regulatory response.

Even when competition cannot fix a dysfunctional market on its own entirely, it will almost always contribute to the solution, by ensuring that market incentives are aligned in a healthy fashion, in the direction of serving consumers rather than taking advantage of them.

Competition advice from the federal antitrust enforcement agencies will not only help ensure that health care and health insurance regulatory policy is appropriately sensitive to competitive conditions and dynamics in the markets involved. By helping place regulatory policy on a sound analytical footing, it will strengthen it against any potential legal challenge by those opposing reform efforts. Moreover, the very fact of antitrust oversight in connection with this advisory analysis will help deter anticompetitive behavior.

To take just one important example, the new law creates health insurance exchanges, to be set up by the States, to help make sure families and small businesses have meaningful choices for health insurance. In order for these exchanges to achieve their purpose, they need to attract not just the insurance companies that are already dominant in their market, but other insurance companies, including new ones eager to establish themselves. Dominant health insurance companies have many ways of protecting their dominance by making it harder for others to make competitive inroads. And they have powerful anticompetitive incentives to do just that.

Accordingly, we can expect the dominant health insurance companies to be offering plenty of their own advice to State legislatures and agencies on how to structure the new exchanges, and we can expect that their advice will be tailored to favor their own interests. Their self-serving advice, if followed, could have the potential to stop competition in its tracks, and deny consumers the benefits of choice, innovation, and affordability that competition brings.

The more the States can keep promotion of competition in their sights as they design and implement the exchanges, the better those exchanges will work to widen the effective choices available for the families and small businesses who need them. And the federal antitrust enforcement agencies can be a valuable source of expertise in ensuring that the exchanges are designed and implemented so as to harness the power of competitive market incentives as fully as possible.

Along with the antitrust savings clause in the text of the health care bill, which ensures that the normal operation of the antitrust laws is in no way altered or disrupted, use of this well-established advisory role will help ensure that the health insurance marketplace is fixed in a manner that makes maximum use of competitive market forces to achieve these important objectives for American families and small businesses.

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 4810,

“End Veterans Homelessness Act of 2010” introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative FILNER.

H. Res. 4810 will amend Title 38 of the United States Code, in order to make certain improvements in the services rendered to homeless veterans under the laws that are administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Improvements in services rendered to homeless veterans will include increases in the amount authorized to be appropriated for comprehensive programs, adjusted payments for providing various services such as furnishing services to homeless veterans, supported housing program outreach, financial assistance for low-income families, and the promotion of awareness of available Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

Throughout our country's history, our brave men and women in uniform have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom around the world, and I am proud to support legislation that will aid our nation's veterans. I have worked tirelessly to pass legislation that will give our veterans the benefits that they need and deserve. I have supported legislation, such as H. Res. 6081, “The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax of 2008”, H. Res. 1054, “Honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans”, H. Res. 2790, “To establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health as amended”, and H. Res. 3480, “Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2008” to support our veterans. My fellow Americans, we must remember that it is because of them that we are able to continue to be a democratic nation. All Americans must realize that we owe our liberty to those veterans who have served their nation 110% without fear. They definitely deserve our assistance and support in every way possible. I have always and will continue to fight for legislation that protects our veterans.

I really find it unacceptable that an estimated 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night after honorably serving their country. We are doing our veterans a great disservice. We owe our veterans the utmost respect, appreciation, and definitely a home to come home to after serving as a member of our armed forces. In these challenging economic times, we must do more to provide for our veterans' basic needs. H. Res. 4810 shows that all Americans take pride in our veterans' service to this nation, and just as the military doesn't believe in leaving a soldier behind on the battlefield, I believe that I speak for all Americans that we don't believe in leaving our veterans behind . . . we must help them push forward!

Strengthening comprehensive programs by investing in our veterans, requiring housing counselors to grant more housing opportunities at each Veteran Affairs center, and paying attention to homeless women veterans and veterans with children is the right thing to do. I would like to urge my colleagues to support this powerful piece of legislation for our veterans that proudly support our freedoms and defend our U.S. Constitution. Again, I would like to commend all of our soldiers for their unselfish service and devotion to the welfare of others.

HONORING HEALTH4HAITI

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Health4Haiti, an international aid group founded by Pueblo surgeon Dr. James Smith. For many years, Dr. Smith has been traveling to Haiti in the wake of devastating hurricanes to provide crucial surgeries to impoverished people across the country. In November of 2009, Health4Haiti and Dr. Smith were awarded the International Humanitarian Service Award in recognition of their remarkable dedication and service to the Haitian people.

We are all familiar with the incredibly destructive earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. The images from that terrible series of days will stay with us forever. However, the disaster was also an incredible demonstration of the compassion of the people of Colorado's Third District. When the first reports from Haiti came in, several Pueblo residents immediately mobilized to visit Haiti and offer their assistance. These incredible Pueblans were among the first U.S. Search and Rescue Teams to arrive. All doctors and nurses, they immediately began treating wounded Haitians, saving lives and delivering vital aid and comfort. I would like to commend Dr. James Smith, Dr. Ginger Vaughn, Dr. Benjamin Massey, Debbie Valdez, Eric Miller, and Mary Anne Woods for their generosity and humanity in the face of overwhelming tragedy.

This group of people and Health4Haiti have inspired countless others to serve those less fortunate, and I honor them for their work.

TRIBUTE TO BRYANT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the fifth grade students at Bryant Elementary School in Boone, Iowa, for their efforts in raising money to help those devastated by the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Students Brady Wright, Isidro Gonzalez and Erica Mehlhaus put their heads and hearts together to come up with a way to raise funds for the American Red Cross' Haitian relief efforts. In addition to accepting local donations, these students developed a fun and competitive project called “Penny Wars” which took place in February for three weeks. This school-wide contest was implemented to see which class could collect the most pennies. Containers, labeled for each classroom, were filled with pennies, and students could add silver coins to the containers of opposing classrooms to reduce that class's penny count. To further entice students to contribute, students were able to chew gum and wear hats in class when they donated quarters. The class with the highest penny credit earned a pizza party.

The collective effort at Bryant Elementary School is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—citizens motivated and dedicated to

help people in need, and in this case those who have lost everything. I commend all the students, their families and especially their guidance counselor, Karlene Hughes, and Principal Pam Nystrom, who facilitated this heartwarming effort with the students. I consider it an honor to represent each of these fifth graders and all of those involved in "Penny Wars," in the United States Congress and again I thank them for their great act of kindness and charity.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, one of our most sacred and fundamental rights is the right to protest that with which we disagree, and I am encouraged to see Americans exercising that right by joining together at the Capitol to voice their opinion on health care reform. The actions of a few individuals, revealed last week in news reports, who shouted profane and bigoted language at members of Congress, has no place in this debate or any other. These actions are deeply regrettable. Across our nation, Americans have engaged in peaceful demonstrations all across the country voicing their opinions in townhalls, rallies, marches and protests. By engaging in robust, civil debate, we honor the highest and best tradition of our democracy.

HONORING UNITED STATES
PARALYMPIAN ADAM PAGE OF
LANCASTER, NEW YORK

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing Adam Page of Lancaster, New York, a proud member of the United States Paralympics sled hockey team, who most recently won a gold medal in the Winter Games at Vancouver.

Currently a senior at St. Mary's High School in Lancaster, Adam was born with spina bifida, a birth defect caused by the incomplete formation of vertebrae. His parents were told that Adam would never walk, probably would be blind and probably retarded. Adam had other ideas.

At the age of eight, Adam was determined to do what so many of his fellow Western New Yorkers do growing up—play ice hockey. He started his formal hockey playing days with the Buffalo Sabres sled hockey club team, and his hard work and hockey skills soon propelled him to the junior national team, and a year after that Adam was named to the senior national team.

Adam scored his first goal at the 2008 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships, and in addition to his participation on this year's gold medal-winning Paralympian team, he has also been a member of the gold medal-winning 2010 Japan Para Ice Sledge team, the 2009 Paralympic Team of the Year, the gold

medal-winning 2009 World Champion team, and the 2008 bronze medal-winning IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Champion.

Adam has overcome so much in his life, and it is a testament to his hard work and dedication and the support of his family and friends who have stood by his side.

I again ask that the House join me in congratulating Adam on winning the gold medal as a member of Team USA's Paralympics sled hockey team, and wish him much success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN CAMPBELL
AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY SUP-
PORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Campbell as the Okaloosa County, Florida Support Person of the Year for the 2009–2010 school year. I am honored to acknowledge her exemplary achievements and her dedication to the students and teachers of Northwest Florida.

Susan has worked as a school clerk and guidance counselor at Niceville High School for the past eight years. Over her career, she has been one of the most dedicated resources for Niceville's students. She teaches financial aid workshops, schedules college visits, mentors new students, and provides parent/student seminars on a range of college-related topics. She also takes a special interest in Niceville's seniors, preparing them for graduation and life after high school. The high school's seniors regularly earn close to \$10 million in scholarships every year based in large part on Susan's hard work.

For her dedication both inside and outside the classroom, Susan has been recognized on numerous occasions. She is a supporter of the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society, as well as a volunteer for the Covenant Hospice. She and her husband Wayne Campbell are members of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society for their contributions to the Okaloosa County community through United Way. Susan's other volunteer service includes the Northwest Florida State College Meagan Lynne Campbell Nursing Scholarship and the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Susan Campbell as the Okaloosa County Support Person of the Year. Her passion for her students is commendable and her dedication to her profession and her community is highly deserving of this award. My wife Vicki and I wish Susan, her husband Wayne, and her family all the best for the future.

HONORING DAVID KLEPAREK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to

the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. David Kleparek. Mr. Kleparek served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 24.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Kleparek served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Kleparek is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to him today.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to this government takeover of health care. I believe improvements could be made to the existing health care system, but this government takeover of one-sixth of the economy is not the right answer. It will not lower the cost of health care, but will add layers of bureaucracy and confusion to the existing system.

I am not alone in opposing this flawed, irresponsible bill. In the past week, more than a thousand constituents from the 19th District of Texas have emailed and called me to express their opposition, and thousands more have contacted me in opposition since this debate began last year.

My constituents don't understand why the House leadership insists on going down the road of trying to enact a government takeover of health care that our nation can't afford and that will not improve their health care. They don't understand why leaders in Congress refuse to listen to the American people. They do not support this expansion of government; they do not support their tax dollars funding coverage for abortion; and they do not want us to approve this legislation.

We must ask ourselves whether this legislation advances the principle of empowerment or expands entitlement. I strongly believe government should empower individuals to be successful in the economy, rather than enact policies that make them more dependent on the federal government. Our Founders believed in empowerment, but this legislation shows how far this Congress has strayed from this principle.

This legislation clearly expands entitlement and blatantly fails to empower Americans. The policies being proposed today will create more uncertainty for employers trying to create new jobs, increase costs for families and create new unfunded liabilities for the federal government. We cannot continue down this path of entitlement; it simply does not work.

This bill increases government spending by \$1.2 trillion and increases taxes by \$569 billion. It also includes unfunded mandates that states cannot afford in the form of Medicaid expansions.

Rather than lowering health care premiums for families by up to \$2,500, as the Republican plan would do, this bill does nothing to help contain rising health care costs—the chief health care concern of most Americans. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office reports that the reconciliation bill will have a similar effect on premiums as the Senate bill, which is to increase insurance premiums for families by \$2,100 per year compared to passing no bill at all. Up to 9 million Americans who currently have health insurance coverage from their employer could lose it under this bill.

I am deeply disappointed that this legislation fails to provide robust protection for the unborn and for taxpayers who oppose their dollars going toward abortion.

Over the next 10 years, this legislation will increase the federal government's commitment to health care by \$400 billion. At a time when the federal deficit is \$1.5 trillion and the national debt is projected to triple by 2020, it is completely irresponsible for Congress to add more unsustainable government spending to the tab that our children and grandchildren will have to pick up.

We can make health care more affordable, available and accessible for everyone without nationalizing the system, raising taxes and piling on the debt. We need to sit down, in a bipartisan way, and work on real reform that will help American families. That is what the American people want and what they deserve.

On behalf of the 19th Congressional District, I stand in strong opposition to this legislation. This Congress must do better; the American people demand that we do better. We must reject this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the week of Tuesday, March 9, 2010 through Friday, March 12, 2010.

For Tuesday, March 9, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 92 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 93 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1069), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 94 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 935).

For Wednesday, March 10, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 95 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1146, which provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 248), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 96 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1088), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 97 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 4621), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 98 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 248), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 99 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 249), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 100 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1144).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding a provision classified as an earmark in H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, which passed the House on October 23, 2009.

Requesting Member: The Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Account: No funding, legislative provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Act

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: VCNA Prairie Illinois Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7601 W. 79th Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455

Description of Request: The legislative provision in the Coast Guard authorization bill would restore Coastwise Trading privileges to the barge *St. Marys Cement*. From the time of construction in 1986 to 2000, *St. Marys Cement* was registered under the U.S. flag with Coastwise Trading privileges. In 2000, the *St. Marys Cement* relinquished Coastwise Trading privileges upon being reflagged under the Canadian flag. Operations have since changed and, in order to maximize efficiency of its U.S. operations, *St. Marys Cement* proposes to operate the barge directly between U.S. ports (including several in Wisconsin). On September 9, 2009, *St. Marys Cement* received a Certificate of Documentation, reestablishing the vessel as an American flagged vessel. Since the vessel was once registered outside the U.S., the only way for *St. Marys Cement* to return to operating directly between U.S. ports is to restore its Coastwise Trading privileges legislatively. Allowing the barge to do so would add American maritime jobs and provide Great Lakes-based manufacturing plants additional business opportunities. The cost of transporting raw materials to U.S. manufacturing facilities in Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin would be reduced. This was a joint request with Representative BART STUPAK and Representative STEVE KAGEN, M.D.

IN HONOR OF NAVY SEAL CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER ADAM BROWN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On March 18, 2010, our state and nation lost a great patriot when Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown, age 36, died in Afghanistan from injuries sustained during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chief Brown was raised in Arkansas by his loving parents, Larry and Janice Brown, and graduated from Lake Hamilton High School in Hot Springs. Chief Brown also attended Arkansas Tech University in Russellville where he played football. Although I never had the honor to meet Chief Brown, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to

his family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Chief Brown enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1998 and joined the Navy SEALs in 2001. Since that time, he has been assigned to various East Coast-based SEAL teams where he made several combat deployments in support of the global war on terror, distinguishing himself during numerous combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation, and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

Chief Brown was a highly-decorated combat veteran and received numerous awards and citations during his 12-year Navy career, including the Bronze Star with combat "V" distinguishing device; Purple Heart; Joint Service Commendation Medal with combat "V" distinguishing device; Joint Service Achievement Medal; five Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals; three Good Conduct Medals; the National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Marksmanship medals for both rifle and pistol; and a multitude of personal, unit, and campaign decorations.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife and two children who live in Virginia Beach, Virginia; his parents, and the rest of his family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Our nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Chief Brown. Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our armed forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the Blinded Veterans Association on its 65th anniversary of representing blinded veterans and their families.

On March 28, 1945, 100 blinded members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II formed the Blinded Veterans Association at Avon "Old Farms" Army Convalescent Hospital in Connecticut. The founders of the Blinded Veterans Association were a cross-section of heroes and pioneers who not only shaped the rich history, philosophy, and knowledge of education and rehabilitation of the blind, but also provided insight into current and future challenges facing the blind and engaged in continual advocacy efforts to ensure that services for all blinded persons would be unique and specialized. In 1946, General Omar Bradley, of the Veterans Administration, appointed the Blinded Veterans Association as the first official representative for blinded veterans for the filing of claims and appeals to the Veterans Administration, making the Blinded Veterans Association only the eighth veterans service organization to receive such authorization.

The Blinded Veterans Association was originally incorporated in New York State as a nonprofit association, and then moved to Washington, DC, in 1947. In 1958, the 58th Congress approved the Congressional Charter for the Blinded Veterans Association. From its early beginnings, the Blinded Veterans Association encouraged the blinded veterans it served "to take their rightful place in the community with their fellow men and work with them toward the creation of a peaceful world," and it has continued to advocate for the war-blinded to regain independence, confidence, and self-esteem through rehabilitation and training; and many people of the United States recognize March 28 of each year as Blinded Veterans Day.

On March 28, 2010, the Blinded Veterans Association will mark its 65th anniversary of dedication to blinded members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families. I urge all members of the House of Representatives, and Americans around the country, to join me in honoring these American heroes.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE LATE ROBERT MYERS, CHIEF ACTUARY AT THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, AND RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE SSA'S ACTUARIES PROVIDE TO CONGRESS, THEIR AGENCY, AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor actuaries in general and two actuaries in particular: the longtime actuary of the Social Security Administration (SSA), the late Robert J. Myers, and the current chief actuary, Stephen C. Goss.

Bob Myers died February 13 of this year at the age of 97, and a memorial service was held for him this past weekend. Mr. Myers had a long, exemplary career with the Social Security Administration, starting in 1934 as a junior actuary with SSA's predecessor, the Committee on Economic Security. He later served for 23 years as the agency's chief actuary and was considered one of our country's foremost experts on Social Security.

Bob played a vital role in developing the special relationship between Congress and the Office of the Actuary. Historically, the actuary has been available to provide Members of Congress and the executive branch with confidential, expert, impartial, and trustworthy analysis of Social Security policy and legislative proposals. The Office of the Chief Actuary has truly an unparalleled record of service in the federal government.

Congress specifically recognized the value and importance of an independent and impartial actuary in the conference report accompanying Social Security's enabling statute, the "Social Security Administrative Reform Act of 1994." This report said that "The Office of the Actuary has a unique role within the agency in that it serves both the Administration and the Congress. . . . Thus, the independence of the Office of the Chief Actuary with respect to providing assistance to the Congress is vital in

maintaining a trusting and useful relationship." (H. Report 103-670, at page 96)

Though Bob left SSA in 1970, the tradition he established lives on in the work of the chief actuaries who came after him. SSA's current chief actuary, Steve Goss, is an outstanding example. Steve has been an actuary with SSA since 1973 and has served as its chief actuary since 2001. To me and many of my colleagues, Steve personifies the meaning of public service.

Steve's contributions have also been recognized by his colleagues and others. He received the Commissioner's Leadership Award in 1999 and was named a Presidential Distinguished Rank Executive in 2002. In 2004, he was the recipient of the very first Robert M. Ball Award for Outstanding Achievements in Social Insurance. Upon announcing their selection, the National Academy of Social Insurance described Steve this way:

He gives tirelessly and selflessly of himself to try to clarify, illuminate, and explain complex Social Security issues and how estimates are made of revenues, expenses, and actuarial projections within that program. He openly and forthrightly invites suggestions and criticism, hoping to improve the quality of his knowledge and the accuracy of estimates put forward by SSA. Steve Goss and the entire Office of the Chief Actuary provide an exemplary model of integrity and transparency, while maintaining a very high level of productivity.

I could not agree more. Steve Goss has ably continued the tradition Bob Myers started that has kept the Office of the Chief Actuary a trustworthy and consistently reliable source for confidential and honest analysis on which Congress relies to make sound policy decisions affecting Social Security programs. I think Bob Myers would be very proud.

I have worked personally with Steve for many years, and I look forward to relying on his expert knowledge and experience even more now that I am the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security. The Social Security Administration could not have as great a reputation among my colleagues without Steve Goss. I congratulate and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 4th Annual Cesar Chavez March to be held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan on Saturday, March 27th. The March is being sponsored by the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County in honor of Cesar Chavez's birthday on March 31.

Cesar Chavez began his fight for the rights of migrant workers after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He labored in the fields and knew firsthand the terrible conditions endured by migrant workers. He chose to lead the fight to bring justice and dignity to farm workers. Through his leadership, the United Farm Workers was able to win the right for farm workers to organize. Through his work, migrant farmers across our Nation have

better working conditions, better pay, better living quarters, and better hours. Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers were instrumental in getting dangerous pesticides banned, improving the safety of both our farm fields and the food on our tables.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Hispanic Latino Collaborative of Genesee County for keeping the memory and legacy of Cesar Chavez alive. His enthusiasm for justice, his work for his fellow humans, his achievements in the face of adversity, has provided an example for future generations to emulate. Cesar Chavez has demonstrated the difference one person can make in the lives of others.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 4667, "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010" introduced by my distinguished colleague from Virginia, Representative PERRIELLO.

H. Res. 4667 will increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes. Increases will include wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and compensation for the surviving spouse, and for children. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall be responsible for publishing in the Federal Register the amounts, as increased, as specified under the Social Security Act. The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall increase the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2010, for the payment of disability compensation for the rate adjustment that will take effect on December 1, 2010.

It is my distinct honor to stand here today to support a bill that will allow us to show our appreciation to our veterans and honor the service of veterans who have become disabled while serving in the armed forces. These veterans have given great contributions and made incredible personal sacrifices so that all of us in this country might live in a safe and secure nation and world. Providing a cost-of-living increase is only a small step towards repaying the insurmountable debt that all of us owe to all veterans. For, what is the price of freedom?

As President Kennedy once said, "The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it." And no one has paid a higher price than the brave men and women through the years who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Whether it is the ultimate sacrifice of life or the loss of limb or the loss of time with family and friends, we owe our veterans an enormous outstanding debt of gratitude.

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, from Washington, DC to the Battle of New Orleans, from Bull Run to Gettysburg and Antietam to Appamattox, brave Americans gave their lives

so that the nation might live. And from Alsace Lorain to Verdun, and Normandy to Berlin and Pearl Harbor to Okinawa, from Inchon and Corregidor to Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, Americans have nobly sacrificed their lives so that the world may live in freedom.

The debt of gratitude we owe to the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who answered their nation's call and made supreme sacrifices can never be repaid. But the nation can follow President Lincoln's admonition to "care for him who has borne the battle, and for his [family]." Indeed, it is the least we can do.

It is out of my profound respect and gratitude for all who wear and have worn the uniform of the United States that I continue to work so hard to pass legislation that will ensure that veterans receive the health care, job opportunities, housing assistance, and educational benefits they deserve.

HONORING THE PASSING OF A
DISTINGUISHED COAST GUARD
VETERAN, LT HERBERT COL-
LINS, USCG RETIRED

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor the service of Lieutenant Herbert Collins, a retired Coast Guard officer, who passed away on March 14, 2010 at the age of 89.

Lieutenant Herbert Collins was the last surviving member of the Coast Guard's Life Boat Station Pea Island, which was the first and only station manned by an all African American crew. This station was in service from 1880 to 1947 and was originally part of the U.S. Life Saving Service until it merged with the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915, creating the U.S. Coast Guard. Members of the Pea Island Life Saving Station performed many heroic rescues and saved countless lives off the Outer Banks of North Carolina during the Station's 67 year existence.

Lieutenant Collins enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1939 and during his 30-year career he was promoted through the ranks to chief boatswain's mate, then to chief warrant officer and eventually to the rank of lieutenant.

During his career, Lieutenant Collins served on five Coast Guard Cutters and in a number of shore assignments, including two tours at the Pea Island Life Saving Station. In 1947, Lieutenant Collins served as Officer-in-Charge of the Coast Guard Station Oregon Inlet in 1947 and then later decommissioned Coast Guard Station Pea Island. Lieutenant Collins retired from the Coast Guard in 1976.

Lieutenant Collins was the last surviving member of the Pea Island Life Saving Station. Additionally, with his passing, another legacy ends as his family held the record for the longest continuous service with the Coast Guard dating back to his grandfather, Joseph H. Berry, who entered the Life Saving Service in 1880.

Lieutenant Collins, I wish you fair winds and following seas.

CONGRATULATING HELEN C.
VANCE ON RECEIVING THE
BROWN-HUDSON AWARD FROM
THE NORTH CAROLINA FOLK-
LORE SOCIETY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Helen C. Vance on receiving the Brown-Hudson Award from the North Carolina Folklore Society for her outstanding work to preserve the North Shore Cemeteries in Swain County, North Carolina.

In the 1940s, many families in Western North Carolina were displaced when the Fontana Dam was constructed on the Little Tennessee River in Swain County, and as a result they had to leave behind their homesites and family cemeteries. Plans to build the North Shore Road that would connect displaced families to their old homesites were discontinued in the 1960s. Although the lack of a road makes it difficult to access these sites, Ms. Vance has worked hard to ensure that local communities are able to visit their cemeteries.

For over 30 years, Ms. Vance has organized the Appalachian tradition of Decoration Day, a day where relatives, friends, and neighbors of the deceased in Western North Carolina travel together on trails through the woods, or by boat over the Fontana Lake to these local these cemeteries for a day of remembrance. On Decoration Day, communities spend the day together cleaning the cemeteries and placing decorations on the sites.

The Brown-Hudson Award recognizes Ms. Vance's exceptional contributions to preserving our traditions in our mountain region, and her tireless work to maintain the North Shore cemeteries for future generations. Her community activism is a source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to rise with me in recognizing the amazing efforts of Ms. Vance, and the dedication she has shown to preserving the historic North Shore cemeteries Western North Carolina. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating her outstanding commitment to our community traditions.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ROYCE MONEY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Dr. Royce Money for his dedication to Abilene Christian University and, in particular, for his 19 years of service as the university's president. As Dr. Money transitions to the role of chancellor, I join with the ACU community in thanking him for all he has done for the university.

Dr. Money obtained both his bachelor's and master of divinity degrees from Abilene Christian University, and he holds a Ph.D in religion from Baylor University. He continued his education later at the University of Nebraska, where he received an additional master's degree in human development and the family.

Dr. Money and his wife of 45 years, Pam, have both been an integral part of ACU and the Abilene community. Pam Money is a licensed marriage and family therapist and has served as an adjunct professor in the College of Biblical Studies at ACU. They have two daughters, Alison and Jennifer, and are proud grandparents of David, Elizabeth, Andrew, Jonathan, and Caleb. Their favorite hobbies include anything that involves their children and grandchildren.

Dr. Money is a current board member and past chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas and a past chairman of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. He was named Abilene's "Citizen of the Year" for 2007 by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Royce Money was appointed president of Abilene Christian University June 1, 1991 after serving as an associate professor, department chairman, vice president and provost. Upon his retirement, he will take over the role of chancellor of the university where he will continue to be a strong leader and advocate for ACU. Both Royce and Pam's continued service to the university is greatly appreciated and highly recognized by the city of Abilene and the students, faculty and staff of ACU.

I want to again commend Dr. Money for his service as the president of ACU, and I look forward to his continued leadership as chancellor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, yesterday I accidentally electronically voted "yea" twice for rollcall 170. Consequently, the subsequent vote (rollcall 171) indicated that I was "Not Voting". Madam Speaker, it was my intention to vote "yea" on the last recorded vote on March 22, 2010.

It is of vital importance we care for our disabled veterans who have personally sacrificed to protect our liberties. I fully support The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act.

HONORING MARY ANN
VANDEMARK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Ann Vandemark as she is honored by the Michigan Community Action Agency Association. Mary Ann recently retired from her position as Executive Director of the Human Development Commission. She will be honored for her work at a dinner on March 25th in Lansing, Michigan.

Mary Ann Vandemark served as the Executive Director of the Human Development Commission for 31 years prior to her retirement on February 1, 2010. The Commission is a Community Action Agency serving Huron, Lapeer,

Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. Their emphasis is on community economic development, housing and energy-related activities. Through their economic development program, they have developed a storm window manufacturing unit into a corporation named Cass River Enterprises, Incorporated with Mary Ann as the Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to her duties with the Human Development Commission, Mary Ann has held several leadership positions with both local and national organizations. Mary Ann served two terms as President of the National Association of Community Action Agencies and three terms as Secretary, was President of both the State and Regional Community Action Agency Associations, a member of the National Symposium on Poverty and Economic Security Steering Committee, Treasurer of the Mid America Community Action Association, Board Member and President of the Great Lakes Rural Network, President of the Michigan Economic Development Coalition, member of the National Community Action Foundation Board of Directors, Board member of the Economic Development Association of Michigan, Board member of Rural Partners of Michigan, and Chairperson of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association Legislative Committee. Locally, she is Chairperson of the Christian Services Committee of the Church of the Sacred Heart and serves as a Lay Minister. Mary Ann is the recipient of the Caro Business & Professional Women's Woman of Achievement Award, honored as Caro's Citizen of the Year, and was the recipient of the Caro Knights of Columbus Council's Family of the Year Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the work of Mary Ann Vandemark. She is a dear friend and I value her advice, her wisdom and her enthusiasm. I congratulate her on a well deserved retirement and wish her the best in this new phase of her life.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,661,039,727,506.65.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,024,946,690,541.30 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$2,332,709,328.50 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

FLAWS OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, there are major flaws in the health care legislation that

passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week. Utah Governor Gary Herbert recently shared with me two major deficiencies in the Medicaid expansion as addressed in the health care bill.

First, Medicaid expansion ignores the fiscal impact on states. Utah, along with many other states, currently faces challenging financial circumstances. It would be impossible to pay for a sizeable Medicaid expansion and still maintain other critical state priorities such as education and social services without tax increases. This would dampen any economic recovery.

Second, Medicaid expansion ignores the program's current deficiencies. Medicaid is designed to be a temporary help and not a permanent solution for financing medical care because it restricts patient responsibility and limits choices and options. Utah is struggling to find enough providers who are willing to treat Medicaid patients as it is. Putting more people on this program will likely overwhelm the provider system and decrease access for those that need it most.

Medicaid expansion solves the problem of the uninsured by forcing more people into an already overburdened public program. This is an inevitable crush on states' finances and the economy.

STATE OF UTAH,

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,

Salt Lake City, UT, March 21, 2010.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Longworth Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CHAFFETZ: I am writing in the hope there is still an opportunity to eliminate the proposed Medicaid expansion in the current health care reform legislation. There are two major flaws with the proposed expansion.

First, the Medicaid expansion ignores the fiscal impact on states. Even though there was a previous commitment that states will not be burdened with the cost of a growing program, it is clear the current versions of the expansion proposal do not keep this commitment. Utah, along with many other states, currently faces challenging financial circumstances. We, in Utah, have fought to minimize the impact on our citizens, but it would be impossible to pay for a sizeable Medicaid expansion and still maintain our commitment to other critical state priorities such as education and social services without tax increases. This would dampen the economic recovery we are beginning to experience.

Second, Medicaid expansion ignores the program's current deficiencies. This proposal would significantly increase the number of Utahns on Medicaid. Instead, we need to get more people off Medicaid and covered by private insurance. Medicaid is designed to be a temporary help to those in need. It is not designed to be a permanent solution for financing medical care because it restricts patient responsibility and limits choices and options. It would be better to pursue approaches that help individuals and families become the primary decision-makers when it comes to their health and health care.

We are struggling to find enough providers who are willing to treat Medicaid patients as it is. Putting more people in this program will likely overwhelm the provider system and decrease access for those that need it the most. Nothing in the current proposal addresses how this problem will be resolved.

I am firmly opposed to a plan that intends to solve the problem of the uninsured by forcing more people into an already overburdened public program. Even though the bill

intends to soften the impact with a 2019 full implementation date, this is simply delaying the inevitable crush on states' finances and the economy.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

GARY R. HERBERT,
Governor.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE ON THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1141, which honors the achievements and distinguished career of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and recognizes her impact as an American symbol of hard work and rugged individualism. H. Res. 1141 is an important measure that acknowledges the truly impressive career of Sandra Day O'Connor and pays tribute to her distinguished record as one of the nation's great jurists that has inspired generations of women across the country and around the world.

I thank Chairman JOHN CONYERS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, for taking the time to acknowledge Justice O'Connor's positive impact on the legal profession, the world of public service, and the lives of women and girls with dreams as ambitious as her own.

Madam Speaker, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's rise to the top of the legal profession is a testament to the power of tirelessly dedicating yourself to the pursuit of your dreams and staying true to your core values. After graduating in the top three of her class at Stanford Law School, Justice O'Connor practiced law in Frankfurt, Germany and Phoenix, Arizona. Soon, however, she took her talents to the arena of public service, serving as the Arizona Assistant Attorney General and Majority Leader in the Arizona State Senate. In 1979, she was appointed by Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt to serve on the Arizona Court of Appeals. Her fair-minded decisions, detailed knowledge of the law, and growing stature in the legal profession led President Ronald Reagan to nominate Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981 to serve as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court.

Justice O'Connor served for 24 terms on the United States Supreme Court. Her service was marked by her centrist judicial philosophy, consensus-building role on the Court, and determination to uphold the law and the Constitution. A shining moment in Justice O'Connor's legacy was her support of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, which further strengthened her role as a role model for women of all generations. On August 12, 2009, President Barack Obama awarded Sandra Day O'Connor the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a deserved honor for an important national figure who inspires countless Americans.

It is entirely fitting that we take this time to honor Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The story of Justice O'Connor's ascent to the United States Supreme Court is an inspirational one that reaffirms the power of hard work, determination, and fidelity to core values. Her service on the Court helped make our country better and fairer. Most importantly, through her successful career, she paved the way for female leaders throughout the arena of public service. And it is significant to note that Sandra Day O'Connor achieved all of this while helping raise three children. Her refusal to make the unfair choice between family and career is another reason why she has become a role model for women throughout the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1141.

HONORING THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WAQP-TV 49

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the achievements of WAQP-TV 49 as it celebrates 25 years broadcasting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Flint, Saginaw, Bay City, Midland and Lansing areas. WAQP-TV will celebrate this anniversary on March 25th at the station in Saginaw Michigan.

WAQP-TV 49 is part of TCT, Total Christian Television founded by Drs. Garth and Tina Counce. The station broadcasts Christian programming 24 hours a day to give inspiration to those in need, and maintains an 800 Prayer Line. The volunteers manning this line pray with the callers and provide hope, encouragement and strength to the most vulnerable. Both callers and volunteers experience the joy that comes from partnering with the Lord. As part of the TCT family, the station and its viewers can connect with Christians around the globe, forming a prayer chain that reaches throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending WAQP-TV 49 for its commitment to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their dedication, enthusiasm and prayers are a blessing to the community and the countless people that encounter Our Lord, Jesus Christ, through their ministry.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as co-chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I would like to share my understanding of the intent of the provisions of H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act regarding coverage of the treatment continuum for persons with brain injury. I believe that health care reform should address the unique health care needs of individ-

uals with brain injury by recognizing that brain injury is the start of a lifelong disease process requiring access to a full continuum of medically necessary treatment, including rehabilitation and chronic disease management, furnished by accredited programs in the most appropriate treatment setting as determined in accordance with the choices and aspirations of the patient and family, in concert with an interdisciplinary team of qualified and specialized clinicians.

News reports of returning veterans and recent high profile brain injury stories indicate what researchers have been reporting for years—brain injury is a leading public health problem in U.S. military and civilian populations. Brain injury is not an event or an outcome but is the beginning of a lifelong disease process that impacts brain and body functions resulting in difficulties in physical, communication, cognitive, emotional, and psychological performance that undermines health, function, community integration and productive living. Brain injury is also disease causative and disease accelerative in that it predisposes individuals to re-injury and the onset of other conditions (e.g., brain injury impacts neurologic disorders such as epilepsy, vision and hearing impairments, psychiatric disorders, and orthopedic, gastrointestinal, urologic, sexual, neuroendocrine, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal dysfunction).

The Brain Injury Association of America, BIAA, has developed a series of guiding principles for assessing any health reform bill from a brain injury perspective. I am pleased to conclude that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act reflects and is consistent with these principles.

One principle identified by BIAA is that an individual with brain injury should have access to the full treatment continuum to manage the disease that includes early, acute treatment to stabilize the condition followed by acute and specialized post-acute brain injury treatment and rehabilitation, including inpatient, outpatient, day treatment and home health programs, to minimize and/or prevent medical complication, recover function and cope with remaining physical or mental disabilities, and achieve durable outcomes that maintain an optimal level of health, function and independence following brain injury. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to define the details and limits of the essential health benefits package but establishes certain general categories of benefits that must be covered. The bill specifically lists, among other things, hospitalization, outpatient hospital and outpatient clinic services, professional services of physicians and other health professionals, and prescription drugs. In addition, I am pleased that the list includes the following benefits that are of particular importance to persons with brain injury:

Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices,

Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral treatment, and Chronic disease management.

I believe that for individuals with disabilities such as brain injury, rehabilitation and habilitation is equivalent to the provision of antibiotics to a person with an infection—both are essential medical interventions. The term “rehabilitative and habilitative services” includes items and services used to restore functional

capacity, minimize limitations on physical and cognitive functions, and maintain or prevent deterioration of functioning as a result of an illness, injury, disorder or other health condition. Such services also include training of individuals with mental and physical disabilities to enhance functional development.

The term “rehabilitative and habilitative devices” includes durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and related supplies. It is my understanding that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act requires the Secretary of HHS to develop, through regulation, standard definitions of many terms, including durable medical equipment for purposes of comparing benefit categories from one private health plan to another. It is my expectation “prosthetics, orthotics, and related supplies” will be defined separately from “durable medical equipment” and the Secretary is not to define durable medical equipment for purposes of “in-home” use only.

I defining the list of categories of essential health benefits, I am particularly pleased that the bill states that the Secretary shall:

Ensure that such benefits reflect an appropriate balance among the categories so that benefits are not unduly weighted toward any category;

Not make coverage decisions, determine reimbursement rates, establish incentive programs, or design benefits in ways that discriminate against individuals because of their age, disability, or expected length of life;

Take into account the health care needs of diverse segments of the population, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and other groups; and

Ensure that essential benefits not be subject to denial on the basis of the individual's present or predicted disability, degree of medical dependency, or quality of life.

Taken together, these are strong protections that will help ensure that the essential health benefits package—that must be offered by all health plans that participate in the new Health Insurance Exchanges—will take into account the needs of people with brain injury and other disabilities and chronic conditions and not impose value judgments about disability and quality of life. This legislative language makes clear that Congress understands the subtle discrimination that can occur against people with brain injury and other disabilities in the area of benefit design.

A provision in the bill allows insurance companies to sell insurance products across State lines. It is my understanding that the new federal standards regarding essential benefits are meant to act as a floor, not a ceiling, for these essential benefits, giving room for plans within states to offer more generous coverage to their constituents. Thus, it is also my understanding that all state benefit and consumer protection laws will be accorded full force and effect when multi-state compacts are organized under one state's laws but sell insurance across state lines.

A second principle identified by BIAA is that an individual with a brain injury should have an individualized medical treatment plan that documents specific diagnosis-related goals when the person has a reasonable expectation of achieving measurable functional improvements in a predictable period of time through the provision of treatment of sufficient scope, duration and intensity. As described above, I am pleased to report that under the

bill, payment for items and services included in the essential benefits package should be made in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical and other appropriate clinical or professional practice. In addition, under the bill, a qualified health benefits plan may not impose any restriction (other than cost-sharing) unrelated to clinical appropriateness on the coverage of the health items and services included in the essential benefits package. Consistent with medical, clinical, and professional practice, appropriateness should be determined based on the unique needs of the individual with brain injury and treatment should be of sufficient scope, duration, and intensity.

A third principle identified by BIAA is that individuals with brain injury should receive treatment in the most appropriate treatment setting by accredited programs including acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, residential rehabilitation facilities, day treatment programs, outpatient clinics and home health agencies as determined in accordance with the choice and aspirations of the patient and family in concert with an interdisciplinary team of qualified and specialized clinicians. I am pleased that the bill includes important patient protections that are designed to permit providers to fully discuss treatment options with patients and their families and permit the patient to render an informed choice as to their course of rehabilitation or other treatment. These patient protections are also designed to ensure that the patient receives appropriate medical care and that the health care treatment is available for the full duration of the patient's medical needs.

More specifically, the bill restricts the Secretary in a number of important ways from creating rules that potentially restrict access to certain benefits or settings of care. The bill states that the Secretary shall not promulgate any regulation that:

Creates any unreasonable barriers to the ability of individuals to obtain appropriate medical care;

Impedes timely access to health care services;

Interferes with communications regarding the full range of treatment options between the patient and provider;

Restricts the ability of health care providers to provide full disclosure of all relevant information to patients making health care decisions;

Violates the principles of informed consent and the ethical standards of health care professionals; or

Limits the availability of health care treatment for the full duration of the patient's medical needs.

In addition, the bill specifies that a group health plan and a health insurance issuer shall not discriminate with respect to participation in the group or individual health insurance plan or coverage against any health care provider who is acting within the scope of that provider's license or certification under applicable state law. The bill also specifies that health plans to be considered "qualified" by the Secretary must ensure "a sufficient choice of providers (in a manner consistent with applicable network adequacy provisions under section 2702(c) of the Public Health Services Act) and provide information to enrollees and prospective enrollees on the availability of in-network and out-of-network providers" in order to en-

sure enrollee access to covered benefits, treatments and services under a qualified health benefits plan. Thus, rehabilitative and habilitative services and chronic disease management services must be available from a full continuum of accredited programs and treatment settings at a level of intensity that is consistent with the needs of the patient.

A fourth principle identified by BIAA is that the bill should prevent private insurance systems from delaying or denying treatment as a means of transferring the burden of brain injury care to taxpayers at federal, state and local levels; ensure that both public and private health insurance systems meet the health care needs of people with brain injury; and avoid using Medicaid and Medicare as the first option for coverage of people with brain injury. I am pleased to report that the bill includes numerous requirements reforming the health insurance marketplace that should prevent private insurance systems from delaying or denying treatment for individuals with brain injury. These reforms include: prohibiting pre-existing condition exclusions; requiring guaranteed issue and renewal; requiring nondiscrimination in health benefits or benefit structure in terms of factors such as health status, medical condition, medical history, disability or any other health status-related factor; limits cost-sharing, and prohibits the imposition of lifetime limits or unreasonable annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for any individual. I believe that these provisions should help prevent private insurance from delaying or denying treatment to persons with brain injury.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes provisions rewarding quality through market-based incentives, including consideration of payment structures that provide increased reimbursement or other incentives for, among other things, improving health outcomes through the implementation of activities that include effective case management, care coordination, and chronic disease management. The bill also includes numerous provisions designed to encourage the development of new patient care models that address the needs of persons requiring comprehensive rehabilitation and chronic care management, including models that facilitate the maintenance of close relationships between care coordinators, primary care physicians, specialist physicians, community-based organizations, and other providers of services and suppliers.

Separate provisions are included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act regarding post-acute care (PAC) bundling under Medicare. The bill provides for the establishment of a national pilot program for integrated care around a hospitalization in order to improve coordination, quality, and efficiency of health care services. Under the bill, the Secretary will select 1 or more of 8 conditions, taking into consideration, among other things, whether a condition is high volume and most amenable to bundling. Applications to participate in the pilots may be made by "participating providers" consisting of providers of services and suppliers, including but not limited to hospitals.

BIAA, in a submission to the chair of the Senate Finance Committee commented that post-acute payment systems must facilitate, not impede, improvements in functional status of individuals with brain injury and their ability to return to their homes and communities. BIAA supports a deliberative planning process

and rigorous pilot testing. The deliberative process should determine, among other things, whether PAC bundling should exempt diagnoses such as brain injury, which are of low predictability and highly complicated; and test innovative payment methods that make payments directly to nonhospital-based treatment centers, including residential rehabilitation facilities specializing in the treatment of brain injury that have earned accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Facilities and/or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

I agree with the comments presented by BIAA. I am pleased that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is consistent with BIAA's comments and addresses their concerns. I have some reservations regarding the bundling of post-acute care that require the "bundle" be earmarked to an acute care hospital for patients with complex and highly unpredictable diagnosis and health outcomes, as is the case for individuals with brain injury and other catastrophic conditions. I agree with BIAA that such payment systems may impede, rather than facilitate, improvements in functional status and may result in premature return to homes and undue levels of preventable disability without adequate facilitation of progression through necessary step down levels of treatment.

In closing, I believe the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act addresses the unique health care needs of individuals with brain injury by recognizing that brain injury is the start of a lifelong disease process requiring access to a full continuum of medically necessary treatment, including rehabilitation services and devices and chronic disease management, furnished by accredited programs in the most appropriate treatment setting as determined in accordance with the choices and aspirations of the patient and family in concert with an interdisciplinary team of qualified and specialized clinicians.

LA MIRADA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor the City of La Mirada's 50th Anniversary.

Fifty years ago, on March 23, 1960, the village residents of Mirada Hills witnessed their homeplace incorporated as a city. At the time, it was a brave step in challenging circumstances, signaling the area's transition from a rural and agriculture community to a beautiful suburb of Los Angeles. This spirit of transition continued when on November 8, 1960, the people of Mirada Hills approved a change of name to the current La Mirada.

It is this striving to meet the challenges of the future for which La Mirada stands and which I would like to share with you today, celebrating the City's 50th anniversary.

La Mirada's development has been, for its first 70 years, closely linked to the family of Andrew McNally, the founder and president of the Rand McNally Publishing Company. In 1888, McNally purchased over 2,200 acres of rangeland and named it La Mirada, which in Spanish means "The View." He built a home

and surrounded it with olive, orange, grapefruit and lemon groves. In order to be able to ship his finest olive oil and fruits throughout the United States, he made plans for the construction of a plant and a railroad station, thus providing the basic infrastructure for the further development of La Mirada.

In 1896, McNally turned the property over to his daughter's family, the Neffs. Their home- stead, known as the Neff House, is today listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

In the early 1950s, the Neff family once more cleared the way for the transition of La Mirada to become a modern city. By selling the land to a number of developers in one of the largest real estate transactions in California, it gave way to an astounding growth in population. In 1946, La Mirada counted 213 inhabitants, by its incorporation in 1960 the city comprised over 8,000 homes.

This overwhelming growth over a short period of time posed great challenges to La Mirada's leaders. But they met those challenges successfully. In the early 1950s, La Mirada was admired as a well structured city. Its spirit was reflected by the State Fair which in 1953 praised La Mirada for planning for the future while at the same time maintaining practicality for today.

This notion holds true today, and I'm confident that it will guide the City's development through the next 50 years.

I want to share La Mirada's spirit and success with the rest of our Nation as an inspiration for how we can master current and future challenges: by taking them on in a positive, pro-active way.

I ask my colleagues to join me in ushering in La Mirada's 50th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, and Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

For Tuesday, March 2, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 75 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1072), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 76 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3820), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 77 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1097).

For Wednesday, March 3, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote No. 78 (on agreeing to H. Res. 1126, which provides for consideration of H.R. 4247), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 79 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 747), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 80 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1096), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 81 (on agreeing to the Flake amendment to H.R. 4247), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 82 (on passage of H.R. 4247), "aye" on Rollcall vote No. 83 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1127).

THE LEGENDARY PRICE PRUETT
OF BAYTOWN, TX

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we often speak of great American heroes like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and

Thomas Jefferson. In Texas, we speak of state heroes like Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and William Barrett Travis. Similar to these great men, in the Second District of Texas, we honor local community heroes like Price Pruett.

Price Pruett was born in the 1800s on a farm in Dayton located in southeast Texas. He attended college at Southwestern University in Georgetown and graduated with a major in Business Administration. After college he spent time rounding up cattle in between Beaumont and Houston. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather who was a rancher in Liberty County, Pruett later established his own ranch in the area now known as Baytown.

In 1902 he married Georgia Estelle Lawrence and the two built a home located at Baytown's present-day Bicentennial Park. In 1917 Pruett teamed up with good friend Ross S. Sterling to form Goose Creek Realty Co. Sterling bought land from Pruett that was acquired when he established his ranch. The land was used for a new town and railroad depot. The town eventually became Goose Creek which was the first incorporated town in east Harris County.

Pruett and Sterling worked hard to sell a great amount of land. The offices of Goose Creek Realty Co. became the depot for the Dayton-Goose Creek Railroad. One of their most notable contributions to the area was the preservation of the beloved oak tree on Texas Avenue. Even when developers recommended cutting the tree down to extend roads in the town Pruett refused.

It has become a long-standing tradition in Baytown to keep the tree alive and well. It is a way for the citizens to honor the men who worked hard to preserve its beauty and originality. Pruett would be proud to know the people of Baytown have continued to carry on his legacy. Today we honor Price Pruett for the establishment of the town and for helping to initiate a tradition of pride, one well-known to the constituents of southeast Texas.