

workers, it is also a bill about expanding treatment options for children in need. Expanding treatment options expands the opportunities for children with mental health concerns and allows them to grow and become happy and productive members of our society.

The hope and the potential for endless possibilities that we, as a people, attribute to children are diminished with each child who struggles with mental illness and who does not receive adequate treatment. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to lend their support for my Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION
AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1256, the "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act."

This bill will provide the FDA with the authority to restrict the marketing and sale of tobacco products, prohibit false or misleading product claims, and establish tougher tobacco product standards to better protect the public health. It also requires premarket approval of all new tobacco products and sets forth new, stronger standards for warning labels.

Although we've known about the dangers of tobacco use for decades, smoking remains alarmingly common among our Nation's youth. Every day 1,000 youths become regular, daily smokers, and almost 80 percent of new tobacco product users were underage when they started smoking.

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in our country and, according to the Institute of Medicine, accounts for more deaths than AIDS, alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, motor vehicle crashes, and fires combined. Furthermore, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that cigarette smoking costs over \$193 billion per year in health care costs and lost productivity.

We cannot allow tobacco companies to continue to engage in underhanded product design, marketing, and sales tactics directed toward our children. Stemming the tide of underage smoking will improve our public health, lower our Nation's health care spending, and cut down on preventable deaths. This bill is a significant step forward in the fight against underage smoking, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, I was not present for rollcall vote 170.

Had I been present for rollcall 170, H.R. 577, the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF TEMPIE LYNN ARMSTRONG PATRIOT AND VETERANS' ADVOCATE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional American, Ms. Tempie Lynn Armstrong, who suddenly passed from us on January 27, 2009.

Born February 22, 1967 to Paul and Sara Jane Armstrong as their youngest of 5 children, she was raised with her sisters Patricia, and Jeanie and brothers David and Paul in Wagontown, Pa. Tempie and her siblings were very close and loved each other dearly. Her relationship with Jeanie was the closest of all. There were so inseparable, they were frequently considered to be twins. Each was always there for the other through good times and bad. Their lives traveled parallel paths and their love for one another is eternal.

Tempie also had great affection for, and took enormous pride in, her nephews and nieces, Bryan, Paul Jr, Michael, Amanda and Emily. Her relationship with each was loving and unique. However, as Tempie, Jeanie, Donald and Bryan all shared the same home she had a special relationship with Bryan and was always certain that he would be grow to become a truly great man.

A 1985 graduate of Coatesville Area High School, Tempie was a very good student. While in high school, she entered into a work study program at Coatesville Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC). Immediately, she knew that she wanted a career in the Veterans Administration helping those extraordinary men and women in their time of need. She fulfilled that ambition and in twenty-five years of honorable service with our government, she proudly served thousands of hospitalized veterans and their families. Her colleagues would often hear Tempie cheering up Veterans by joking with them about her cats "Phil and Lil", and her dogs "Bear, Maggie, and Rupert". Her love of animals was just behind that of her family 'her Vets'.

For the past seventeen years, she served as the Administrative Support Assistant for the Coatesville VAMC Community and Congressional Affairs office. In that capacity she worked very closely with her supervisor and true friend, Andy Pahountis. The two of them fought tirelessly to meet the daily needs of our nation's Veterans. In addition to their considerable responsibilities at the medical center they also created a superior outreach program to make the public aware of the worthy mission and noble patients of Coatesville VAMC. The love and respect they had for each other was unsurpassed. Tempie was also a close friend to Andy's wife, Carole and considered part of the family by Andy's children Leah and Gregory. Together they spent countless hours at the beach along with Andy's Labrador retrievers Maddie and Lexy. Their friendship will never be forgotten and always treasured.

For the past eight years she was the hub of the Coatesville VAMC community. Her relationships with her friends and co-workers, Jack, John, Jeff, Judi, Wayne, and many others were founded on mutual respect and affection. She worked very closely with Congressional Offices in Pennsylvania, New Jer-

sey and Delaware as well as dozens of Veteran Service Organizations. Everyone who worked with Tempie knew they could depend on her.

Madam Speaker, tragically and unexpectedly, Tempie Lynn Armstrong died recently during surgery for a cardiac condition. When she passed there was great sorrow throughout the proud Coatesville VAMC and among thousands of patients past and present. There, life without Tempie will never be the same. I ask that this chamber pause and join Veterans and their families everywhere in acknowledging the many contributions made by Tempie Armstrong to her family and friends, our Veterans and our nation. We have lost a great American.

WILLARD V. MEYER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Willard V. Meyer of Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto. Pastor Meyer is retiring after 40 years of ministry. Thirty years of his ministry has been served at Zion Lutheran Church.

Pastor Meyer started his service at Zion Lutheran Church as the Youth Minister and later became the Senior Minister. Pastor Meyer, and his wife Stephanie, are well loved by their congregation and his service will be missed.

As the church is celebrating their sesquicentennial this year, Pastor Meyer was quoted in The Telegraph saying,—"Although many, significant, and profound changes have taken place at Zion over these 150 years, what has been constant and unchanging are the proclamation of the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and the ministry of sharing that love of Christ throughout the community and the world." Pastor Meyer's remarks could have well been said about his own ministry, constantly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Meyer's words also bring to mind Colossians 3:23-24, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." For the last 40 years, this could be said of Pastor Meyer's ministry as well.

I praise God for Pastor Meyers 40 years of service to Him. I extend my best wishes to Pastor Meyer for an enjoyable retirement celebration on April 19, 2009. May God richly bless him and his family in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PSI GAMMA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY IN KENT, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Psi Gamma Chapter of the