

Born in Newark, New Jersey, on July 16, 1934, to William Evander Payne and the former Norma Garrett, this son of a chauffeur and a dockworker went on to graduate from Seton Hall University, teach English and social studies and coach high school football, and serve as the first black president of the National Council of YMCAs before his election to Congress in 1988 to succeed Peter W. Rodino, another legendary figure in New Jersey politics and the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee during Watergate. DONALD PAYNE holds the distinction of being the first and only African American elected to represent New Jersey in the Congress of the United States.

Throughout his congressional career, DONALD PAYNE championed educational and economic opportunity and human and civil rights, both here and abroad. From his work in furtherance of the Northern Ireland peace process, to his efforts to bring attention and an end to the genocide in Darfur, as well as his indispensable work to secure full funding for PEPFAR to combat the HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa, DONALD PAYNE made a difference and his impact has been felt around the world.

As a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, DONALD PAYNE mentored and provided wise counsel to many of his colleagues, including me. I valued his counsel and his friendship and I will miss him very much and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.

ESSAY BY RAVENA JACOB

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Ravena Jacob is a junior at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

George Washington once said, "Government is a necessary evil." Even after several decades of debate on whether government should be involved heavily or lightly on people's life, his statement remains true. Since my life is inherently weaved into public and community life, apart from my personal choices, likes and dislikes, all my life is connected to public. Therefore, even when I say it is my opinion, it certainly is influenced by shared values of my family and others of the community. When I think of government I am surprised by the massive efforts by government to keep things going by implementing laws and regulation which influence my life. When I was about 8 years, my dad got a ticket for not stopping at a stop sign as he was hurrying to drop me to day care and

trying to be at work on time. I was upset with the officer who issued the ticket. But later it became clearer that the officer may be avoiding a bigger problem. Roads were not paved when automobiles were first invented, and after they were paved, there were no stop signs or traffic lights, and no rules of the road. As vehicles became faster and caused more accidents we had to improve the safety of the vehicles. Changing the roads and the rules could only be done through government. Similarly in times of crisis and disaster, I can see the importance of public service government provide. Thus government's most important role is to protect its citizens. For a business or educational field, we need appropriate control by the government. At the same time the governmental control should not be too much. Its role in my life becomes more optimal when the fine line between big vs. small government is crossed

Therefore, the role of government in my life can be analyzed in terms of big or small Government that is usually debated by political parties to describe a large public sector. The term Big Government is used by conservatives in relation to government policies that regulate private or personal matters. Conservatives argue that big government attempts to have federal control on traditionally private institution-based programs. Proponents of small government describe money paid to the government in taxes as money taken away from the private economy. This argument is not true as government spends what it receives. Small-government advocates argue that government can't do anything right. The recent fall of Solyndra, the company that was awarded millions for solar technology expansion, is a good example. Both government and private institutions make mistakes. However, government's mistakes are usually exposed to public and the mistakes of businesses and nonprofits are often unknown.

Government's main weaknesses in deciding what to do are based on the special interests that support election or reelection. In some cases extreme governmental control sometimes question a person's freedom. A good example is governmental influence on dictating what we eat and drink. Yes, it is true that sodas and ice cream undoubtedly leads to obesity and other health issues. However, instead of controlling what we intake, government should create awareness of childhood obesity. In a recent discussion Glenn Beck, argued that the government shouldn't be regulating his Doritos intake or how many miles he can drive. President Obama's response was, "We have also clearly seen the dangers of too little government. Like when a lack of accountability on Wall Street nearly leads to the collapse of our entire economy."

When considering governmental role in my life I would conclude by saying that governmental duplication and control of existing social institutions should be avoided. Government should never forget its preliminary and preminent role: establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF MASCOUTAH, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the City of Mascoutah, Illinois.

In the early 19th Century, much of the development in Southwestern Illinois had been concentrated along the Mississippi River which formed its western border. By the 1830's the county seat of Belleville was the easternmost town in St. Clair County. Roads were sparse, with the St. Louis—Shawneetown mail route being the road that provided transit for mail, goods and travelers between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

In 1837, a group of German settlers platted the town of Mechanicsburg along the St. Louis—Shawneetown mail route and a post office immediately relocated there. Since postal records indicated there was already a Mechanicsburg, Illinois, the post office and town were renamed, Mascoutah, a name taken from the Mascouten tribe of Native Americans.

The low, swampy terrain of Mascoutah would prove challenging for the early settlers, but a saw mill and flour mill attracted customers among area farmers and a wave of German immigration in the 1850's helped to swell the population. By 1880, Mascoutah was the third largest town in St. Clair County with a population of 2,576.

As the region developed, many changes had an effect on the growth of Mascoutah. In addition to mills and breweries, coal mining brought employment to many in St. Clair County and drew more people looking for work. In 1917, the U.S. War Department leased land near Mascoutah to develop one of the new "flying fields." Scott Field would grow into Scott Air Force Base which would have a tremendous impact on every aspect of life in the Mascoutah community.

From its founding 175 years ago, Mascoutah has experienced considerable growth and has positioned itself to continue that trend. It offers a small-town feel within a major metropolitan area and prides itself on excellent schools and a great quality of life.

It has been an honor to represent the City of Mascoutah for over two decades in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the City of Mascoutah, Illinois and to wish them the best for a bright and prosperous future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT JAMISON KAMPMEYER, COLBY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the life and service of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer, from

Colby, Wisconsin, who lost his life on Sunday, March 4, 2012 due to injuries sustained while fighting a fire at the Abbotsford Movie Theater.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Kampmeyer had qualities that many of us strive for all of our lives. He was a dedicated husband, father of three sons, public servant and friend to many. Since 2002, Jamison served his community with honor as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the City of Colby, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant. Jamison began his career with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department in 2004. Throughout his career as a Deputy Sheriff, he served in numerous capacities including Field Training Officer and SWAT team member. It is because of his extreme dedication to duty that he was posthumously promoted to Detective on March 5th, a position which he was due to assume next month.

The selfless sacrifice and exemplary service of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer will not soon be forgotten. Through his actions, he has made his family, community, state and nation eternally proud. It is my humbling honor to pay tribute to him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer for the sacrifice he made for his community and fellow firefighters.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION
AND RETIRED ARMY CORPORAL
LEONARD SANTANGELO

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of our nation's veterans. The brave men and women of the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves deserve our support, gratitude and prayers. We owe a great debt to these Americans for their service, for their courage, and for the sacrifice of their families.

I would also like to thank the organizations that support these veterans and their families when they come home. In particular, the American Legion will be celebrating its 93rd birthday this Friday, March 9, 2012. The local American Legion posts in my district, and around the country, play a vital role in bringing our community together. The American Legion supports not only our service members, but also our youth, with programs such as an amateur baseball league, scholarships for college-bound students and more.

One of the American Legion posts within my district, Post #145 in Douglasville, will be honoring a very special veteran this Friday—Pearl Harbor survivor Leonard Santangelo, who is one of only 17 survivors from Georgia. Leonard is a retired Army Corporal, and, at 92, is almost as old as the American Legion itself. He began his military service in 1941, just a few months prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Throughout his military career Leonard has received the American Defense Medal with one Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He served his country through the end of World War II and continues even today by sharing his story with his community—adults and school children alike.

It gives me great honor and pleasure to recognize American Legion Post #145 and Ret.

Army Corporal Leonard Santangelo for their great service to our nation.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY
HALLIDAY'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her one hundred and first birthday tomorrow. Ebby is a remarkable woman who has made a lifelong impact on the Dallas Community through her leadership and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Ebby is a true entrepreneur that we can all admire. Her savvy business ventures have produced countless jobs, and her success is a true testament to what can be achieved with a positive attitude and hard working spirit. Ebby is a symbol of the American Dream, and through her company she has been able to help countless others achieve their own dreams of home ownership.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her one hundred and first birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

WAR ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S
HEALTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for working to organize Women's Health Wednesday, and also all of my colleagues of the Congressional Pro Choice Caucus, of which I am also a member, for standing up for women's health every single day.

I'm here, once again, to stand against the ongoing War on Women and Women's Health.

And let me just say how unfortunate it is that we continue to have to fight for what is and should be a basic health right and necessity for women. I am sure the American people would much rather have us focusing on ways to create jobs, especially for the long-term unemployed.

Yet here we are again. Defending women's right to access basic health care services. And yes, that includes contraception.

Much of the debate around access to contraception has centered on the so-called conscience clause. The ability of a religiously affiliated business to withhold access to contraception care for women based simply on an abstract moral objection.

An objection, mind you, that not only ignores the conscience or moral beliefs of the women these businesses employ, but completely disregards the real medical needs of these women.

And let me say, as I have before, that as a former devout practicing Catholic I fully understand and respect the Church's doctrine on contraception, even though I disagree with it.

But the health care decisions a woman makes should and must be between her and her doctor. And as I have always said, the government has no place inserting itself between the medical decisions a woman makes with her doctor. Period.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize and highlight those women who are especially impacted by the attempts of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as some religious leaders, to restrict access to vital contraception coverage.

Those who often get lost in the debate around this issue. Although I believe that women's health care decisions should not continue to be unfairly politicized.

We know the benefits of birth control for women and their families. We know how planned pregnancy and spacing children improves the quality of life and the outlook for the children and the whole family.

And we know that is also improves the health of the woman.

Often, however, we do not hear from the women for whom birth control may literally mean the difference between life and death.

I'd like to share the story of a woman named Sally who is from my district in California. She is a working mother who could not afford to have more children. After numerous miscarriages, she relied on birth control to allow her body to heal properly before becoming pregnant again. After a couple of years of taking this medication, her body healed sufficiently to allow her to finally have a viable pregnancy.

Another young woman from California has polycystic ovarian syndrome and uses birth control to regulate her hormones.

She was prescribed the medication after her gynecologist had to scrape dozens of precancerous cysts from her uterus. According to her gynecologist, had another 6 months passed, this young woman would have developed full blown cancer.

And another young woman who, after having a very difficult first pregnancy and being diagnosed with a serious heart condition, was told by her doctor that if she were to become pregnant again, it could cost her life and the life of her unborn child. And so she depends, in part, on contraception to not only to preserve her life, but to be there to raise her son.

And these are just a few of the thousands of stories from women across the country who use contraception for many many medical reasons.

Two years after the passage of the Affordable Care Act we are beginning to see true reforms in our health care system that expands access to vital preventative health services.

We must protect these gains, instead of working against them.