

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RYAN EDDY HOUGHTALING

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Eddy Houghtaling. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ryan has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Ryan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Ryan planned and coordinated the construction of two 8x8 cement pads for bench swings for the Immacolata Manor home for developmentally disabled women in Liberty, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Eddy Houghtaling for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of myself and Ms. SLAUGHTER, rise to speak about the Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB, which is a new executive branch body created in the Senate-passed health reform bill and charged with constraining Medicare spending. The IPAB is given unprecedented power to make sweeping changes to the Medicare program without going to Congress for approval. I and many of my colleagues in the House are concerned about some of the specific provisions and procedural changes included in section 3403 of H.R. 3590.

Since its inception in 1965, Medicare has guaranteed access to health care for 115 million Americans who would otherwise find it nearly impossible to obtain affordable health insurance in the private market: senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those with end-stage renal disease. Medicare is a critical part of this nation's social compact, and it is our obligation as elected representatives of our constituents to protect and preserve the program now and in the future. The health care reform legislation fulfills this responsibility by making a number of substantial improvements to Medicare, including provisions that

improve benefits, extend solvency by at least 9 years and winnow out waste, fraud and abuse.

As part of the effort to make improvements to the Senate-passed bill, key chairmen and Members of the House and Senate, along with the administration, were also working on a number of important and necessary changes to the IPAB policy. Unfortunately, the Senate Parliamentarian indicated that any attempt to improve IPAB in the reconciliation bill would be ruled out of order, and could jeopardize the status of the entire reconciliation bill.

Since we were unable to make any changes to the IPAB as part of the reconciliation bill, I would like to identify critical improvements that need to be made in subsequent legislation. Many of these changes had been agreed to by our colleagues in the Senate, as well as the administration, and I look forward to working with them to ensure they are enacted in the near future.

While IPAB is designed to help control growing costs in Medicare through swift implementation of payment and delivery reforms, the actions of the board will be driven by the need to meet targets for Medicare cost growth. As we have seen with prior attempts to control health care spending, limiting spending to arbitrary and unrealistically low growth caps is a recipe for failure. In order for IPAB to have any real hope of controlling Medicare cost growth without threatening access to care, as is required, the growth targets must be rational and realistic. The current spending targets mandated by IPAB are neither. They fail to fully take into account the three variables that drive health spending growth: price, volume of services, and intensity of services. The target only accounts for price growth, and does so at an unrealistically low rate. Controlling costs in the health care system is important, and I am committed to doing so. In fact, Medicare growth has typically been below private sector health care cost growth. However, the growth targets established by IPAB need to be revised and increased to reflect a more realistic expectation about how much growth can be slowed in order to ensure continued access to care and a strong program infrastructure in the future.

The IPAB policy as written by the Senate also tips the balance of power too far in favor of the executive branch. In the event that IPAB cannot agree on Medicare recommendations required by the targets, the Senate bill requires the Health and Human Services Secretary to make recommendations instead. Like IPAB's proposal, the Secretary's proposal would become law unless Congress passes an alternative. It is one thing to give an independent board of health care experts such sweeping power to change the Medicare program, but it is quite another to give that power to a partisan political figure who reports directly to the President. I say this not as a negative comment directed toward our current Secretary or President, but a general concern about whether we should empower one person with the ability to make such potentially

sweeping changes to the Nation's signature health program.

Furthermore, by placing unprecedented procedural barriers to congressional consideration of alternatives to the IPAB or secretarial proposals, the bill attempts to virtually lock Congress out of the process of making changes to Medicare. In the event IPAB or the Secretary mandates implementation of draconian cuts to Medicare, Congress will encounter procedural barriers to changing those recommendations in a meaningful way.

Thus, in order to maintain a proper balance between Congress and the executive branch, all parties had agreed to use a sequestration process to meet the mandated savings targets should IPAB fail to make recommendations on how to meet those targets. Instead of the decisions going to the executive branch, the onus would fall on Congress to arrive at thoughtful ways of reducing spending. If Congress failed to agree on ways to reduce spending, sequestration would go into effect. But it would be my hope and expectation that this would not happen, and that Congress would instead be spurred to action by the threat of sequestration.

Another important flaw with IPAB that needs to be addressed is the fact that it ignores the broken system used to update Medicare physician payment rates. Under current law, the sustainable growth rate formula will require physician payment rates to be reduced by more than 30 percent over the next decade. Yet, the IPAB could decide to make additional cuts on top of those already set to take place. The House has passed legislation that would make comprehensive permanent reforms to the physician payment formula, but that bill has not been taken up by the Senate. As such, all parties agreed that physician payment rates should be off limits to IPAB until the sustainable growth rate is replaced with a permanent, stable way of updating payments to physicians.

I also want to clarify legislative intent with regard to one issue in IPAB. Section 1899A(c)(2)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 3403 of PPACA, states that in the case of IPAB proposals submitted prior to December 31, 2018, IPAB shall not include any recommendations that would reduce payment rates for providers that receive an additional market basket cut on top of the productivity adjustment. The rationale for this provision is that these providers are already facing extra downward adjustments in their payments and thus should not be subject to "double jeopardy" by also being subject to IPAB recommendations which will further reduce spending. In creating this exclusion, it is the intent of Congress to exclude all payment reductions applicable to providers captured by this language in all the relevant years. Therefore, in the case of inpatient hospitals, the provision excludes from IPAB recommendations payment reductions applicable to hospitals including payment reductions for indirect medical education under 1886(d)(5)(B), graduate medical education under 1886(h), disproportionate share hospital payments under

• 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.

1886(d)(5)(F), and capital payments, as well as incentives for adoption and maintenance of meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology under 1886(n). In addition, further clarifications are needed to ensure that IPAB is empowered to seek savings or payment improvements for all items and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

There are smaller, but no less important additional improvements that I believe need to be made. Changes made to the Medicare program by IPAB are granted broad exemption from judicial review. We should remove this exemption to ensure that IPAB is not above the law and its actions can be reviewed in a court of law.

The legislation also prevents IPAB from making changes that would increase premiums or ration care, but it is important to include the specific protections that are scattered through the Social Security Act. Medicare law contains an array of beneficiary protections that are designed to ensure that seniors and people with disabilities have access to affordable care. The IPAB should not be permitted to make changes to these key beneficiary protections.

Finally, as the legislation is written, IPAB would be required to reduce spending above the growth targets resulting from unforeseen and unavoidable health events, such as a flu pandemic, hurricane, or act of terrorism. Increases in spending from these kinds of catastrophic events should be excluded from the overall spending targets.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR ROSADO,  
CARLOS ROSADO, AND QUINTON  
GUNDOLF

### HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three brave Boy Scouts. These young men—two brothers, Victor and Carlos Rosado of Madison, Alabama, and their cousin, Quinton Gundolf of Camden, Arkansas—were on a family vacation in Puerto Rico. They were enjoying themselves on the beach when they noticed a man struggling amid the waves. Without regard for their own safety, these young men bravely swam out to help the man to shore. It was clear that, without their intervention, this man would not have survived this harrowing experience. These young men acted bravely and decisively to save a life. Entering the water to help a man who is struggling for his life is a very dangerous undertaking indeed. However, the American Spirit is epitomized by such selfless acts. For that, I commend them and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF WILSON PICKETT

### HON. BOBBY BRIGHT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize the life and artistic contributions of a son of the Second District of

Alabama—Wilson Pickett. Pickett was born March 18, 1941, in Prattville, Alabama, and first developed his musical talents singing in local Baptist church choirs. Despite a difficult childhood, Pickett used his undeniable talent to begin performing gospel music professionally and soon transitioned into soul and R&B music, joining the Falcons in 1959. Pickett quickly gained recognition for his songwriting skills as well as his powerful and distinctive voice. While Pickett was successful with various singles in the early sixties, he achieved his first national chart-topping single with the hit “In the Midnight Hour” in 1965. This hit launched Pickett onto the soul and R&B scene and his Billboard success continued with such hits as “Land of 1,000 Dances,” “Mustang Sally,” and “Funky Broadway.”

In acknowledgment of his unique contributions to American soul and R&B music, Wilson Pickett was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1991. Wilson Pickett remains an integral part of the rich musical heritage of Southeast Alabama that includes Hank Williams, Lionel Richie, Martha Reeves, and Nat King Cole. Pickett passed away in 2006 and left behind a legacy of soulful melodies and gifted songwriting that will be enjoyed by his legions of fans for many years to come.

ZACHARY WILLIAM KESNER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary William Kesner. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Zachary has earned the rank of Tom-tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Zachary has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Zachary planned and coordinated the construction of handicap accessible deer blinds at Kelsey Short Youth Camp at Smithville Lake.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary William Kesner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R.  
4840, A BILL TO NAME A POST  
OFFICE IN HONOR OF CLARENCE  
D. LUMPKIN

### HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4840, a bill to des-

ignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1979 Cleveland Avenue in Columbus, Ohio, as the “Clarence D. Lumpkin Post Office” in honor of Clarence Lumpkin, a long-time community activist who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his Columbus neighborhood of Linden. Mr. Lumpkin has had a profound impact on many families in central Ohio, and his community involvement and activism have helped ensure that the Linden community retains its post office.

Growing up in the rural South, Clarence Lumpkin first moved to the Linden neighborhood after serving in the Army during World War II. Proving to be a tireless community activist, Mr. Lumpkin became affectionately known as “the Mayor of Linden” for his efforts. He successfully advocated for the needs of his community numerous times over the past several decades, persuading the city to separate storm and sanitation sewers to stop basement flooding, to build a long-needed new fire station, and ensuring the Department of Transportation did not divide the Linden community with interstate highway construction. His many accomplishments also include his work with the Community Development Block Grant task force to secure home improvement grants for seniors and low-interest loans for Linden residents, leading anti-drug marches, and making Linden the first inner city community with lights on every residential street.

Mr. Lumpkin once presented a speech before the Columbus City Council in 1974 regarding the needs of the Linden community, calling for “a point of pride” to be developed to motivate interest in Linden and give the community a sense of direction. His vision became reality in 2007 with the dedication of the “Clarence D. Lumpkin Point of Pride Building,” the last building to be built by the Greater Linden Development Corporation as a part of its Four Corners Vision Plan for commercial redevelopment, and a testament to his diligence and activism.

As a father, grandfather, and mentor, Mr. Lumpkin worked to instill in others the same virtues of hard work and community involvement that drive him. His son, Doug, and his daughter, Carolyn, who worked with me during my time as a county commissioner, continue his legacy of public service through their work in state and local government. Mr. Lumpkin also had a tremendous impact as a mentor through the Simba program, a program in which African-American men mentor African-American boys, most of whom have no father or other adult male in their lives. Because of his efforts, a young man Mr. Lumpkin mentored is expected to graduate from college in 2011.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and to recognize Mr. Lumpkin’s many achievements and decades of service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Clarence Lumpkin and his lifetime of community involvement and activism by supporting the passage of H.R. 4840.

STARKS, A LEGEND IN POLITICS,  
DIES

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

## STARKS, "A LEGEND IN POLITICS," DIES

By David Skolnick

Even though Herman "Pete" Starks last held office in 1985, he remained a local political force. Starks, 80, died Sunday.

The local political icon served 22 years as the city's 2nd Ward councilman, representing most of the East side. Sparks spent 17 of those years as chairman of the council's powerful finance committee.

"He was very instrumental in my campaign," said Councilman DeMaine Kitchen, D-2nd, elected in 2007. "He was a sounding board for my campaign. He was a legend in politics in the Mahoning Valley."

Starks was elected to his first two-year term on council in 1963. When he was re-elected in 1973, he became the first person to serve six consecutive terms as a representative of any ward in the city.

Starks was elected 11 straight times before opting not to run for his council seat in 1985. Instead, Starks ran for mayor that year, losing the Democratic Primary to Patrick Ungaro.

Ungaro served on council with Starks for six years as council president. Ungaro was elected mayor in 1983, serving 14 years in the capacity, and is Liberty Township's administrator.

"We fought like cats and dogs, but we shook hands when we were done," Ungaro said. "He was a dominant person in government. Even after Pete left office, his influence was enormous and overwhelming with council. He was still the person you had to work with."

James E. Fortune Sr., a former 24-year council member, served six of those years with Starks.

"He was a teacher," Fortune said. "I learned so much from Pete, particularly about finances. When he was on council, he was practically the leader of the city. We had the utmost respect for him."

George M. McKelvey, a former 3rd Ward councilman and eight-year mayor, started his political career sitting next to Starks at council meetings.

"I am, still to this day impressed with his knowledge," he said. "When he talked, I listened. His best qualities were his loyalty and honesty. With Pete Starks, his word was his bond."

When Jay Williams announced he was running for mayor in 2005, Starks called him.

"He said, 'You're going to be mayor,'" said Williams, who won that race and was re-elected to a second four-year term last year. "He said it so matter of fact like the sun will come up tomorrow."

Williams said Starks "was never shy about offering his advice and perspective. You always knew where Pete stood."

Councilman Jamael Tito Brown, D-3rd, and currently chairman of the finance committee, said he would speak with Starks from time to time about city finances.

"He was legendary in the city," Brown said. "He was still on top of things in city government" before his death.

Funeral arrangements being handled by L.E. Black Phillips & Holden.

## HONORING JOHN KOHLER

## HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 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. John Kohler. Mr. Kohler served his constituency faithfully and just during his tenure as the Hannover Town Justice.

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. Kohler 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. Kohler is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

## HONORING LAVERNE JONES-FERRETTE

## HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to proudly offer my congratulations, on behalf of Virgin Islanders everywhere, to Laverne Jones-Ferrette, number one in the world in the 60 meters with a time of 6.97, the first woman to run under the 7.00 seconds barrier in over a decade and a semi-finalist at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Doha, Qatar. I also congratulate Tabarie Henry, a third year student at Texas A&M University who is listed by the International Association of Athletic Federations as the number one 400 meter runner in the world.

The Virgin Islands, with a population of roughly 120,000, has produced legends in every field who continue to be part of the fabric of America, and these two outstanding native Virgin Islanders, through their hard work, have made their contributions in sports that have brought worldwide recognition to them and to U.S. Virgin Islands.

There are also other outstanding members of the V.I National Track and Field Team who continue to excel in their respective events: Adrian Durant—100 meter; Leslie Murray—400 meter hurdles; Calvin Dascent—400 × 400 meter and 4 × 100 meter relay; David Walters—4 × 100 meter relay; Terry Charles—4 × 400 meter relay; Leon Hunt—long jump; Muhammid Halim—triple jump; Allison Peter—200 meter; Courtney Patterson—100 meter; Wyanetta Kirby—long jump and 100 meter hurdles and Desiree King—800 meter and 400 meter hurdles.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Laverne on earning a silver medal at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Qatar, Tabarie, and all of our athletes and wish them god-speed as they continue to shine.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 172—Previous Question to H. Res. 1205; 173—H. Res. 1205; 174—H.J. Res. 80; 175—H. Res. 1186; 176—H.R. 3976; 177—H.R. 4592; I was keynote Speaker at L.A.S.A. Dinner hosted by former H.E.W. Secretary Joe Califano. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## HONORING REV. VINCENT M. COOKE

## HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J. Since becoming President of Buffalo's Canisius College in 1993, Rev. Cooke has steadily advanced everything from the school's faculty to its residence halls, making Canisius into the distinguished institution it is today.

Rev. Cooke began his Presidency at Canisius with the mantra, "nothing less than quality would be acceptable." He has certainly followed through on these words. During his time at Canisius, Rev. Cooke has restored and enhanced the school's residence halls, Old Main and Lyons Hall, as well as its award-winning Montante Cultural Center. He began a 17 month, \$22 million upgrade of Canisius' technological resources, creating more than 50 state-of-the-art classrooms.

Rev. Cooke's dedication to excellence extends far beyond Canisius' facilities; not only did he raise the school's academic standards, Rev. Cooke also increased Canisius' applicant pool outside of Western New York and offered additional merit-based aid and scholarship assistance to the most qualified students. He dedicated himself to hiring the best possible faculty and, over the past decade, has increased the number of courses taught by full-time faculty while decreasing Canisius' student-to-faculty ratio.

Rev. Cooke's successes have meant so much for Canisius College; however the benefits of his work have extended to the surrounding community as well. Through his win-win approach to community relations Rev. Cooke helped to establish a partnership with Fannie Mae and Hunt Real Estate, creating the Employer Assisted Housing Program which provides incentives for college employees to buy homes close to campus. His efforts to preserve historic campus buildings have invigorated the surrounding community while an increase in policing efforts have made the campus and neighboring communities a safer place.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Rev. Cooke for his copious achievements. His work as an educator, innovator, and leader has bettered not only Canisius College but all of Western New York as well.

H.R. 4840, TO DESIGNATE THE FACILITY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LOCATED AT 1979 CLEVELAND AVENUE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, AS THE "CLARENCE D. LUMPKIN POST OFFICE"

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4840, the bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1979 Cleveland Avenue in Columbus, Ohio, as the "Clarence D. Lumpkin Post Office."

Mr. Lumpkin has long been a pillar in Columbus and the Linden community. Born in 1925, he grew up in the South in a family of sharecroppers. After high school, Mr. Lumpkin joined the United States Army where he served his country honorably in World War II. After the War, Clarence Lumpkin moved to the South Linden community in Columbus where he was elected to the South Linden Area Commission, and has been a driving force and a leader in the community ever since. His work and outstanding presence have touched many lives and are very much appreciated by his fellow central Ohioans. This post office was saved from closing with the help of Mr. Lumpkin's tireless work, so it is appropriate that this post office bears his name.

I hope you will join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Clarence D. Lumpkin and recognizing his dedication to the Central Ohio community.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
FRANK D. CELEBREZZE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Frank D. Celebrezze, a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, an Army Veteran and a former Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice.

A third-generation Italian-American, Judge Celebrezze learned early the importance of family, faith and service to community. From 1956 to 1958, he served in the Ohio Senate. In 1964, he was elected to serve as a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court judge, a position he held until 1972, when he was elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. Judge Celebrezze became Chief Justice in 1978 and held that position until 1986.

Judge Celebrezze was highly admired by those serving in the judicial system. He served with honor, integrity and recognition of those who served before him. He was a mentor and friend to numerous attorneys, clerks and colleagues.

Above all else, Judge Celebrezze was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He and his wife, Mary Ann, were married for 62 years. Together, they raised their children Rebecca "Judith Ann", Frank D., Laura, David, Jeffrey, Keith, Matthew and the late Brian and Steven. He was a devoted grandfather to Miranda, Christina, Nicole, Keith Jr., Daniel, Ashley, Jessica, Jaime and Adam.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of the Honorable Judge Frank D. Celebrezze. His legacy as a jurist and as a man will not be forgotten.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose a government takeover of our nation's healthcare system. It is irresponsible for Congress to approve a vastly unpopular and costly measure at a time of unprecedented budget deficits and uncertainty about the future of the economy. Despite overwhelming opposition by the American people, the Majority in Congress, led by Speaker PELOSI, has resorted to manipulating longstanding procedural rules to rush through an overhaul of our nation's healthcare system. My constituents understand that any bill that requires backroom special deals to pass is fundamentally flawed.

Obtaining quality medical care is a top priority for Ohioans and their families. Instead of forcing an unpopular, one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare reform, Congress and the White House should listen to the American people and return to the drawing board to negotiate a real bipartisan agreement in order to achieve true reform.

Real health care reform does not have to undermine the strengths of our current system, nor limit doctor choice or care availability. A series of commonsense measures will go a long way toward improving health care for all Americans. For example, insurance companies should be prohibited from excluding a person for coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

Medical research is also essential to bringing health care costs down. Private ingenuity is the strength of our current system and should be preserved and encouraged. The federal bureaucracy cannot stand in the way of such important research.

When employees change jobs, they should be able to take their health insurance with them. Continuity of coverage can be critical for a person in the midst of important health-related treatment.

Our litigation system forces doctors and hospitals to raise operating costs. For decades, the cost of medical liability has risen much more rapidly than actual medical care. Limiting frivolous lawsuits would have a significant effect on containing health care costs and promoting accessibility to care.

Individuals should be allowed to deduct the full cost of their health insurance premiums from their federal income taxes. Furthermore, we should expand the ability to put tax-free dollars into Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to be used for lifetime medical expenses. These measures alone would make health care more affordable for many.

These are reasonable reforms that don't rely upon the creation of a new, massive government health system. Although I oppose this bill, I will continue to fight to replace this government takeover of our healthcare system, and I remain committed to supporting Southwest Ohioans' call for commonsense solutions.

RECOGNIZING JIN LEE FOR REPRESENTING VIRGINIA AT THE "SCHOOL FLAGS ACROSS THE U.S. . . . FLYING HIGH" EVENT ON MARCH 25, 2010

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jin Lee, a resident of Woodbridge, who is representing Virginia at the National Youth Art Month event, "School Flags Across the U.S. . . . Flying High."

Jin is a talented 10th grade student from Forest Park High School in Prince William County. He is being recognized along with participants from every other state in the Youth Art Month flag design program. Jin and the rest of the winners will be honored at the Library of Congress on March 25, 2010. Jin will be attending the ceremony with his family and his teacher.

The Council for Art Education sponsors National Youth Art Month, an advocacy program held each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children. Students from all over the country participate in the Youth Art Month flag design program with each state selecting the flag that best represents their state and the creative spirit of Youth Art Month.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jin Lee and all the winners of the Youth Art Month flag design program. I also want to recognize every participant for symbolizing the creative spirit of our youth. Their efforts in promoting the importance of art education in this country deserve our highest praise.

HONORING BILL O'CONNOR

**HON. FRANK D. LUCAS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the retirement of a longtime Republican aide on the House Agriculture Committee: Bill O'Conner. For more than 30 years, Bill O'Conner has come to be known as a highly knowledgeable staffer who could work with members and aides from both sides of the aisle, respected for his professionalism, and appreciated for the experience and expertise he contributed to policy discussions.

Although Bill was raised in Kansas, I am proud to recognize that he was born in my home state of Oklahoma. He graduated from Wichita State University. And after serving a tour with the Marines, he earned his master's degree at Wichita State University and continued to do doctoral work at Ohio State University.

Bill's long career on Capitol Hill began in 1979 when he first worked as an analyst for the House Republican Conference. In 1981, he became the Executive Director of the House Republican Research Committee under the Chairmanship of Rep. Ed Madigan of Illinois. Two years later when Rep. Madigan became the Ranking Republican on the House

Agriculture Committee, Bill was appointed the Deputy Minority Staff Director.

For the next seven years, Bill was responsible for policy and legislative development for Agriculture Committee Republicans. In 1991, Rep. Madigan became the Secretary of Agriculture and appointed Bill as his Chief of Staff. Bill served in that role through the balance of President George H.W. Bush's administration.

In 1993, Bill returned to the Republican House Agriculture Committee as Policy Director under Rep. Pat Roberts of Kansas. He continued as Policy Director or Staff Director for the remainder of his career working under Rep. Bob Smith of Oregon, Rep. Larry Combest of Texas, Rep. BOB GOODLATTE of Virginia, and Rep. FRANK LUCAS of Oklahoma.

Bill's knowledge and experience made him an essential staffer in the development and implementation of U.S. agriculture policy. He played a key role in the reauthorization of five farm bills. And, he has been regarded as an expert on agriculture policy matters by both Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate members.

One story that highlights the trust Bill earned from members of Congress happened in 2003 when the Agriculture Committee received reconciliation instructions. Rep. Dennis Hastert, then Speaker of the House, called a members meeting to discuss the instructions, which included Bill as staff director of the committee. Prior to starting the meeting, Speaker Hastert announced to the group that he wanted everyone to know that in 1986 Ed Madigan dispatched Bill O'Conner to assist with his first campaign to Congress. Madigan advised him to quote "listen to everything this man tells you." Hastert continued to say that he did then and has done so every day since.

It is fair to say that every Chairman and Ranking Member on the Agriculture Committee for whom Bill has worked was also wise to follow Mr. Madigan's advice. We remain grateful for Bill's dedication and service. His leadership, knowledge, experience, and professionalism will be missed, but we do wish him and his family the very best in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, RECIPIENT OF TWO AWARDS FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the School of Public Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, which has received special recognition from the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress. The Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center in George Mason's School of Public Policy and the Academy for Education Development have demonstrated exceptional support to the Open World Program and the Congress by acting as national grantees.

The Open World program aims to increase U.S.-Eurasian understanding and partnerships. Since its inception in 1999, the program has introduced more than 15,000 current and fu-

ture decision makers from Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union to American political and civic life. In addition to Russia, the program includes the former Soviet states of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

On March 8, 2010, the Open World Leadership Center presented the 2010 Open World National Grantee of Merit Award to the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center and the Open World Award for Service to Congress to the Academy for Education Development.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing George Mason's School of Public Policy for its exceptional service to Congress and the Open World Program. The school's actions have a profound impact on increasing political and civic discourse between the United States and former Soviet states.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4872, the Reconciliation Act of 2010, because this bill is good for seniors, good for women, good for small businesses, and good for all Americans. Today we have the opportunity to take a historic vote that will forever change the face, health, and life of America for the better. H.R. 4872 will provide access to affordable, quality health care for over 30 million Americans and will reign in the ever-escalating costs of health care. Today, history will be made and a legacy left behind for generations to come. 435 Members who represent over 300 million people will be remembered for beginning to fulfill the promise all Americans were pledged, the unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness which adequate healthcare embodies.

For the people I represent in the 37th District of California, H.R. 4872 will improve coverage for 299,000 residents who already have insurance. It will give tax credits and other assistance to up to 146,000 families and 15,100 small businesses to help them afford coverage. H.R. 4872 will improve Medicare for 63,000 beneficiaries in my district, including closing the donut hole for them. This legislation will extend coverage to 92,500 uninsured residents of the 37th District and will guarantee that 17,500 residents with preexisting conditions can obtain the health insurance they need. H.R. 4872 will protect 1,100 families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs and will allow 59,000 young adults to obtain coverage on their parents' insurance plans. This bill will provide millions of dollars in new funding for 11 community health centers in my district. And finally, it will reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by \$125 million annually.

H.R. 4872 helps seniors by ensuring that they will not be forced out of Medicare, that their doctors will continue to care for Medicare patients because of increased payment levels, and that the prescription donut hole will be

completely closed by 2020. H.R. 4872 helps women by eliminating the discriminatory gender rating system, making sure that insurance companies do not consider pregnancy grounds for denying coverage, and doing away with all preexisting conditions. H.R. 4872 helps the uninsured by extending coverage to 95% percent of Americans. Furthermore, it increases access and choice for all Americans by providing \$11 billion in new funding for community health centers, of which there are 11 in my district alone. Finally, H.R. 4872 helps small businesses by eliminating price and benefit discrimination, providing tax credits for up to 50 percent of the cost of insuring their employees, and giving them greater control over the spiraling costs of health care coverage.

As I participated in countless debates, caucuses, and meetings over the past year, I knew that each step we took put us one step closer to what Theodore Roosevelt proposed in 1908 over 100 years ago: quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans. Our health care system up until now has not worked for most people, whether it be the physician as provider, the employer as payer, or the patient as recipient.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides American families with stability and peace of mind. Never again will they have to choose between their health and their livelihood. H.R. 4872 provides all American families with the possibility of better healthcare.

It is time for us to move forward. H.R. 4872 is a new direction for this great country. I urge my colleagues to be a part of this historic health care policy change, and to be part of the days ahead in which we will work to further strengthen it.

HONORING EAST LANSING HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to East Lansing High School and in particular the East Lansing High School girl's basketball team. On March 20, 2010 the Trojans won the Michigan Class A state championship. This victory capped an outstanding season as the Trojans completed a 27-1 season.

Madam Speaker, these extraordinary young women deserve special recognition not only for their success on the basketball court, but also for their excellent work in the classroom. Congratulations to Head Coach Robert Smith and players Natalie Rose Brogan, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Malika Glover, Zakiya Minifee, Kelsey Deshambo, Kaitlin Lapka, Klarissa Bell, Shayna Allen, Alex Trecha, Alex Green, Libby Meyer, and Gracie Whelan.

I ask that the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the East Lansing Trojan's on their state championship and I wish all of these young ladies luck in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DIDLAKE, INC. AND  
THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a program which in the last several years has helped more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment: The AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This comes within a segment of the population that has suffered from significant, chronic and unacceptable unemployment. However, opportunities realized through the AbilityOne Program have done much in helping to bring people who are blind or have significant disabilities into a working society. I am proud to recognize Didlake, Inc., located in Virginia's 11th district, as one shining example of a nonprofit agency working through the AbilityOne Program to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

For more than 40 years, Didlake has provided a wide-range of resources to expand opportunities for people with disabilities in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Didlake offers training and support services to people with significant disabilities leading to employment on federal, state and local contracts such as facility management, mailroom operations, administrative services, fleet management, product packaging and more.

The mission of Didlake stands as a true example of why community nonprofit agencies and programs like AbilityOne are a winning proposition for all parties involved. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to hold a job, be independent, participate in the community, or play an important role in society; the training and support that organizations like Didlake offer, and the employment opportunities afforded through partnership with the AbilityOne Program are truly invaluable.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Didlake President and CEO Rex Parr and his staff for helping individuals who have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and support our federal government's mission.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J.  
FLAHERTY, VICE PRESIDENT  
AND GENERAL MANAGER OF  
GENERAL DYNAMICS IN SCRAN-  
TON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. James J. Flaherty, who is retiring as Vice President and General Manager at General Dynamics in Scranton, Pennsylvania, after a long and distinguished career in the Army munitions industry.

A son of James Flaherty, Sr. and Jean Joyce Flaherty, Mr. Flaherty was raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, where he graduated from St. John's High School in 1960. A 1963 graduate of Penn State University, Mr. Flaherty joined Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation, Scranton Division, where he held numerous engineering positions until 1969 when he was promoted to engineering supervisor of the forging operations.

In 1972, he was promoted to operations manager after which he was elevated to Assistant General Manager in 1976. In 1978 he was transferred to Chamberlain's New Bedford, Massachusetts, operations where he remained, until 1986 when he was promoted to Vice President and General Manager. He served in that post until 1991 when the New Bedford operations ceased production and he was relocated back to Scranton as Vice President and General Manager of that division.

In 2000, he was promoted to Executive Vice President and, in April, 2003, he was named President of Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation. In 2006, after General Dynamics acquired Chamberlain, Mr. Flaherty was named Vice President and General Manager of the Scranton operations.

Mr. Flaherty was a member of the ARMS Public Private Task Force, Executive Advisory Committee, and the Industrial Committee of Ammunition Producers. He is also Past President of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center. He serves on the Board of Directors of the local chapter of the Salvation Army, is a member of the Lions Club and was an elected member of the Moscow Borough Council.

In February, 2009, Mr. Flaherty was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Barbara by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and that same year was awarded the W. Francis Swingle Award by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Flaherty is married to the former Sheila Redding of Pittston. The couple has two children and five grandchildren and plan to reside in Oriental, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Flaherty for an outstanding career. His contributions to his profession, his community and his nation have been exemplary and he has been responsible for inspiring many others to emulate his example and his achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK  
OF LIZ CARPENTER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor and remember my dear friend and women's rights crusader, Liz Carpenter, who passed away recently at the age of 89.

When I think about Liz Carpenter, I cannot help but be reminded of her colorful personality and her remarkable fortitude. At a time when women were just beginning to tear down gender barriers, she was working tirelessly to prove that she was capable, even overly-capable, of the jobs that were assigned to her. Her tireless spirit eventually paid off, and it is impossible to remember her without remembering her countless accomplishments for women and all Americans.

A sixth-generation Texas, Mrs. Carpenter was born in Salado, Texas. She went on to study at the University of Texas, and in 1942, shortly after graduating, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she found a job working at an independent news bureau. Her early years were spent working in journalism, and after marrying her husband, Leslie Carpenter, they opened the Carpenter News Service. Together they gathered news in Washington, D.C. and grew their business until they had 18 newspaper clients across the South and Southwest. With her husband, she had two children.

In 1960, Mrs. Carpenter joined Lyndon B. Johnson's vice presidential campaign, and after the assassination of President Kennedy, she penned the 58 words that President Johnson spoke shortly after receiving the oath of office. She remained with President Johnson until 1969 when he decided against seeking a second term as President. She remained in Washington until 1976 at which time she moved to Austin where she lectured on journalism at the University of Texas and was involved with the Lyndon B. Johnson Library. In 1981, after the death of her brother, she took in his three children and raised them to adulthood. Additionally, she was the author of four books.

A strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, Ms. Carpenter actively worked to see the rights of women enshrined in the Constitution. She was a passionate feminist and was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus.

Madam Speaker, only 30 short days ago, I visited with Liz Carpenter. She was alert and well and still had as her number one interest the status of women. She suggested a state wide meeting on women, and was primarily concerned about the education of younger women. At the time, she encouraged me to continue the fight for more and better opportunities for all women across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of Ms. Carpenter, but I am grateful for her work, longevity, and strength. We will miss her vibrant personality, and I am heartened to know the world is a better place because of her. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring her memory and celebrating her life.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DR. JUDITH FALKENRATH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize Dr. Judith Falkenrath for her distinguished service to the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) and her years of dedicated service to the well-being and educational development of children in Northern Virginia.

During the last 24 years, Dr. Falkenrath has had immeasurable impacts on the lives of countless children and their families. Beginning in 1986 and continuing for 12 years, Dr. Falkenrath worked with the Fairfax County Office for Children. There she served as Early Childhood Specialist for Community Education as well as Education Coordinator for Fairfax County Head Start.

In 1998, Dr. Falkenrath joined ACCA. Founded in 1967, ACCA was created to address the needs of the working poor in our community. Since that time, ACCA has grown and diversified the services that they offer. Currently ACCA is an alliance of 26 churches in the Annandale area and together they provide assistance in areas such as Child Development Center, Family Emergency Services, Housing Repair, Furniture, Meals on Wheels, Scholarships, Shelter Assistance, and Transportation.

Believing that all children deserve quality care and education, Dr. Falkenrath, as Director of the Child Development Center, has provided leadership and dedication in providing quality preschool education and in furthering the goals of ACCA in reaching out to the poor and disadvantaged in our community. All children are accepted regardless of their circumstances or background.

Although Dr. Falkenrath is retiring from ACCA, where I know she will be sorely missed, I am pleased to note she is continuing to serve the children of Fairfax County as a member of the Child Care Advisory Council.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Judith Falkenrath for her years of service and also in congratulating her on the occasion of her retirement. Her efforts and leadership have been a great benefit to the children of our community, and truly merit our highest praise.

HONORING CAROL A. MEISSNER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Ms. Carol A. Meissner. In her 32 years of service to the Town of Evans, Ms. Meissner has helped to advance many important initiatives and has tirelessly served her community.

As Evans Town Clerk she helped modernize the Clerks office and improved both efficiency and quality of service. She served two terms as the president of the Erie County Town Clerk's Association and she was honored as

the New York State Town Clerk of the year in 2001.

Ms. Meissner's service to her community goes well above her role as Town Clerk. She also has been active in local schools, working to register graduating seniors and teaching younger students about the value of being an engaged citizen. Working with local youth is a passion of Ms. Meissner's, she sponsors a youth baseball and soccer team, and she is a guest reader at her local elementary school.

In addition to serving the young adults of her community Ms. Meissner also serves honorably as a member of The Town of Evans Volunteer Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary. Throughout her years of service Ms. Meissner has had an impact on countless projects and programs, and she has assuredly made her community a better place. For her service she has received Certificates of Appreciation from the Town of Evans Lions Club, and The Future Business Leaders of America.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Carol A. Meissner for her dedication to her community. She is an excellent role model for the young adults she works with, a leader for her fellow community members, and a shining example of what it means to be a public servant. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Carol Meissner on her retirement from the Town of Evans Office of the Clerk.

HONORING ZANE ERIC CLARK

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zane Eric Clark, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zane has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zane has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zane Eric Clark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING MARCH AS RED CROSS MONTH

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross has provided assistance and comfort to communities stricken by disasters large and small since it was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton. For over 100 years, the American Red Cross has continued to help ensure our communities are prepared and resilient in the face of future disasters.

Madam Speaker, at home and abroad, one in five Americans is touched by the Red Cross every single year. On September 29, an 8.0 earthquake in the Pacific Ocean generated tsunami waves in American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga, killing more than 170 people. The district I represent, the 37th of California, has the largest population of Samoans in the continental United States, so this tragedy directly impacted many families in my district. I would like to recognize the American Red Cross for their invaluable assistance and quick response in providing relief after this event. I can attest to the good work they did when I traveled to American Samoa to deliver supplies donated by my constituents. The American Red Cross mobilized 90 volunteers to provide food, water, and relief supplies, as well as tracing services for families separated during the disaster. The Samoan Red Cross mobilized 200 volunteers to distribute relief items and support camps sheltering the homeless, with the goal of assisting 15,000 people.

In my district, the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross has 590 registered volunteers. They have certified 32,160 people in CPR/first aid, AED and water safety skills, and more than 4,330 people have received disaster preparedness training through health fairs, speaking engagements or trained in preparedness classes. In addition, the Disaster Action Teams (DAT) responded to 33 local emergency operations, opened 3 shelters and provided disaster shelter and food to 58 individuals, and financial support to 39 families. Finally, our volunteer youth group served 1,000 needy adults and children at their annual Holiday Project.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in applauding the hard work of the American Red Cross volunteers and celebrating March as American Red Cross Month.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UMB BANK

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, Chairman FRANK and I would like to extend our congratulations to UMB Bank, its officers, directors, shareholders and employees on being designated by Forbes magazine as the second-best bank in America in 2009. UMB Financial Corporation headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, is a \$10.2 billion bank founded in 1913 with first day deposits of \$1,100.00. Six generations of the Kemper family have owned and/or operated UMB. Currently Mariner Kemper is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Peter deSilva, is the President and Chief Operating Officer, Peter Genovese is the Vice Chairman and Michael Hagedorn is the Chief Financial Officer. UMB operates in seven states—Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Arizona and is the second largest bank holding company headquartered in Missouri.

The Bank's shared corporate vision is "To be recognized for THE unparalleled customer experience." One of the corporation's shared values is "Customers First—We do the unparalleled to create an environment that consistently exceeds the expectations of our customers."

UMB Bank embodies strong community involvement in all the communities it serves. From financing for small businesses, to providing working capital loans to companies that support job creation and retention, to employee volunteerism and corporate donations UMB stands tall with their communities. In fact UMB just received an "Outstanding" rating from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in their most recent public evaluation of UMB's community lending and participation.

When the largest banks in America were trying to repay billions of dollars in TARP funds and to improve their balance sheets and to deal with the impact of severe economic problems in the states where they do business, UMB was keeping to their business strategy, conservative with slow, steady growth. Their non-performing loans as a percent to total loans was 0.7 percent, the fourth best in this category in the country; reserves as a percentage of nonperforming loans was 210 percent; and their Tier 1 capital ratio was 13.5 percent. Their stock trades at 1.5 times its book value. In a September 2009 *TheStreet.com* article "UMB's Kemper Proves Boring Is Better: Best In Class", Mariner Kemper said "The Street, the investor population, believed that we . . . could leverage [our] earnings streams more, if we had taken the same risks as the rest of the industry. I'm thrilled to be able to stand up and say: Those strategies worked for us! We didn't erase 20 years of earnings by taking three years of risks."

To be rated the second-best bank in America in 2009 by *Forbes* out of the 100 largest banks and thrifts in America is "A great source of pride for everyone at UMB", Mariner Kemper said in a January press release. He went on to say, "This ranking also shows that the regional banking model works. UMB sticks to our time-tested prudent business practices, such as making loans within our territory, building relationships with our customers and understanding that strong underwriting practices produce quality results. Our standards have remained unchanged in all economic conditions. This principle, as well as a focus on a diversified income stream from fee-based businesses, affords us steady growth."

Madam Speaker, again we offer UMB Bank and all its employees, officers, directors and shareholders our heartiest congratulations on a job well done.

HONORING W. GLENN WINFREY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize W. Glenn Winfrey, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 82, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Glenn has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Glenn has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending W. Glenn Winfrey for his

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record a letter sent to me by the Physician Insurers Association (PIAA) expressing their concerns that multiple provisions of H.R. 3590 could potentially create new causes of action for medical liability claims despite the assurances I received from the committees and others that there would be no impact.

Mr. Speaker, the House-passed H.R. 3962 prevented these causes of action from being created by adding Section 261. Section 261 stated that the development, recognition, or implementation of any guideline or other standard shall not be construed to establish the standard of care or the duty of care owed by healthcare providers to their patients in any malpractice action or claim.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, it was the legislative intent of Congress to insert Section 261 or similar language in any Conference Committee bill to prevent new causes of action. It was not and never has been the intent of this legislation to create any new causes of action or claims premised on the development of guidelines or other standards.

PHYSICIAN INSURERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,  
*Rockville, MD, March 9, 2010.*

Hon. DENNIS CARDOZA,  
*Longworth Building,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CARDOZA: On behalf of the 60 domestic primary medical professional liability insurance company members of the Physician Insurers Association of America (PIAA), I am writing regarding the healthcare reform legislation passed by the Senate. Specifically, I would like to share our concerns about the legislation creating new causes of action for medical liability claims.

The PIAA is the only trade association in the nation dedicated solely to the medical professional liability insurance industry. Our members are physician and other healthcare provider owned or operated professional liability insurers which provide indemnification for over 60% of America's doctors, as well as dentists, hospitals and other healthcare providers. Our member insurance companies were formed by state medical, dental and hospital associations over the past 30 years, to include 4 which are domiciled in California. They were formed with the specific goals of lowering insurance costs for providers and helping patients through sound underwriting and patient safety practices. In this regard, we are uniquely qualified to offer our perspective on medical liability issues.

As approved by the Senate, H.R. 3590 contains at least 14 provisions which could create new causes of action for medical liability claims. These include:

Section 2701 (adult health quality measures).

Section 2702 (payment adjustments for health care acquired conditions).

Section 3001 (Hospital Value-Based Purchase Program).

Section 3002 (improvements to the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative).

Section 3003 (improvements to the Physician Feedback Program).

Section 3007 (value based payment modifier under physician fee schedule).

Section 3008 (payment adjustment for conditions acquired in hospitals).

Section 3013 (quality measure development).

Section 3014 (quality measurement).

Section 3021 (Establishment of Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation).

Section 3025 (hospital readmission reduction program).

Section 3501 (health care delivery system research, quality improvement).

Section 4003 (Task Force on Clinical and Preventive Services).

Section 4301 (research to optimize delivery of public health services).

Sufficient questions were raised about these sections of H.R. 3590 that a provision was added to the bill commissioning a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study to see if these sections did indeed result in new avenues for medical liability claims to be filed. Quite simply, such a study is unnecessary and possibly harmful. If Congress intends to create multiple new avenues for the filing of medical liability claims, it does not need to commission the study. If, as we have been told, it does not intend to substantially increase medical liability litigation, a study will only needlessly create an opening for such cases to be filed until Congress finds the opportunity to correct the issue.

Congress should not wait for a study to be conducted—it should clearly state its intent in the legislation to not create new medical liability causes of action which could dramatically increase medical liability insurance premiums and potentially decrease access to healthcare providers in the process. The PIAA recommends the following legislation language to address this issue:

Sec. XXXX—Construction Regarding Standard of Care

The development, recognition, or implementation of any guideline or other standard under any provision of this Act shall not be construed to establish the standard of care or duty of care owed by healthcare providers to their patients in any medical malpractice action or claim (as defined in section 431(7) of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C.10 11151(7)).

From the very beginning of the healthcare reform debate, there has been broad consensus that medical liability reform was a necessary component in making our healthcare system more efficient and effective. While the exact nature of that reform has been the source of some disagreement, no one has been suggesting that our medical system will be improved by having new opportunities for even more medical liability claims to be filed. Congress should ensure such opportunities are not created by healthcare reform legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critically important issue. Should you have any questions about these proposals, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE E. SMARR,  
*President.*

HONORING DR. DOROTHY L.  
HEIGHT ON HER 98TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Dr. Dorothy L. Height, the President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, on her 98th birthday.

Dr. Dorothy L. Height has spent her extremely productive lifetime in service of African Americans, especially African-American women, and the people of the United States of America. She has been a visionary, championing every great effort for equality and racial justice that our nation has achieved, from equal pay and voting rights for women to the integration of the nation's governmental institutions and revision of societal norms.

Known as the "Godmother of the Civil Rights Movement," Dr. Height has also organized the annual Black Family Reunion, a national celebration that she leads to celebrate African-American family values on the National Mall and throughout the nation.

Dr. Height has been recognized with virtually every significant national honor, from the NAACP Spingarn Medal, to the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award and the Congressional Gold Medal.

It is especially appropriate that Dr. Height's birthday occurs in March, during Women's History Month. Her contributions, not only to our country, but to women of every color and background, make Women's History Month a timely occasion to celebrate Dr. Height's life's work as President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the lifetime contributions of Dr. Dorothy L. Height on her 98th birthday.

HONORING JOHN ZACHARY PARKS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Zachary Parks, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 121, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zach has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zach has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Zachary Parks for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DOROTHY I.  
HEIGHT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of Dr. Dorothy I. Height on her 98th Birthday for her unwavering dedication and contributions to society. Her commitment to social work and those who are underserved have been indelible.

Dorothy I. Height was born in Richmond, Virginia. At an early age, she moved with her family to Rankin, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Rankin High School. While in high school, she received a scholarship to Barnard College; however, upon her arrival, she was denied entrance. During that time, Barnard only admitted two African Americans per academic year and Ms. Height had arrived after the other two students had been admitted. She did not let this disappointment deter her; she would later attend New York University, where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in only four years.

After college, Dr. Height worked as a teacher in Brownsville Community Center in Brooklyn, New York. She was also very active in the United Christian Youth Movement after its founding in 1935. Her undying commitment to women and families led her to her work as a case manager for the welfare department in New York. In 1937, she would join the National Council of Negro Women and her career as a pioneer in civil rights began to unfold.

In 1938, Dorothy Height was one of ten young people selected to help Eleanor Roosevelt plan a World Youth Conference. Through Ms. Roosevelt, she met Mary McLeod Bethune and became involved in the National Council of Negro Women. That same year, she was hired by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). She worked for better conditions for black domestic workers, leading to her election to YWCA national leadership. She was active in developing its leadership training and interracial and ecumenical education programs.

Throughout her career, Dr. Dorothy I. Height has remained a tireless leader in the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision of a better world. She has worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph, and many others. Dr. Height has participated in virtually all of the major civil and human rights events in the 1950's and 1960's. For her tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, President Ronald Reagan presented her the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service to the country in 1989.

Dr. Height is known for her extensive international and developmental education work. She initiated the sole African American private voluntary organization working in Africa in 1975. In her numerous decades of national leadership, she has served on major policy-making bodies affecting women, social welfare, economic development, civil and human rights. She has received numerous recognition and awards. Recently, she was appointed to the Advisory Council of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities by President Bush.

Dr. Height has remained a model of social consistency. She has inspired me as a social worker, community organizer and policy maker. She embodies the spirit of commitment. It is with immense honor and pleasure that I recognize her historic efforts and legacy and wish her a very happy birthday. May this year bring with it all the success and fulfillment her heart desires. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Dorothy I. Height a Happy Birthday.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I, on behalf of myself and Mr. NEAL, rise to speak about the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), which is a new executive branch entity created in the Senate passed health reform bill, H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

In particular I want to clarify legislative intent with regard to one issue in IPAB. Section 1899A(c)(2)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 3403 of PPACA, states that in the case of IPAB proposals submitted prior to December 31, 2018, IPAB shall not include any recommendations that would reduce payment rates for providers that receive an additional market basket cut on top of the productivity adjustment. The rationale for this provision is that these providers are already facing extra downward adjustments in their payments and thus should not be subject to "double jeopardy" by also being subject to IPAB recommendations which will further reduce spending.

In creating this exclusion, it is the intent of Congress to exclude all payment reductions applicable to providers captured by this language in all the relevant years. Therefore, in the case of inpatient hospitals, the provision excludes from IPAB recommendations payment reductions applicable to hospitals including payment reductions for indirect medical education under 1886(d)(5)(B), graduate medical education under 1886(h), disproportionate share hospital payments under 1886(d)(5)(F), and capital payments, as well as incentives for adoption and maintenance of meaningful use of certified electronic health record technology under 1886(n).

In addition, further clarifications are needed to ensure that IPAB is empowered to recommend payment improvements for all items and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

HONORING SABRINA DINOVO

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sabrina Dinovo, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Sabrina was recently invited to attend a People to People

World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Ashley's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Sabrina will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Sabrina on this monumental achievement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I regrettably missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 173—"yea."

MARCH 8TH, 2010 BOSTON GLOBE  
EDITORIAL: "FDA LAX ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit an editorial published in the Boston Globe on March 8, 2010, entitled "FDA Lax on Conflicts of Interest." This editorial highlights the potential conflicts of interest inherent in the FDA's recent selection of Committee Members for their newly established Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee, TPSAC. I understand the committee is responsible for advising the FDA on a broad range of topics, including nicotine levels in cigarettes and the development of reduced risk products.

I opposed H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act when it passed through the Democrat-led Congress in the summer of 2009 before being signed into law. The bill, which provided the FDA with the authority to regulate tobacco products, defies logic and I have been monitoring the development of these new regulations carefully. Earlier this month the FDA finally announced the members they selected to serve on TPSAC. Alarmingly, as the Boston Globe editorial explains, two of the scientists selected as committee members have direct financial ties to the companies who could benefit from the recommendations they will be tasked with making. Having committee members who stand to gain financially from their own recommendations is unacceptable and represents disturbing conflicts of interest. This action and the resulting conflicts of interest are extremely threatening to the tobacco industry—an industry that provides hundreds of thousands of jobs in North Carolina and throughout our nation.

This Administration likes to talk about high ethical standards and transparency but we have yet to see those lofty promises put into action. The Administration can take its first step towards this goal by eliminating these conflicts of interest and ensuring the FDA takes the utmost precaution against selecting such members in the future.

#### FDA LAX ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

[From the Boston Globe, Mar. 8, 2010]

The Food and Drug Administration has done far too little to avoid conflicts of interest among those who serve on its scientific panels and advisory boards. The latest example came last Monday, when the agency appointed to a tobacco advisory committee two scientists who have financial ties to companies that sell smoking cessation products.

One of the scientists, Jack Henningfield, makes most of his income from a consulting company that has GlaxoSmithKline, which makes Nicorette gum, as a client, according to a Wall Street Journal report. The other, Neil L. Benowitz, formerly worked as a consultant for GlaxoSmithKline and still consults for Pfizer, which makes the quit-smoking drug Chantix.

It could be worse. The pair of scientists could have financial ties to cigarette makers—which would violate federal law since the two will vote on recommendations for how to regulate the tobacco industry. But no matter how honorable the individuals involved, there's a clear danger when those who decide whether menthol cigarettes should be banned and whether smokeless tobacco products are safe also stand to profit from the sale of products that help people quit smoking.

It's encouraging that the FDA asked the scientists to disclose their financial ties to the drug companies. The reason for their appointment is the same scientific expertise they also offer to the pharmaceutical industry. But the agency must justify why the nine voting members of the committee could not be selected from the many scientists who do not have such ties.

If the two scientists are indeed the best that can serve the committee, they should not be allowed to vote on whether particular tobacco products can come to market unless they agree not to receive profits related to smoking-cessation aids. In addition, the FDA, which promised to screen all panel members for conflicts of interest before each meeting, should make the criteria and results of those screenings public while the panel meets and before any of its recommendations become national policy.

#### HONORING SHERIDAN MOTTET

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sheridan Mottet, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Sheridan was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Sheridan's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Sheridan will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Sheridan on this monumental achievement.

#### HONORING MR. OTTO IGNACIO COELHO, SR.

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, Congressman COSTA and I rise today to honor the life of our dear friend, Mr. Otto Ignacio Coelho, Sr., a long time resident of Hilmar, California. Mr. Coelho passed away at the age of 92. Mr. Coelho was a strong leader of the community and served on numerous Portuguese organizations. Although a native of Tulare, California, he made Hilmar his home. He was one of six children born to Pauline and Pedro Coelho who immigrated to the United States from Terceira, the Azores in Portugal.

Otto was raised on the family dairy until his family moved to Monterey. His father was a fisherman and Otto worked for a time selling the fish his father and brother caught. Otto eventually returned to the Central Valley and the dairy industry. On September 3, 1938, Otto married the love of his life, Alice Branco, whom he had known since childhood. Otto was involved in the dairy industry until the 1960s, after which time he did custom farming and later was active in farm equipment sales for N&S Tractor Company.

After retirement, Otto became even more involved in the Pentecost celebrations he had loved since a child. He was a member of the Dos Palos DES Stevinson Pentecost Association, Nossa Senhora do Rosario of Hilmar, and Our Lady of Fatima Los Banos. He greatly enjoyed making the rounds to collect for Festa celebrations throughout the valley, and proudly kept his route books. He was a member of the SES. Otto was also deeply devoted to his Catholic faith, and was a long-time member and officer of the YMI at Holy Rosary St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hilmar, where he lived since 1965. He also belonged to the Knights of Columbus and was active in Casa da Azores in Hilmar.

Otto and Alice raised four children, Otto Jr. (Claudette) of Madera, Gilbert (Carol) of Firebaugh, Tony (Phyllis) of Delaware, and Susan Mattos of Newman. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. He is also survived by his sisters, Mercedes Martins of Watsonville, Nira Jean Perry (Joe) of Hollister, and Lee Coelho (Nancy) of Lemoore.

Otto Coelho was a pillar of our community. His strong sense of faith, family, and community speak volumes for generations to come. It is our honor to recognize Otto Coelho and to honor his legacy at this time. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family on their loss.

#### HONORING MARISA GARITZ

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Marisa Garitz, a very special young

lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Marisa was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Marisa's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Marisa will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our Nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Marisa on this monumental achievement.

HONORING SOUTH DAKOTANS  
FIGHTING WIDESPREAD FLOODING

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many South Dakotans who have helped fight the effects of widespread flooding throughout the northeast and southeast portions of the state in recent weeks.

About one month ago, South Dakota faced the threat of significant damage and cost due to flooding. The northeast and southeast portions of the state had high water tables and the winter's snow was beginning to melt. That meant rising water on our rivers and creeks and a danger of flooding that threatened our agricultural economy, roads and homes.

But South Dakotans didn't flinch in the face of these developments. Instead they banded together as they always do and developed plans to mitigate the worst of the dangers and deal with the smaller inconveniences.

County emergency managers worked with state officials from the Department of Public Safety and Office of Emergency Management. Red Cross volunteers worked with mayors of small towns. The National Guard mobilized to help the city of Aberdeen, and the Civil Air Patrol scouted flood damage from the air. Local law enforcement officials and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department, patrolled and offered assistance to those in danger. And neighbors worked with and for each other, filling sandbags to protect their homes and their communities.

Our federal partners did their share as well. The Federal Emergency Management Agency helped train state Office of Emergency Management staff in the weeks before the heaviest flood activities and has already begun assisting the state in planning for recovery operations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stepped up with a levee project to protect the city of Watertown, completing it on time and amidst concerns over flooding.

Today, I am proud to report that, while the danger is not entirely past and there remains much recovery work to do, South Dakota once again has come together to successfully meet a challenge head on.

We still have some roads closed, dozens of homes suffered some flooding damage and it may be some time until we can determine the

extent of the damage. But we have, so far, avoided the kinds of catastrophic damage that was feared.

Madam Speaker, I remain proud as ever to represent the people of South Dakota and their enduring ability to rise to whatever challenge they must. I offer my sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to limit the effects of this flooding.

RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3590, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and H.R. 4872, The Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010. These severely misguided bills authorize \$1.2 trillion in new mandatory spending over the next decade, impose costly unfunded mandates on States, increase taxes on small businesses and families by more than \$500 billion over ten years, and provide a clear path for federal funding of abortions.

Both President Obama and Speaker PELOSI have talked about the "historic" nature of their health care legislation. While they claim to be acting upon the unrealized goals of a century of past Presidents and Congresses to expand health care access to all Americans, the real history that's being made by the passage of the legislation is less inspiring. Rather than seeking a national consensus to forge a truly historic, and badly needed reform of American health care, the President and the Speaker instead cynically crafted alone a one-sided, purely partisan bill that ignores the desires of the majority of the people.

Unlike the Social Security and Medicare Acts which enjoyed strong bipartisan support in their day, the President and the Speaker's health care legislation, which will impact nearly one-sixth of the economy, did not see one single Republican vote in support of their effort. Furthermore, 34 members of their own party joined Republicans in opposing this blatant power grab, dressed up as health care reform.

The reason for this lopsided vote is clear. The Democrat health care plan facilitates a backdoor takeover of American health care. The Federal Government would force small businesses and even individuals to buy health coverage or face stiff penalties. This mandate may well be unconstitutional and, in many states, including my State of Alabama, there are already attempts to challenge this in court.

This \$1.2 trillion health care scheme will increase federal deficits by \$59 billion over the next ten years, while inflicting a painful combination of Medicare cuts and tax increases, affecting millions of seniors, families and small businesses.

Ironically, the elderly—the most vulnerable to high medical costs—will suffer the loss of \$200 billion from the popular Medicare Advantage program, upon which over 170,000 Alabama seniors rely. In all, a total of \$500 billion will be taken from Medicare to pay for the broad health care expansion.

But that's not all. This bill will also, for the first time, levy Medicare taxes on investment

income. It imposes a new tax of 3.8 percent on unearned income.

Small businesses would also be forced to provide a government-approved level of coverage or face a \$2,000 penalty per employee. Businesses already providing coverage would face the same penalties if the government deems the coverage "unaffordable."

What's more, individuals would also have to buy government-approved insurance—whether they want it or not—or face fines. The IRS will become the health care enforcement agency, hiring up to 16,000 new workers to ensure that everyone buys federally approved coverage.

The Democrat health care bill will also place an unfunded mandate on States to expand Medicaid rolls. In my State, it will move an additional 400,000 people into an already cash-strapped Alabama Medicaid program. Alabama will have to come up with an additional \$61 million annually to sustain this mandatory expansion of Medicaid, which will cost State and Federal taxpayers a total of nearly \$1.1 billion a year. As Governor Bob Riley recently said, "I am deeply concerned that sustaining this level of coverage would translate into a substantial tax increase on the people of Alabama."

Equally troubling is this health care bill's green light for the federal funding of abortions. Despite the President's Executive Order barring the use of any Federal funds for abortion, there is no permanent prohibition over using Federal funds to pay for abortions. Whatever deal Rep. BART STUPAK and his group think they may have struck with the President, it does not carry the force of law. Executive orders are signed by the President and they can be revoked by the President—and frequently, they are.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have been shut out of the President's and your health care bill from the beginning. We offered to sit down and start from scratch to write a bill the American people could actually support, including the ability to buy insurance across State lines, give small businesses the power to pool coverage, and address liability lawsuit abuse. The Congressional Budget Office said the Republican health care plan would increase access to care, lower premiums by up to ten percent and reduce the Federal deficit by \$68 billion over ten years. Sadly, this kind of real reform was all but ignored by the administration and the Congress.

This is truly a sad day for this House and for our country. Americans wanted and deserve so much more than a cynical push for bigger government. I am committed to supporting efforts to fix this badly flawed legislation and replace it with true health care reform that Americans can support.

HONORING DELANEY NELSON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Delaney Nelson, a very special young lady who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. Delaney was recently invited to attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, DC, where she will participate in daily educational activities focused on leadership.

Delaney's academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential make her a worthy participant. She should be proud to be a model citizen amongst the youth in her community and my congressional district.

Madam Speaker, I am confident Delaney will use the skills she gains from People to People International as tools for the betterment of her community and our Nation. I respectfully urge you to join me in commending Delaney on this monumental achievement.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ST. JAMES AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS ON THEIR 102ND ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as they celebrate 102 years of Christian Service.

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest black church in the Stop Six Area of Fort Worth. From its humble beginnings, where services were held in a tent, the church has served its community with passion. Their commitment to outreach has allowed them to influence not only those in their community, but throughout the country. As this congregation continues to grow under their dedicated leadership, there is no doubt it will maintain its long-standing reputation of service and devotion to those in Fort Worth's Stop Six Area.

To commemorate their 102 years of services, St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church is having a Church Anniversary Celebration. The celebration began on January 10th and will end on April 25th, the anniversary of the church's beginnings.

Madam Speaker, St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church is a shining light in Fort Worth, Texas. I am extremely proud to represent Reverend Damon Blakeley and the entire church congregation in the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Their service to the community is valued and appreciated, and I look forward to watching the church continue to grow, and observing the positive impact they will continue to have in North Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO DEACON VICTOR M. BOWES

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deacon Victor M. Bowes. I congratulate Deacon Bowes on the occasion of his 100th birthday and thank him for his long history of service to his community.

Born March 10, 1910, Deacon Bowes was born and raised in North Carolina. He moved to Chester, Pennsylvania in 1942 to work as a welder building ships for the defense of his

country. He joined the Bethany Baptist Church in Chester three years later, beginning his more than 60-year relationship with the Church.

After being ordained a deacon, Deacon Bowes was appointed Chairman of the Board of Deacons on March 7, 1957. He served in this capacity for over 42 years, overseeing incredible progress and developments within his church. In recognition of his service, he was honored in 1999 with the title of Chairman Emeritus for the Board of Deacons.

Throughout his tenure at Bethany Baptist Church, Deacon Bowes has worked tirelessly to better his community. He served as church school treasurer for 30 years, taught Sunday School classes, and was a regular teacher of Wednesday Night Bible Study for many years. Deacon Bowes was Chairman of the Building Committee Ministry that oversaw the construction of a new church building.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Deacon Bowes on the occasion of his 100th birthday, and thank the Deacon for his long history of work and involvement in his community.

**DANNY ADKINS**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask that we take a moment to honor Danny Adkins, who lost his life while giving rescue support to the flooded areas of Raleigh County, West Virginia.

In the early hours of March 13, 2010, Danny Adkins was part of a five-man crew of volunteer firefighters from Glasgow, West Virginia called upon to aid rescue crews in Raleigh County. Trained in swift water rescue, Danny's courageous efforts saved the lives of many before his boat capsized and he was swept away by the rapid floodwaters. After six days of searching by nearly a hundred volunteers, Danny's body was found Friday, March 19, 2010. Danny's courage and selflessness are known by all that knew him. He has been a hero to so many and will be missed dearly.

I take this time to remember Danny Adkins. He gave his life to save others. I want to thank all firefighters throughout West Virginia that sacrifice so much for their communities, with a special thank you to Glasgow Volunteer Fire Chief Marty Blankenship, Fire Captain Jay Slack, and the fellow firefighters of the Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his two sons, Devin and Ethan, his daughter, Allyssa, and his girlfriend, Bobbie Evans.

IN MEMORY OF BRENDAN BECK

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, I rise today in memory of Brendan Beck, a casualty of the tragic earthquake that struck

Port-au-Prince, Haiti on January 12, 2010. As a civil engineer, Brendan had traveled to Haiti to help the U.S. Agency for International Development to begin a project analyzing the infrastructure of Northern Haiti.

After studying engineering at the University of Florida, he went on to join the Peace Corps, where he served in the African nation of Mali. His adventurous spirit led him to travel the world, where he was able to utilize his knowledge of engineering to transform underprivileged nations. Brendan was always quick to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Brendan tragically lost his life in the collapse of the Hotel Montana. While helping study the infrastructure of Northern Haiti, Brendan was forced to make a stop in Port-au-Prince due to weather. He checked into the Hotel Montana hours before the earthquake struck.

After receiving the devastating news, Sally Baldwin, Brendan's mother, visited Washington, DC to share Brendan's story, and encouraged us to continue supporting the efforts of the recovery teams. She asked for search and rescue support to be specifically targeted at the site of the Hotel Montana.

Brendan's family was notified on February 15, 2010, 34 days after the earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, that Brendan had been found. Although his family was extremely grateful to have him returned, they were devastated they lost such an incredible son. His family and friends have expressed their grief in the loss of a son, brother and friend, whose fervor for life was indescribable.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that we rise today to honor the memory of Brendan Beck. Brendan exemplified the qualities of a model citizen, and I am proud to represent such an outstanding individual in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING MR. CY GLUECK

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a renowned member of my district, a great Missourian and a great American. Mr. Cy Glueck passed away on Monday, March 22, after a lifetime of service to Southern Missouri.

Mr. Glueck may be best known throughout the region as the inventor of the Original Bologna Burger at Schindler's Tavern in New Hamburg. If you haven't ever had one, they are well worth the trip. Mr. Glueck and his wife operated the tavern for 28 years and are directly responsible for its stellar reputation. Cherished as a true gathering place for the community, Mr. Glueck made sure everyone felt welcome in his establishment, whether it was for family meals or euchre card games or turkey shoots.

As part of his philanthropy, Mr. Glueck hosted the Kow Pasture Klassic golf tournament—played in a pasture with tennis balls hit by any instrument from golf clubs to baseball bats. The point was to have fun and celebrate, but also to benefit a local charity. No annual event in the community was more anticipated than that one.

Yet Mr. Glueck's contributions to the community extend far beyond bologna. He was a

member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, advanced in the Knights of Columbus Council, active in the Elk's Lodge, and on the board of the Kenny Rogers Children's Center. Mr. Glueck was a mainstay in the community, and he will be remembered well for his good humor, kind nature, and boundless energy.

I want to commend his life to the U.S. House of Representatives as a model of community service. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Glueck's wife, Dorothy, and the many family and friends who today mourn a great loss.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was absent and missed rollcall vote 175. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 175.

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IN MEMORY OF SPC. LAWRENCE ALDRICH

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in memory of one of our nation's bravest and finest men, who gave his life protecting our nation and its citizens—Army Specialist Lawrence Lee Aldrich of Fort Worth, Texas. Spc. Aldrich was killed on May 6, 1968, fighting in the Vietnam War, and after more than 40 years, he has finally been reunited with his family and loved ones.

Spc. Aldrich was a fearless young man who joined the Army in 1967. Those who served alongside him remember him as brave and selfless. He gave his life for this country and should be honored for upholding the high standards we have set for our Armed Forces.

On the day Spc. Aldrich was killed, he was serving as a member of a search-and-clear mission in Binh Dinh Province, in what was then South Vietnam. He was last seen with two other Americans engaged in a battle with enemy forces while manning an M-60 machine gun position. An air strike was called in, but one of the bombs inadvertently landed on Spc. Aldrich's position, killing the three soldiers. Members of his unit later recovered the remains of the two other men, but Aldrich could not be found.

Spc. Aldrich is one of 58,000 soldiers' names that appear on the Vietnam Memorial. His family's greatest wish was to have his body returned. Although his parents have passed on, his siblings know that this would have made them extremely happy.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to honor the memory of Spc. Lawrence Lee Aldrich for his bravery and courage while defending and protecting our nation during the Vietnam War. I am proud to represent such outstanding soldiers from my district, and the nation as a whole, in the United States House of Representatives.

#### HELEN PEDOTTI TRIBUTE

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous woman.

Helen Pedotti was a rancher, business owner, activist, philanthropist, educator, wife and mother. She died on January 25 and with her passing, our community lost a wonderful friend whose talents were as limitless as her generosity.

Throughout the Central and South Coasts of California, Helen was known in many circles. Along with her husband Pida, she ran Rancho Arbolado on the Gaviota Coast, where they also raised their four children: Holly, Tina, Jon and Chico. Active in the ranching community, Helen was known as a bighearted neighbor, efficient business partner and loyal friend.

Helen was known in many circles for her support of community colleges, progressive politics, the environment, immigration reform, civic justice, and the right for all children to have a quality education. Her friend Robert Isaacson described her perfectly when he said "her passions, values, and politics were integrated fully into a powerful force, and she was utterly fearless in her beliefs."

Despite so many interests, Helen was never satisfied with just lending her support to a particular issue. She would tirelessly contribute her time, resources and innovative ideas to everything she felt passionately about. All of us who knew and worked with Helen were challenged to think greater and do better than we thought possible of ourselves. I will always be grateful to her for instilling that kind of confidence.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to this remarkable woman and friend. I know I speak on behalf of my entire community when I say she leaves an irreplaceable gap in our community and our hearts.

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#### RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, March 21, 2010*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010 and H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Act, which promise to bring economic prosperity for the betterment of this country and our people.

Tonight, we vote to expand health care to 32 million Americans, including more than 150,000 of my constituents who do not currently have any type of health insurance.

I must remind my friends on both sides of the aisle that this is not the first time we take up a tough vote.

Nobody said that this would be easy. These past days days remind me of a critical vote I took in 1993. The atmosphere and rhetoric was much the same as today. In 1993, we were told voting in favor of President Clinton's budget deficit reduction would destroy our country and no member would survive re-election if they voted in favor.

Despite the negative rhetoric, I carefully examined the proposal and voted in favor of the legislation. This was a responsible vote. We ultimately benefited by balancing the deficit and creating one of the largest debt reductions in the history of our great country. Fiscal responsibility led us to more than \$400 billion in deficit reduction, without destroying our country and providing us a prosperous economy with global competitiveness.

Today, I am faced with another pressing historic vote just as I was seventeen years ago.

Growing up in south Texas and working as a migrant worker without health insurance, I understand this issue first-hand. I remember what that was like and can empathize with the uninsured and underinsured. I remember having asthma, a pre-existing condition, which prohibited me from obtaining health care insurance before entering military service.

More than 45,000 annual deaths occur due to lack of insurance and health services. Therefore, I support legislation that reduces the number of uninsured people by 32 million and presents a net reduction in the deficit of \$138 billion over 10 years with a total net reduction of \$1.3 trillion over the next 20 years. That is a responsible vote.

I support increasing competition and offering additional affordable insurance options to consumers. This legislation will improve coverage for 296,000 residents with health insurance and extend coverage to 158,000 uninsured residents in the 27th District of Texas. Small businesses will be able to pool together to obtain lower insurance premiums, a benefit that has only been available to large employers. Small businesses will be eligible for tax credits to help provide employer-based insurance to ensure a healthy competitive workforce.

After much evaluation, this legislation will benefit the 27th District of Texas and I will support the measure when brought to the House floor.

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#### WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today on World Tuberculosis Day in support of local community efforts to raise awareness of tuberculosis, TB. World TB Day commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes TB.

On World TB Day, I encourage citizens to take the opportunity to learn about this disease, which infects one third of the world's population and causes almost two billion deaths worldwide. TB bacteria, which is spread through the air, usually attack the lungs, but can also attack the kidney, spine and brain. If not properly treated, the disease can be fatal.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 12,904 reported cases of TB in the United States in 2008. Although both the number of TB cases reported and the case rate decreased in the United States in 2008, we still must work toward the elimination of TB.

Although my district in El Paso has a TB rate that is lower than the average border rate,

people in border communities like mine are particularly susceptible to this disease. Community organizations in my district such as the Alliance of Border Collaboratives, the TB Program at the Mexican Consulate in El Paso, the Pan American Health Organization, the University of Texas at El Paso TB Photovoice Project and a number of cross-border partners, work hard every day to eliminate TB.

I encourage all Americans to participate in community events that raise awareness of this issue. As awareness of this disease increases, together we can work toward the elimination of the disease.

CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a very special and extraordinary individual; a woman who embodies the best of mankind and who has dedicated her whole life to improving the lives of others. The woman of whom I speak is none other than Dr. Dorothy Irene Height.

Today, Dr. Height celebrates her 98th birthday and I couldn't be more proud and honored to call her my friend.

This African-American administrator, teacher, and social activist, has been a leader in the struggle for equality and human rights for all people her whole life. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision of a better world.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Dr. Height moved with her parents to Ranklin, Pennsylvania at an early age and attended public schools. Winner of a scholarship for her exceptional oratorical skills, she entered New York University where she earned both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in four years. It was while she was working as a caseworker for the welfare department in New York that Dr. Height joined the National Council for Negro Women, NCNW. It was this single act that helped launch her career in civil rights.

In 1965, Dr. Height inaugurated the Center for Racial Justice, which is still a major initiative of the National YWCA. She served as the 10th National President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., from 1946 to 1957, before becoming President of the NCNW in 1958. Working closely with civil rights giants such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, and A. Philip Randolph, Dorothy Height participated in nearly all of the major civil and human rights events in the 1950s and 1960s. It was for her many tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, that President Ronald Reagan presented her the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service to the country in 1989.

Dr. Height is known for her work in international and developmental education. In three decades of national leadership, she has served on major policy-making bodies affecting women, social welfare, economic development, civil and human rights, and has received numerous appointments and awards.

Dr. Height continues to enjoy a lifetime of achievements. Her continuous devotion and work to advance the rights of women, and her

efforts to empower the poor and the powerless, speak volumes for this is truly a woman whose life is the epitome of courage, vision, and deep faith—an inspiration to us all.

To my colleagues here in the House . . . please join me in extending to Dr. Height, congratulations and warmest wishes on this her "special day."

Dr. Height, "Happy Birthday."

HONORING THE RED PUMP PROJECT

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and recognize The Red Pump Project on the occasion of their one year anniversary. The Red Pump Project is an initiative of The Red Project Collaborative (RPC), a Chicago non-profit organization that seeks to raise awareness about the impact of HIV/AIDS on minority communities. Through its initiatives, The Red Pump Project and The Red Tie Project, RPC is doing work online, with over 135 bloggers and on the ground to motivate action and encourage dialogue about the effects of the disease.

Through their work, co-founders and noted bloggers Karyn Brienne Watkins and Lovette Ajayi have spent countless hours and endless energy to raise awareness of this life-altering disease. Their work has been so fruitful, Madam Speaker, that The Red Pump Project is now a national initiative, raising and donating funds to the Chicago Women's AIDS Project, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Project VIDA. Currently The Red Pump Project features 40 ambassadors in 20 states around the country "Rocking the Red Pump" to raise awareness about this epidemic and is continuously moving toward its goal of having representation in all 50 states.

As the Red Pump Project celebrates their 1 year anniversary in fashion and style on March 25, 2010, they will also be honoring Emmy Award-winning HIV/AIDS activist Rae Lewis-Thornton with the "Ultimate Red Pump Rocker" Award for being a living legacy. Ms. Lewis-Thornton has faced the disease with dignity, class and undeniable courage for over 20 years, and has been on an endless crusade to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS around the world.

Madam Speaker, as the Centers for Disease Control reports African-Americans account for 13% of the United States population but a staggering 49% of HIV/AIDS infections, it is through initiatives like The Red Pump Project that transmission can be reduced and ultimately this disease eventually eliminated. I am honored to recognize The Red Project Collective (RPC) and privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DR. ROYCE MONEY—ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize a man that has tirelessly served the great state of Texas and tens of thousands of university students at my alma mater, Abilene Christian University. It is rare that a person selflessly gives of himself and his family for the good of others, and I am pleased to acknowledge my esteemed colleague and dear friend Dr. Royce Money, a true example of a lifetime servant-leader.

Dr. Money is the 10th president (1991–2010) of Abilene Christian University, and has served the university in various capacities for nearly three decades. He will be transitioning on May 31, 2010 to continue his university service in a new role as chancellor. He will be greatly missed as ACU's 10th president for his visionary leadership and personal commitment to modeling ACU's mission of "Educating students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world."

Dr. Money, like myself, was born in Temple, Texas. Interestingly, my grandmother, Lucy Hill, was his Sunday school teacher when he was a child. Dr. Money comes from a long line of faith, with a strong work ethic and a generous spirit. These values have served him throughout his childhood into his professional life.

During Dr. Money's tenure, the campus has taken on a massive building program. ACU has become a first class institution. It truly is a university set on a hill in West Texas that shines influence throughout the world.

Dr. Money says that one of the most pivotal roles as president is to tell the story of ACU to as many people who will listen. He is an ambassador for this unique university.

Dr. Money's story in higher education began at Abilene Christian in 1960 where he enrolled as an undergraduate student and served as vice president of the Students' Association his senior year. In 1964, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree in 1967 from ACU. He completed his Doctorate of Philosophy in religion in 1975 from Baylor University and in 1982 he earned an additional Master of Science degree in human development from the University of Nebraska.

After completing his education, Dr. Money joined the Abilene Christian faculty in 1981 as an associate professor of marriage and family therapy. In 1986, he became chairman of the undergraduate Bible and ministry department and then became chair of the graduate Bible and ministry department in 1987.

Just a year later in 1988, Dr. Money became vice president and provost of the university, and since 1991, he has been ACU's 10th president. Though his primary roles within the university have changed over the years, Dr. Money has always remained committed to the classroom, serving as a professor of the College of Biblical Studies. He plans to continue teaching after retirement through study abroad trips to Oxford and Leipzig with his wife Pam.

On January 23, 1965 Dr. Money married Pam Handy in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Money and his wife Pam are both extremely committed to education. Mrs. Money, a licensed

marriage and family therapist has served as an adjunct professor in the College of Biblical Studies while taking on various duties and privileges as First Lady of ACU. As education has played an invaluable role in their lives, Dr. and Mrs. Money want to provide other young, achieving minds with the same opportunities they have had. The recently established Royce and Pam Money Fund for Excellence in Education provides scholarships for top-ranking students to continue their educational endeavors at ACU with a goal of \$1.9 million in aid.

Royce and Pam are deeply involved in the university community. They frequently extend a personal invitation to students to share a meal together. It is not uncommon to find Dr. Money eating lunch in the Bean Cafeteria with students, getting their perspective. The Monneys are both committed members of the Church of Christ and attend University Church of Christ, which is directly across the street from the university.

Dr. Money has enriched the educational system across Texas and throughout the country through memberships, chairmanships and board positions. More importantly, lives have been influenced in a positive way because students crossed paths with this remarkable man—Royce Money.

Beyond his commitment to academia, Dr. Money is an esteemed author, an outstanding role model and community member. He has served as chair of Abilene Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Lone Star Conference, as well as in positions on countless other boards throughout the community. Dr. Money's dedication to the community was honored when he was named Abilene's Citizen of the Year in 2007.

I am humbled to have had the pleasure to know Royce and Pam during my time on the board at ACU. Dr. Money is a man of integrity, who lives by his principles and stands up for his beliefs. Dr. Money will always hold a place in the hearts and minds of everyone whose life he has touched.

We honor Dr. and Mrs. Money for their lifetime service to this educational institution whose university goal is to "Change the World." We look forward to seeing more great things come in the story of Abilene Christian University as Dr. Royce Money's influence does in fact help university students to change the world for the better.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMERCE BANK

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, Chairman FRANK and I would like to extend our congratulations to Commerce Bank, its officers, directors, shareholders and employees on being designated by Forbes magazine as the third-best bank in America in 2009. Commerce Financial Corporation head-quartered in Kansas City, Missouri, is an \$18 billion bank founded in 1865. It is the largest bank ranked in the top 10 by Forbes. Five generations of the Kemper family have owned and/or operated Commerce Bank. Currently David Kemp-

er is the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Commerce Bancshares, Inc., Jonathan Kemper is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Commerce Bank, N.A. and Vice Chairman of Commerce Bancshares, Inc. Commerce Bank operates in five states—Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Oklahoma and Colorado. The Bank's corporate mission is "To raise the voice of the customer and, in doing so, create a differentiating experience which encourages our customers to develop a relationship with Commerce and then become long-tenured, loyal customers." The company's customer promise is "ask listen solve. That means the company promises to ask the right questions, listen carefully to what our customer is telling us, then solve for the appropriate solution to meet our customers' specific needs."

Commerce Bank embodies strong community involvement in all the communities it serves. Commerce Bancshares Foundation invested more than \$1.4 million in community and charitable programs throughout their service areas in 2008 with a total of 780 grants awarded to 635 organizations. Through their employee volunteerism and corporate donations Commerce stands tall with their communities. In fact Commerce Bank just received an "Outstanding" rating from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in their recent public evaluation of Commerce's community lending and participation.

Also in 2009, Commerce Bancshares, Inc. received J.D. Power and Associates Award "Highest Customer Satisfaction with Retail Banking in the Midwest Region Two Years in a Row, Tied in 2009."

Commerce is committed to environmental sustainability to reduce their environmental footprint. They encourage recycling, try to consume less paper, encourage employee carpooling and public transportation and monitor and manage energy usage. In 2008, Commerce opened Missouri's first LEED-certified bank branch in O'Fallon, Missouri. They are working hard to reduce their energy use, minimize water use, and use outdoor lighting and general building comfort in new branch designs as well as remodeled facilities.

When the largest banks in America were trying to repay billions of dollars in TARP funds and to improve their balance sheets and to deal with the impact of severe economic problems in the states where they do business, Commerce was keeping to their business strategy, conservative with slow, steady growth. Their non-performing loans as a percent to total loans was 1.6 percent, which ranked them 20th in this category in the country; reserves as a percentage of non-performing loans was 114 percent; and their Tier 1 capital ratio was 12.1 percent. Their stock trades at 1.8 times its book value. To be rated the third-best bank in America in 2009 by Forbes out of the 100 largest banks and thrifts in America is a great honor for everyone at Commerce Bank. Madam Speaker, again we offer Commerce Bank and all its employees, officers, directors and shareholders our heartiest congratulations on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN MALONE ON HIS OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDAL

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 2010*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Jordan Malone of Denton, Texas. Jordan is one of our nation's athletes who competed in the XXI Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Jordan, as a member of Team USA, helped the men's 5000m relay capture bronze in short track speed skating. The Vancouver Games was Jordan's Olympic debut, and the bronze he won for speed skating at Pacific Coliseum on the night of February 26, 2010, was his first Olympic medal.

Jordan is a dedicated athlete who has accomplished great things in his career as a speed skater. Jordan is currently the only short track skater in the U.S. to compete in all five of the past World Championship events. He has won five gold medals, two silver medals, and eight bronze medals.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of one of our nation's finest athletes, Jordan Malone. I am proud to represent such a dedicated athlete in the United States House of Representatives.

NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1186 to support designation of April as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Distracted driving is a growing danger on the nation's roads. According to the recent National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey, 80 percent of all traffic incidents and 65 percent of all near-crashes involve some type of distraction. Cell phone usage is a growing culprit, causing an estimated 2,600 deaths and nearly 330,000 injuries every year.

Strong federal action is needed to address this serious public safety issue. Last year, Transportation Secretary LaHood convened the first-ever Distracted Driving Summit. This led to the formation of FocusDriven, the nation's first nonprofit devoted to combating distracted driving, and the creation of www.distracted.gov, the federal government's official Web site to educate the public about the dangers of distracted driving. The designation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month is an important part of this public awareness campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained at the time of the vote on H. Res. 1186. I had intended to vote for this important resolution. I applaud Secretary LaHood's efforts to ensure driver safety and support the designation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARCTIC MAN RACE**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 24, 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 horsepower as a two-man team, consisting of one downhill skier or snowboarder and one snowmachiner, navigate 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!

I would also like to commend Arctic Man founder Howard Thies, whose bold idea for a high speed race in the Hoodoo Mountains has become a twenty-five year Alaskan tradition. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the many volunteers and organizers who have facilitated this race throughout the years. Without their hard work, this quintessential frontier gathering would not be possible.

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.

**SECURE FEDERAL FILE SHARING  
ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 2010*

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker and Chairman TOWNS, thank you for bringing this important legislation before the House today.

Less than a year ago, Chairman TOWNS and his staff worked to convene an Oversight and Government Reform hearing that I requested about the dangers posed by inadvertent file-sharing over open-network peer-to-peer file sharing software. I think it's safe to say we were all shocked by what we heard and saw at that hearing: information on the United States Secret Service safe house for first lady Michelle Obama; the names, addresses, and, in some cases, private information like Social Security numbers for men and women deploying to Afghanistan; as well as tax information for countless individuals. All of this information was on display for the world to see and all of it had been leaked as a result of inadvertent file sharing or theft over open-network peer-to-peer file sharing software.

Passing this bill is an important step in enacting common sense information security protections. This legislation will prohibit the software that has facilitated inadvertent file sharing and information theft from computers that have access to sensitive government information.

Not only important, this legislation is also timely. Last month, the Federal Trade Commission released findings from their investigation into inadvertent file sharing. Their conclusion supports this legislation and reaffirms what many of us have learned as a result of the committee's work: peer-to-peer file sharing software subjects millions of users to identity theft and other serious hazards.

The FTC is fulfilling its important role of protecting consumers by alerting consumers about stolen information, but I am concerned that their report does not pursue the one thing that all of the victims of inadvertent peer-to-peer file sharing have in common: the software itself. I urge the FTC to continue its work in this area and to look specifically at the providers of peer-to-peer software. The FTC has gone after those who use the software for harm, but they haven't spent enough time addressing those who develop this software—replete with security risks—for material gain. I look forward to future FTC investigation and possible action to address this ongoing problem.

Chairman TOWNS, thank you for working so hard to address this issue.

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

MARCH 26

9 a.m.

**Armed Services**

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-106

APRIL 13

Time to be announced

**Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs****Investigations Subcommittee**

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street and the financial crisis, focusing on high risk home loans.

SH-216

APRIL 14

9:30 a.m.

**Judiciary**

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SD-226

**Armed Services****SeaPower Subcommittee**

To hold hearings to examine Navy ship-building programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-562

APRIL 15

2:30 p.m.

**Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs****Contracting Oversight Subcommittee**

To hold hearings to examine contracts for Afghan National Police training.

SD-342

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

**Appropriations****Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee**

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SD-192

APRIL 28

2 p.m.

**Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

To hold hearings to examine the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, focusing on standards and assessments.

SD-430