

boards of pharmacy regulate them to the extent that their activities can be construed as practicing pharmacy. The vast majority of their remaining functions and activities are unregulated.

We must do more to rein in some of the worst abuses of PBMs against community pharmacies and consumers. In addition to supporting state actions against the Express Scripts/Medco merger, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4215, the Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act, important legislation that will protect patients and providers from the egregious practices of PBMs. Similar legislation that includes the provisions of H.R. 4215 has been introduced in the Senate. This legislation will help level the playing field between neighborhood pharmacies and PBMs and ensure Americans have access to see the providers of their choice. PBMs are the little-known, but powerful, virtually unregulated middlemen that administer prescription drug benefits for most Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ST. BERNARDINE
PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and ask Congress to recognize the 150th anniversary of the St. Bernardine Parish in San Bernardino, California.

In 1862, Reverend Raho chose a site for the St. Bernardine Parish to be built in the town square in the current city of San Bernardino. Here, Reverend Raho held mass and established the Parish in the name of Bishop Amat. In 1865, the first St. Bernardine Church was completed, only to be destroyed by a fire a year later. The church was rebuilt and expanded between 1867 and 1880 to accommodate a growing population.

The St. Bernardine Parish continued to change and expand with the beginning of the 20th century. In 1907, the Church built a new two story brick school to accommodate 200 students. Three years later, in 1910, the new Church building was completed and dedicated, becoming the fifth Catholic Church in San Bernardino.

During the 1920s, the San Bernardine Parish flourished and helped provide guidance and inspiration to the people of San Bernardino. A decade later, during the Great Depression, the San Bernardine Parish was instrumental in helping the community get through rough times.

I commend the San Bernardine Parish for their tireless work to support our soldiers and their families during and after World War II. Many men and women from the Parish fought bravely to preserve the freedoms of democracy and religion that we hold today.

After the war, St. Bernardine constructed a new convent and built additions onto the existing school building. From the 1960s until the 1990s, Msgr. John Bradley oversaw the period of growth and change for the St. Bernardine Parish, where he is known as the "Preservation Pastor." With Msgr. Bradley's leadership, a new senior citizens housing complex was

completed and dedicated. Msgr. Bradley's legacy has impacted Father Leonard Depasquale, who continues to lead the St. Bernardine Parish in improving the life of the people and community of San Bernardino.

I am proud of the way the St. Bernardine Parish has positively impacted the people of San Bernardino for over 150 years. The St. Bernardine Parish has provided spiritual support and assistance to the people of San Bernardino, and I am grateful to their service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of the St. Bernardine Parish as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
SHAWN T. HANNON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation to celebrate the life of Ohio Army National Guard Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon—a true American hero who lost his life on April 4, 2012, while deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. A fellow Ohioan and soldier from Grove City, Ohio, Master Sgt. Hannon, 44, gave the final measure of devotion when he was killed in action while serving in the line of duty in the protection of our nation.

Master Sgt. Hannon was a lifelong soldier who served for almost 20 years in the Ohio Army National Guard. Hannon was the kind of soldier who makes the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District so proud. He served in multiple deployments, which included Iraq, RAF Lakenheath, England, Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina, and Florida for Hurricane Andrew. He earned a well-deserved Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal for his outstanding service. As a father, husband, son, brother, and friend, Master Sgt. Hannon was known for his charisma, love, and loyalty. I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with him in the Ohio Army National Guard.

We should thank God every day that heroes like Master Sgt. Hannon exist, because every day he stood ready to protect and fight for our freedom. His bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice will be forever remembered, as will his unwavering commitment to God, country, and his family.

I ask that every Member of Congress join me in paying tribute to the life of Master Sgt. Hannon—his bravery and selflessness are deeply missed and felt. We are able to have freedom and safety today because of the ultimate sacrifice that he has made, and for that we owe a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE 64TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 64th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Today, Israelis and their friends around the world celebrate the renewal of a Jewish State in the land of Israel. Since the U.S. became the first country to recognize Israel, a mere 11 minutes after her founding, the relationship between our two nations has continued to grow and strengthen. That friendship is as important now as it was in 1948, and, after 64 years of cooperation and collaboration, we still subscribe to the same Democratic ideals, face the same global threats, and share the same dreams. As a Jew and a Member of Congress, I am committed to continuously working to grow and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Israel is not just a strategic ally, but also a friend and partner of the United States. I have traveled to Israel many times in recent years, and I am continuously impressed by the high level of technology, energy, and scientific innovation. Even as Israelis face an uncertain security outlook and the very real possibility of violence from neighboring nations, Israel continues to be a leader in innovation.

Today we celebrate, but yesterday we paused for Israel's Memorial Day to remember the many men and women who have been killed defending the Jewish state. According to the Israeli government, 22,993 men and women have given their lives defending the land of Israel since 1860, and 2,457 people have been killed in terror attacks. In the past year, 126 members of the Israeli security forces have been killed in the line of duty.

After 64 years, Israel continues to be our closest friend and ally in the Middle East, and the United States remains absolutely committed to ensuring a secure future for the Jewish State. For over six decades, the cornerstone of that relationship has been bipartisan agreement recognizing the critical importance of that relationship to both our nations.

As we celebrate the 64th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, this Congress, this Administration, and this country will continue to work together with our Israeli partners to ensure a secure and peaceful future for Israel and the entire Middle East.

IRA FREEMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to my dear friend Ira Freeman, who is being honored by the Valley Community Clinic for his many years of dedicated service and is being named 2012 Pharmacist of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association.

I know firsthand of Mr. Freeman's many outstanding contributions to our community. Ira is a founding member of the Valley Community Clinic (VCC), whose vision is to provide high quality healthcare for all regardless of their ability to pay. Since 1970, Ira has been the Pharmacist of Record for VCC's in-house dispensary, where he oversees the medication processes for all its patients. In addition, he has spent the last four decades volunteering his time in the dispensary every Thursday and Saturday. Along with giving his time to VCC, he also supports many other Valley non-profits including: New Horizons, Ovarian Cancer Coalition, AIDS Walk LA, Executives of the Jewish

Home for the Aging. He was also a board member and Board president of Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce from 1981–1990 and the Studio City Residents Association.

Along with a long and distinguished record of volunteerism and service to his community, Mr. Freeman has been the Owner and Pharmacist at Key Pharmacy since 1964. He earned his degree from Columbia University College of Pharmacy. He actively participates in professional pharmacy associations at the national, state and local level and is actively involved with the legislative process. In fact, his legislative efforts on behalf of pharmacists led pharmacist Barry Pascal to say, "Ira Freeman has put a pharmacist's face into our political process." I can attest to the veracity of this statement because I, myself, have spent many years with Mr. Freeman here in Washington D.C. and in Los Angeles working on different legislation. He served as a member of CPhA–PAC, President of the Pharmacists' Professional Society of the San Fernando Valley, and is a founding member of the United Pharmacists Network. He is known as a political activist extraordinaire and is one of the most loved leaders in the community. It is with great pleasure that I call him my good friend.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Ira Freeman for his years of service and dedication to the community, to honor his many dedicated years at Valley Community Clinic, and to congratulate him on being named 2012 Pharmacist of the Year.

RECOGNIZING TOVE E. ESTABROOK ON RECEIVING THE 2012 GUAM BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Tove E. Estabrook on being awarded the 2012 Guam Businesswoman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. Tove Estabrook is the proprietor of Tove's Flower Shop.

Ms. Estabrook was born in Haderslev, Denmark on August 28, 1935, and she moved to Guam in with her late husband, Fred Estabrook. For 44 years, Tove has dedicated her career to providing Guam residents with unique and creative floral designs, and for more than 30 years she has been a business owner as the chief executive officer and proprietor of Tove's Flower Shop. Her business has become a mainstay for floral arrangements and event consultation on Guam, and she continues to grow and expand the services and product offering she provides.

Tove also uses her talents to help various community organizations by making monetary and in-kind floral contributions to their causes. She also delivers weekly floral donations to the Carmelite Sisters' Chapel, San Vicente and San Roque Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Waters Church, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica, and the Bayview Baptist Church.

Tove Estabrook has dedicated her career to building a successful self-owned business, and she serves as a positive role model for

businesswomen on Guam. I join the people of Guam in thanking her for her many contributions to our community, and I wish her continued success in the years to come.

IN COMMEMORATION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the contribution of the State of Israel as it celebrates its 64th anniversary as a vibrant and open democratic society.

I had the great privilege to live and work in Israel in the mid-1960's and celebrated Israel's 22nd anniversary by taking part in a three-day walk from the shores of Tel Aviv to the hills of Jerusalem.

Now, I marvel with every visit at the extraordinary changes that have taken place.

In its 64 years, Israel has managed some incredible achievements.

Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce per capita. These Israeli scientists have made great contributions to human understanding and invented revolutionary products.

The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis.

Israeli doctors and researchers have produced countless medical advances helping those with diseases such as cancer and Parkinsons.

Israel is also a leader in conservation and renewable energy. In fact, Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, made more remarkable because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert.

These achievements are truly inspiring. But the daily news reports from the Middle East continue to remind us of the daunting challenges that Israel faces.

Foremost among those challenges is the existential threat posed by a nuclear Iran. There is no debate here—Iran's leadership many times has stated that, "Israel must be wiped off the map." Containment of a nuclear Iran is simply not an option for the United States or Israel.

In light of the ongoing threat from Iran and other neighboring countries, the United States must remain firm in its steadfast commitment to the security of Israel as an independent, democratic Jewish state. We must continue to provide Israel with the military capabilities and intelligence necessary to defend itself.

In addition, Israel still lacks a real partner for peace with the Palestinians. However, this does not mean efforts for peace should not continue.

As we know well, achieving peace will not be easy, but I remain hopeful that Israel, her neighbors and the U.S. can get the peace process back on track and that Israel will continue to thrive as a vibrant and open democratic society.

I join my colleagues in recognizing Israel's 64th Anniversary.

STUDENTS AT McCracken Middle School: Making a Difference Through A.C.T.

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary students at the McCracken Middle School in Skokie, Illinois, who are working to improve the lives and futures of children around the world.

Through the organization that they created—Aiding Children Together, or A.C.T.—these remarkable young leaders are making a real difference—not just studying the many problems that confront children but taking action to help solve them.

Two years ago, I received letters from McCracken middle-schoolers who were moved to get involved to help address the crisis of child labor. They wrote to voice their support for the UN Rights of a Child and to speak up for children who are forced to work in often dangerous conditions in order to support themselves and their families.

Since A.C.T. was founded, the students have continued to show their commitment to providing every child with the right to education and to a safe and healthy life. They know that many children are forced to live in poverty, to suffer and sometimes die from preventable diseases, and even to be forced to serve as child soldiers. The members of A.C.T. believe that unless we solve these problems, too many children will be denied the opportunity to become productive members of their communities.

The students participating in A.C.T. are learning and they are taking action to protect individual children and to create a better future. Through fundraising efforts from walkathons to selling t-shirts, they have raised funds for nonprofit organizations like Free the Children—groups that empower youth to promote children's rights.

Currently, McCracken students are focused on learning about and raising funds for an orphanage in Ghana, engaging with A Better Life for Kids in the effort to expand educational opportunities to some of the most vulnerable children in the world. The orphanage is a safe place and one where deaf children can now go to school, instead of being forced onto the streets.

I want to recognize this year's A.C.T. participants and congratulate them on their work. They are: Lily Shearer, Rebecca Janw, Gabrielle Younan, Mariel Younan, Alex Davood, Juliana Tichota, Nora Gaul, Tenzin Wangdak, Trisha Gandhi, Andrea Hoglund, Sean Loach, Violette Shearer, and Nathaniel Schetter.

These McCracken students are doing amazing things and they are setting an example for all those who see problems as too big or too difficult, those who throw up their hands instead of getting to work. I am so proud of them and I know that they will continue to be a powerful force for change on behalf of children.

I also want to thank Jennifer Ciok and Bethany Blades, the teacher sponsors of A.C.T., and Shelley Nizynski, who teaches at Middleton Elementary School in Skokie and is the founder of A Better Life for Kids. They demonstrate the critical role of teachers in inspiring