

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM MARINO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631 I was unable to make the vote due to inclement weather.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING JAMES CLEVELAND HUGHES III ON ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, James Cleveland Hughes III of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

James Hughes has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic James has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend James Hughes for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. James will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. James's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating James Cleveland Hughes III on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION OF COVERAGE FOR LOW VISION DEVICES ACT OF 2013

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that more than 60 million Americans are at risk of serious vision loss—a number expected to increase as the baby boomer generation ages. Along with my colleague Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, I am proud to introduce legislation to support Americans with limited or impaired vision. For someone with a visual impairment, reading a book or crossing the street could be blurred or distorted even with the help of glasses or contact lenses. In many cases a physician can prescribe magnifiers or special optical devices to help an individual remain independent. While there are a wide variety of options to help people with low vision, currently, there is an exclusion from Medicare coverage for devices that include a lens to aid vision or provide magnification of images for impaired vision. Ultimately, not having these assistance devices could shift more individuals from independent living to care facilities or nursing homes.

To understand the impact of covering these devices for America's seniors, we are introducing the Medicare Demonstration of Coverage for Low Vision Devices Act of 2013. This legislation would create a five-year national demonstration project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the economic impact of allowing reimbursement for certain low vision devices under the Social Security Act. Coverage of such devices could help Medicare beneficiaries with low vision lead healthy, safe, and independent lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636, H.R. 1992, I was unable to be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE W.H. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic and family legacy, W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home.

W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home was founded in 1894 by William Henry and Lucy Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson was the first African-American funeral director in the State of Mississippi, while Mrs. Jefferson was a leader in edu-

cation. Both fought hard to make Vicksburg and Warren County a wonderful place for all its citizens.

The Jeffersons' values for service, integrity, excellence and putting people first are honored by the facility that carries their name. The new facility, completed in 2002, provides large visitation rooms, a chapel that seats over 300, a spacious break room, and unlimited parking.

The business has grown with Vicksburg through the leadership of the family from generation to generation. Currently, W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home is co-owned by James E. Jefferson, Jr. and his uncle, Robert, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home for its legacy and strong history in the Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi, area.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service to the Oakland County community.

Currently, only 28 percent of Americans with a diagnosable mental illness receive the treatment they need, and even Americans who do have health insurance too often find themselves unable to receive care because of discriminatory policies in their health plans. The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority helps to fill this void by ensuring that more than 22,000 Oakland County citizens have access to high quality mental health services. The Authority provides lifesaving services to those adults and children who are affected by mental health illness, emotional disturbance, or substance abuse. Most notable is the Authority's dedication to serving the under- and uninsured.

Today, the Authority serves as a national leader in the delivery of quality mental health services that improve the health and quality of life of those who are in need of mental health support.

As part of its services, the Authority is opening a new Resource and Crisis Services Center for Oakland County citizens. This facility will serve as an accessible centralized resource for individuals facing crisis and seeking referral to quality support and mental health services. I congratulate Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority for its new Resource and Crisis Services Center, and I look forward to the Authority's expanded impact in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority will celebrate its many contributions to the Oakland County community on December 17, 2013. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, and its dedicated staff, for its five decades of service to Michigan residents.