

Tommy is currently in the fifth grade at North Stonington Elementary School, which is located in North Stonington, Connecticut.

In celebration of Black History Month, I sponsored a creative writing contest for all third through eighth grade students within the Second District. As we know, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of our nation's past. The lessons learned during this month continue to serve as the stepping stones of our nation's future. Tommy's essay eloquently embraces this belief.

Tommy's essay shows a remarkable enthusiasm for learning that is inspiring to all. He creatively discusses Rosa Parks and Wael Ghonim, describing how one defiant act has the power to affect an entire nation. For this, his essay was among the winners selected.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed rollcall vote No. 263. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 263.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. TERI O'CONNOR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Teri O'Connor, the recipient of the 2011 Women of Distinction Award presented by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Ms. O'Connor has demonstrated unwavering commitment to serving the people of Monmouth County. Ms. O'Connor's devotion is undoubtedly deserving of this body's recognition.

Ms. O'Connor is currently the County Administrator for Monmouth County and manages the day-to-day operations of 60 county departments comprised of over 3,000 employees. Her responsibilities include supervising, directing and managing all county administrative departments, divisions and offices. She is also responsible for carrying out the policies and directives of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. In addition to her duties as County Administrator, Ms. O'Connor admirably serves as Administrator and Freeholder Representative to the Emergency Management Homeland Security Working Group since 2002. She has also supervised the County Insurance Office for 13 years. Ms. O'Connor is currently Freeholder Liaison to the Freehold Center Partnership as well as County Representative to Freehold's Downtown Planning & Design Committee. Through her personal, professional and community achievements, Ms. O'Connor embodies the mission of the Girl Scouts to help young girls build courage, confidence and character.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in congratulating Ms. O'Connor for receiving the prestigious Women of Distinction

Award, presented by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Her steadfast dedication is an example of what hard work and determination can accomplish.

APPLAUDING SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE®

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, understanding the basics regarding risk factors, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer, has made a positive continuous journey towards better management and victory over the disease. The American Cancer Society in 2010 estimated that among U.S. women there would be more than 207,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer and nearly 40,000 breast cancer deaths.

However, despite the alarming numbers, there remains hope for a cure of this disease. Because of the efforts of Nancy G. Brinker who lost her sister to the fight of breast cancer, Ms. Brinker has done everything in her power to fulfill her promise of ending breast cancer forever. And, I am proud that the Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, is headquartered in my District, the 30th Congressional District of Texas.

Beyond leading the charge of eradicating breast cancer for women in the United States, Susan G. Komen for the Cure® remains the premier global leader at the forefront of the breast cancer movement since their 1982 inception. Komen has significantly contributed to the advancement of breast cancer research, education, advocacy, health services and social support programs in the United States and through partnerships in more than 50 countries as sustained by more than 100,000 volunteers who work in a network of 124 affiliates worldwide. Further, the organization is attributed to investing more than \$1.9 billion to the fight for breast cancer for women. I applaud the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® for their accomplishments, dedication, and commitment to unparalleled breast cancer advocacy efforts. As global citizens, by educating women about the available predictive screening and preventive care, we can successfully help our women, mothers, sisters and daughters to live longer, healthier lives.

A MAN OF GRACE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

A
A man
A man of grace
Our Lord, upon this place
Had so placed
As a true reflection of His face
All in this temple of democracy's faith
This shrine our forefathers had so embraced
For America was founded on such faith
For no other experiment has since been
raised

For Father Dan, you were a pioneer
As America's first Catholic chaplain so here
To spread the word, upon each morning
heard

To council and to inspire, lifting hearts higher

All for our Nation's leaders, you never tired
As an instrument of our Lord's heart
Oh how you fine faith, has so done its part
To bring a Congress through storms and dark
All but with, the light of your fine heart
And our Lord's word, casting out the dark
And we will miss your kind warm face
And your inspiring call to God, on each new
day

And your warm heart, filled with such grace
Forever, in our hearts you shall hold a place
For your blessings bestowed upon us all
Answering our Lord's call, call to faith
For such people, Heaven so holds a place
For such men of grace

In honor of father Dan Coughlin, and all of the hearts you have touched over the years
. . . bless you—Albert Carey Caswell.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE ACCESS TO REHABILITATION ACT OF 2011

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Act of 2011 which Representative JAMES GERLACH and I are introducing today. This important bill repeals the monetary caps that limit beneficiary access to medically necessary outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. Senators BEN CARDIN and SUSAN COLLINS are introducing this legislation in the Senate.

To remove all uncertainty for Medicare beneficiaries about being able to receive the appropriate therapy, the bipartisan Medicare Access to Rehabilitation Act of 2011 creates a stable payment environment so that health professionals can focus on providing quality health care. Rehabilitation services provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists are essential to assisting individuals reach their highest functional level possible and the monetary caps are inconsistent with this objective.

A March 2008 Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, study provided evidence that enforcement of the monetary caps could cause Medicare beneficiaries harm since it may require them to delay necessary medical care, force others to assume higher out-of-pocket costs, and disrupt the continuum of care for many seniors and individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the study demonstrated that the sickest patients who suffered from Parkinson's disease or who have multiple medical problems were most likely to exceed the monetary caps.

Since inclusion of the caps in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, both Democratic and Republican Congresses and Administrations have interceded to prevent their implementation and enforcement citing the negative impact the caps would have on elderly patients' access to necessary services. Most recently, Congress extended through 2011 the existing medical exceptions process that gives the