

As we enter into the month of May, we can all spread knowledge on prevention, changing the risk factors over which we have control. The Stroke Association of Southern California has reported that 70 percent of strokes are preventable through lifestyle changes, control of risk factors, and medical care. Several dangerous factors include physical inactivity and obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking.

The good news is that efforts aimed at prevention are working. Between the years 2000 and 2008, stroke mortality rates in California have declined from an average of 61.2 deaths per 100,000 people to 38.9 deaths per 100,000 people. We can continue this trend by raising awareness of risk factors and reducing inequalities in access to information and healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, American families deserve healthy and happy lives. This month let us rededicate ourselves to helping our families and neighbors become more aware of the risks and causes of high blood pressure and stroke.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOPKINS  
JUNIOR HIGH

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the Hopkins Junior High School Science Team of Fremont, California for winning the National Science Bowl. This is the second time in four years that Hopkins Junior High School has won the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the Department of Energy.

Hopkins Junior High owes their success to team members Karthik Bharathala, Dhruv Muley, Catherine Zeng, Brian Tseng, Mark Choi and their teacher Paul Ricks, who practiced tirelessly for this year's competition. Clearly, that practice certainly paid off.

In the National Science Bowl, judged by United States Energy Secretary Steven Chu, five member teams compete against each other in a fast paced Jeopardy style format where teams try to be the first to correctly answer an oral question posed about science or math. Nearly 14,000 students participated in regional tournaments and more than 100 teams competed in the Nationals.

This accomplishment is evidence of the quality of Fremont's public schools. The dedication of students, teachers and parents has led to this great success, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. We are incredibly proud of the Hopkins Junior High Science Team and their coach for this outstanding achievement.

IN HONOR OF MICCERICA THOMAS

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who give back to their communities as especial treasures for the actively seek to better their inheritance. Miccerica Thomas grew up in Mount

Vernon on a quiet street where her parents owned their home. She began her studies in the city's public schools and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. She went on to achieve a degree in Business Accounting from Westchester Community College. While she now lives in White Plains, she continues to devote most of her time to Mount Vernon.

When she began working with Henry Allen over eleven years ago, she knew she had found an organization where she would be committed to for the long haul. At that time Henry was producing the Two Fools Charity Basketball Games out of his own pocket. He had the idea of giving back to the elementary school that he went to when he came to New York after losing his parents. Miccerica volunteered to help out and has never left.

Whether seeking donations, stuffing bags or making phone calls, Miccerica is an essential component of the small team that has made an idea a reality. When it was impossible for anyone to be on site while workmen were constructing the new computer lab, Miccerica jumped in a car and came to Mount Vernon to supervise. When a child lost her telephone at a game, Miccerica scoured the bleachers looking for it.

When not working with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation, Miccerica can be found shopping for her favorite items—shoes, or working with the White Plains Housing Authority's summer basketball games.

Her son, Quan, and daughter, Roben, are currently in college pursuing psychology and forensic science studies. While they're away at school she concentrates spending more time with her adopted daughters, Cassandra and Carolyn.

I enthusiastically join with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation in honoring Miccerica Thomas for the good work she has done with the Foundation for the people of Mount Vernon.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPORT-  
IMPORT BANK

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have spent months in this House watching the Republicans create an unstable business environment and hurt U.S. jobs while they delay the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. While the Export-Import Bank supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs every year at no cost and no risk to the taxpayer, the Republicans have been stuck between their radical tea-party ideology of pure free-markets on one side and the Republican Majority's relationship with Delta Airlines on the other. We now have a compromise that does not extend the Bank for as long as it needs to be or for as much as it needs to be long-term. We also have a real lack of understanding in the Congress and in the Public of what this Export-Import Bank does.

Over 50 countries have export-import banks and all of the them are growing right now. While they are competing and running faster, the Republicans have us sitting on our hands and unilaterally disarming. I could fill this

chamber with the bipartisan, non-partisan, expert studies telling us for decades that we here in the United States don't do a good job promoting our exports.

My constituents, the port in my district and the huge number of exporting businesses in my district need the same kind of support from their government that all of their Chinese, and Indian, and European competitors are getting.

The current deal that's being worked on only reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank for a few years. My bill uses the same bipartisan framework that exists today and would authorize it for 10, through 2021.

Building on this bipartisan framework, my bill would also truly expand the Export-Import Bank's lending authorities, doubling it to \$200 Billion. The Export-Import Bank makes money for the taxpayer, is virtually no risk, and the lending authority should be big enough so that it will actually keep up with our exports into the foreseeable future. This higher authority, along with the longer extension, will create the stability businesses and their workers need.

Finally, my bill asks the Government Accountability Office to study the Export-Import Bank and compare it to the Export-Import Banks its competing against in other countries around the world. How are we competing now that we have real stability and a cap that's responsible but doesn't constrain us? What can the ExIm Bank do better? This is the kind of forward analysis Congress needs to help our exporters.

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time for us to get the lobbyists out of the way of all other American businesses so that we can create jobs here at home.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2012*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of H.R. 4215—The Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act. This bill, introduced by Ms. McMORRIS-RODGERS and Mr. ROSS, has bipartisan support and will result in more competitive practices in the Pharmaceutical industry. H.R. 4215 will require increased regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, also known as PBMs, to ensure that consumers are receiving the care they deserve at competitive and fair costs.

Mr. Speaker, within the pharmaceutical industry there is a pressing issue concerning the lack of transparency surrounding PBM business practices. We cannot afford to allow these businesses to continue as usual in the pharmaceutical industry. The recent Express Scripts and Medco merger means that "the big three" PBMs will now control benefits for 72% of all Americans. I believe this makes it much more important that we act decisively and pass this legislation.

PBMs have engaged in practices that include: negotiating with drug manufacturers at the same time as employers and health plans to ensure they secure prescription drug plans that will benefit themselves, switching customers to higher priced plans and benefitting from both the rebate and higher payment without any benefit to the health plan provider and