

Vann on 31 years of service to the Washington County Board of Commissioners, office of the County Manager, and the citizens of Washington County, North Carolina. On December 1, 2013, Ms. Vann will retire as Washington County Register of Deeds.

Elaine Vann began her tenure in public service on September 13, 1982 as Assistant Register of Deeds, eventually becoming Certified on August 18, 1994.

On January 3, 1995, Ms. Vann was selected to assume the unexpired term of Washington County's then-Register of Deeds Greta H. Barber. Since then, Ms. Vann has run for election five times and has been elected to serve as Register of Deeds on each occasion. Her nearly 19 years as Washington County's chief recorder of property records and vital statistics information have made her a strong force throughout the county and region.

During her tenure, Ms. Vann served with 24 County Commissioners and seven County Managers. All along, she worked in earnest to implement changes made at the county level and also worked to keep pace with emerging technologies that fostered public disclosure and increased the ease with which citizens accessed information. To that end, she implemented a "paperless" office by scanning and digitizing documents and forms making working with the Register of Deeds uncomplicated and efficient and saving the county scarce resources.

Ms. Vann was a member of the North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds (NCARD) and served District VIII on various NCARD committees. She has proudly served as its District Secretary, Vice-Chair and Chair. This year Ms. Vann was awarded the Shining Star Award by the NCARD at the State Conference in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

A true testament to her active involvement in the community, Ms. Vann served as President of the Pungo River Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and was the first female board member of the Pungo River Volunteer Fire Department. She is a member of Zion's Chapel Church of Christ in Roper, the Washington County Executive Board of the Southern Albemarle Association, and the Family and Consumer Science Program Committee with the Washington County Cooperative Extension Agency.

Ms. Vann and her husband, John, have two children—a daughter, Erin Vann Gaskill, and a son, Daniel Vann.

Mr. Speaker, the work and contributions of the Honorable Elaine G. Vann will leave a lasting impression on Washington County. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our sincere appreciation for her 31 years of outstanding and dedicated public service and best wishes upon her retirement.

A BAD DEAL FOR AMERICANS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, four years ago this month, I stood on the House floor to oppose the so-called health care reform bill (ie: Obamacare), stating my firm belief that:

"We can and must reform our health care system and provide better solutions for those

currently uninsured or underinsured. But we must do so without jeopardizing the quality of health care for these currently insured people and families, many of whom will see their own health care access and quality seriously eroded under the bill."

Unfortunately for millions of Americans, as I and many others predicted four years ago, Obamacare is expensive, forcing them to lose their coverage and undermining our world class system of care. The law's implementation is resulting in many patients having less—not more—health care and they have less say in who their doctor is, what procedures and medications are covered, and what hospitals remain in their network.

The President's promise to insured individuals—that "if you like your insurance plan, you will keep it. No one will be able to take that away from you" and "if you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period"—was, simply, a false promise and a foolish one.

We knew then, and are seeing now, that this was not the case. In fact, my colleagues and I raised these concerns during the debate and several of my speeches included my grave concerns that the bill would cause most Americans to lose access to their current health insurance coverage.

At the time of passage, according to the Urban Institute, approximately 90% of the people in my district had health care coverage. Now, the New Jersey Association of Health Plans estimates that in my state alone, 800,000 people—150,000 with individual plans and 650,000 in employer sponsored small group plans—have or will have their coverage disrupted by Obamacare.

In fact, I have been contacted by many of these constituents who are losing their current health care coverage. One constituent from Lakewood wrote: "I just got a letter from [my insurance company] that my private insurance policy is being terminated due to the new Health Care Law requirements. . . . I am struggling middle class citizen. Where is the president's promise that we will be able to keep our policies?"

Another constituent from Fair Haven wrote: "I am a Vietnam veteran. . . . my wife is a 60 year old breast cancer survivor. . . . [Her insurance company] just referred her to a new policy that is almost twice the cost of the one she had."

Similarly, four years ago, I stated: "The bill also guts Medicare Advantage plans, which offer additional coverage to over 11 million seniors—15,983 in my district alone—who choose Medicare Advantage plans as the coverage that best meets their needs."

Mr. Fredrick Thompson from Hamilton commented: "My 96 year old mother-in-law who has lived with us for the past 16 years with Social Security as her only income just received a letter from [her insurance company] canceling her [Medicare Advantage policy]. This policy was cancelled due to new standards imposed by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). A new policy will increase her cost by 83% plus add a deductible that did not exist in the original policy."

The impact on future Medicare Advantage enrollment is unclear but the costs have increased for seniors, like Mr. Thompson's mother-in-law, many of who can ill afford a higher cost of living.

Many more of my constituents have seen their costs rise dramatically and others are

fearful that they will soon receive a cancellation notice in the mailbox stating they are being pushed off their current plans and must find a new, more expensive plan on a website that doesn't work and does not appear to have the ability to keep their required personal data safe and secure. This is unacceptable.

The impact of Obamacare on small businesses is also troubling—and was predicted. One business owner in my district, April Zay from Hamilton, wrote to me: "I am a small business owner in Mercer County NJ. I am concerned about the effect of the Affordable Care Act on my business and family. . . . I have been trying my best to keep my business afloat, but with the cost of health plans and the loss of revenue is putting my livelihood at risk."

Since the latest recession, small businesses accounted for 67 percent of the net new jobs in this country. They are the engine of a sustained job market and a recovery. Controlling costs and making healthcare policies affordable for these small businesses should be our focus. Unfortunately, Obamacare—both its insurance mandate's sticker price and the crippling taxes on individuals and businesses— incentivizes part-time employment and accelerates the trend away from employer sponsored plans.

My record—on Medicare, Community Health Centers, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Veterans health care, and children with special needs—demonstrates that I remain fully committed to ensuring the federal government plays an appropriate role and provides a health care safety net for those in need of support.

The solutions we put forward during the debate on Obamacare to replace it with responsible health care reform can provide credible health insurance coverage for everyone, strengthening the health care safety net, and incentivizing quality, innovation, and prevention. Reforming the private health insurance market to eliminate denials for pre-existing conditions and lifetime caps and promoting portability between jobs and geographic areas, including across state lines, are proposals I supported and have continued to support. I also support modernizing the tax code to promote affordability and individual control and provide assistance to low-income and middle-class families who seek insurance but cannot now afford the cost.

The administration's temporary decision to allow insurance companies to grandfather in existing plans is not sufficient to stop the bleeding. Obamacare must be suspended and replaced. Suspending and replacing Obamacare would fulfill the President's promise: If you like your insurance plan, you can keep it. Then we can work on real reform that puts patients first, lowers costs and advances solutions rather than creates new problems.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LANCE
CORPORAL CALEB POWER
YOUNG MARINE UNIT'S EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE RED RIBBON WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Lance Corporal

Caleb Power Young Marine Unit in the First District of Virginia to promote Red Ribbon Week. Their efforts in this national drug prevention campaign are impressive. The work these young men and women are doing is vital to our community and shows their commitment to making our schools, cities, counties, Commonwealth and Nation drug free. I am proud to represent the First District of Virginia, where young women and men are striving to make our communities better.

The Young Marine Program is a drug demand reduction program for children ages 8 through the completion of high school that instills the Corps values of teamwork, leadership, and discipline. The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives, with the ultimate goal being the creation of a drug free America.

The Fredericksburg unit of the Young Marines is named after Lance Corporal Caleb John Powers, a Fredericksburg resident and former Young Marine who joined the United States Marine Corps and was killed in action in Iraq in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these Young Marines and their families for their dedication to improving this great Nation.

HONORING RITA BROCK-PERINI

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Rita Brock-Perini on her induction into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. This accolade is reserved for the men and women in community who have unceasingly served their country after the conclusion of their active duty.

Capt. Brock-Perini epitomizes what this honor stands for. After being raised in a formerly rural region of Arizona as one of ten children, she pursued higher education in nursing at St. Joseph's School of Nursing and Arizona State University. During the Vietnam War, she answered her nation's call for service and enlisted in the Air Force Nurse Corp until 1971. Afterwards, she investigated medical fraud for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services until her retirement in 2003. Today, Capt. Brock-Perini has continued her career in service in a plethora of ways. She is a commissioner on the Phoenix Military Veterans Commission, the Vice President of the Veterans Medical Leadership Council, and a judge advocate for the American Legion. Additionally, she has worked with NPR and the Veterans History Project to share her unique story with generations to come.

From these accomplishments, it is clear that Rita Brock-Perini has dedicated her life to superior citizenship. I am privileged to represent her in congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on her induction to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, and in thanking her for all she has done for her country and fellow veterans.

NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the month of November has been set aside to focus the nation's attention on one of the most chronic and debilitating diseases in the nation—Diabetes. It is estimated that the national cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States is \$245 billion. Diabetes is a challenging disease that affects the entire family in many ways, which is why the theme for 2013 National Diabetes Month is Diabetes is a Family Affair.

The theme reinforces the work of National Diabetes Education Program and its work with individuals, families and communities to take action and encourage simple, but important lifestyle changes to improve their health—particularly if they have diabetes or are at risk for the disease. Raising awareness and understanding of diabetes, its consequences, management and prevention of Type II Diabetes are important elements in this month's effort.

Diabetes is a group of diseases characterized by high blood glucose levels that result from defects in the body's ability to produce and/or use insulin. If left undiagnosed or untreated, diabetes can lead to serious health problems such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, stroke, amputation and even death. With early diagnosis and treatment and lifestyle changes, people with diabetes may prevent the development of these health problems.

Nearly 26 million children and adults in our country suffer from diabetes. Another 79 million people have pre-diabetes and are at risk for developing Type II Diabetes. Unfortunately, the occurrence of diabetes is at least two to four times higher among minority women compared to white women.

An estimated 1.3 million adult New Yorkers (almost one in eight) now have diabetes. A record number of New Yorkers, approximately 5,695 people, died from diabetes and related causes in 2011—about one death every 90 minutes, 16 deaths every day. These numbers are so staggering that diabetes has been declared an epidemic by the NYC Health Department. For too many Americans, diabetes is thought of as a minor hindrance, rather than a life-changing disease.

Diabetes is 24/7, 365 days a year and it takes extraordinary efforts to live an ordinary day with diabetes.

I am committed to educating the public about how to stop diabetes and support those living with the disease. I applaud the efforts of the New York Chapter of the American Diabetes Association and other diabetes support

and education programs, including St. Lukes/Roosevelt Endocrine Clinic, Mt. Sinai Endocrinology, Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, Montefiore Conical Diabetes Center and North Bronx Health Care Network for their continued service to the residents of the 13th Congressional District.

As a proud cosponsor of the Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act, aimed to promote diabetes research, treatment and prevention in minority populations, I will continue supporting the issues surrounding diabetes and the many people who are impacted by the disease."

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate former Senator Richard Lugar of my home state of Indiana. Senator Lugar received the Medal of Freedom today from President Obama at a ceremony at the White House.

Few other political leaders in our state's history have rivaled Senator Lugar's accomplishments during his over 40 years of service to Indiana. His work as the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and support for biofuels research has helped Hoosier famers and brought jobs to rural Indiana. Senator Lugar is recognized around the world for his work on stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In 1991, Senator Lugar partnered with Senator Sam Nunn to establish a program aimed at eliminating latent weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. Over 7,500 nuclear warheads have been deactivated through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, making the world a far safer place. As the President of the Lugar Center, Senator Lugar continues to lead, lending his knowledge and wisdom to policy makers working to tackle the foreign policy issues of our day.

Like so many others, Senator Lugar has played an essential role in inspiring my own career in public service. My grandmother Helen Rotzien was a Ward Chairman in Indianapolis when Dick Lugar was first elected mayor. Throughout my childhood, my grandparents repeatedly cited Senator Lugar as a model of achievement and integrity in public service. Later, as I began my own career in public service in Indiana, Senator Lugar took special interest in a young state legislator and Executive Director of the Indiana Republican Party. I will always be grateful for his friendship and guidance.

I ask the entire 6th District to join me in congratulating Senator Lugar on receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a Navy veteran, Indiana public servant and internationally respected statesman Richard Lugar's life has been dedicated to service to his country. Senator Lugar's leadership and public service is an example that all Hoosiers can aspire to.