

This week, the House will consider a bill to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board established under the Affordable Care Act. Having previously garnered bipartisan support, the majority's decision to attach a medical liability provision to the underlying piece of legislation amounts to nothing short of a partisan ploy to score points with their base.

The language attached to the bill would place caps on medical malpractice awards for pain and suffering at \$250,000 and would override most state tort laws. Unfortunately, the majority's decision to include tort reform language on a completely unrelated measure demonstrates their refusal to work with Members across the aisle in order to further strengthen the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act provides American families with stability and peace of mind. Never again will they have to choose between their health and their livelihood. As a result of the Affordable Care Act, 23,000 children and 90,000 adults in my district now have health insurance that covers preventive services without paying any co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles.

I am proud to be a part of this historic health care policy change, and to be part of the days ahead in which we will work to further strengthen it.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH
TRAN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012
PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY
AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Elizabeth Tran for exemplary volunteer service. Elizabeth, age 17, of Orlando, has been named one of the top honorees in Florida by the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State and the District of Columbia.

Elizabeth is a junior at Cypress Creek High School and has raised more than \$20,000 to support the Children's Miracle Network in the first two years of the "Miss Miracle" charity pageant, an annual event that she created. The "Miss Miracle" pageant is conducted in cooperation with Teens Go Green, an organization co-founded by Elizabeth and dedicated to raising public awareness for protecting the environment. All "Miss Miracle" contestants raise money to support the organization, and those contestants who raise the most are crowned "Miss Miracle."

The Prudential Spirit of Community Award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage youth volunteers in their contributions to society, to emphasize the value of volunteerism, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 17 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has involved more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, State, and national level.

It is my pleasure to commend Elizabeth for her energy and initiative in seeking to make

her community and world a better place to live by supporting organizations such as the Children's Miracle Network. Her commitment and accomplishment is extraordinary in today's world and deserves recognition. Her actions remind us that young Americans can play an important role in our communities.

On behalf of the citizens of central Florida, I am pleased to recognize Elizabeth Tran's selflessness and enthusiasm for serving others and for making a difference. The kind of altruism evident in Elizabeth's efforts represents our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. May her efforts inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

A TRIBUTE TO MONICA PEARSON

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Monica Pearson is a familiar face to metro Atlanta's residents, though most know her by her former name—Monica Kaufman. For the past 37 years, Monica has anchored WSB-TV's Channel 2 Action News. The character and amount of trust she has built as Channel 2's nightly newscaster is laudable, but perhaps more important are the barriers she broke as she developed that reputation. Born and brought up in the Civil Rights era, Monica became not only the first African-American, but also the first woman to anchor a daily evening newscast on WSB in 1975.

Throughout her long career, Monica has accumulated an even longer list of awards and achievements. All in all, she has won thirty Local and Southern Regional Emmy awards. When she saw injustice or a story that needed to be heard, she was there reporting on it—first at the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. segments, and later at 4 p.m. Her hard-hitting investigative journalism cuts at all different issues. In 1992 she spoke out on behalf of women and girls in Georgia when she found out that the Georgia High School Association's all-male executive committee did not have a state-wide competition for girls' soccer or cheerleading. She was awarded the Women's Sports Journalism Award for Local Television Reporting from the Women's Sports Foundation and Miller Lite for her report.

Monica has been honored for bringing attention to a wide range of issues—from the "HOT FLASH! The Truth about Menopause" documentary that won local and national awards in 1994 to the "Prejudice and Hate: Georgians and the Holocaust" documentary that led her to win the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust's Humanitarian Award in 1977. Her sense of civic duty, compassion and curiosity has distinguished her from her peers, winning an Emmy Award for Best Feature Program—"Monica Kaufman Closeups," the National Foundation for Women Legislators' "Media Excellence Award" and the Georgia Commission of Women's "2004 Georgia Woman of the Year."

While devoting her life to journalism, she has also deeply involved herself in the community. She remains a passionate supporter of the Metropolitan United Way, the organization that helped her move beyond her poor background to become an award-winning news-

caster. Since then, she has served as Chair of Atlanta's United Way board, the first African-American and only the second woman. Her dedication to the organization might be due in no small part to the fact that her daughter was adopted through a United Way agency. In her own words, "United Way literally unites people."

United Way is not the only organization that has touched Monica's heart. For many years, Monica ran in the Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure. She continued to run in the race and volunteer for the organization until the year she herself was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her reaction to this cancer is a story that truly touched my heart. A very religious woman, Monica did not let fear cripple her—instead she left everything to God. She prayed, "Thy will be done, O Lord, not mine." "If you are really strong in your faith, then you don't worry about the outcome," she said. The outcome is obvious—Monica remains to this day a strong, dedicated woman. She is both an inspiration and a role model. Monica will be retiring in July, but I know her character, personality and spirit will not let her keep still. I wish her the very best in her future endeavors, and may we continue to hear of her excellent work for her community. God Bless.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Joshua Beard for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Joshua has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an accomplished and distinguished member of the United States Senate who is achieving a milestone worthy of recognition in this body.

Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI is the longest-serving woman in congressional history. Before being sworn into the Senate in 1986, Senator MIKULSKI served in this chamber for five terms. She has now served the people of Maryland for more than 35 years.

Senator MIKULSKI is the daughter of Polish American small-business owners, who taught her the meaning of hard work. She attended Mount Saint Agnes College and the University

of Maryland, where she earned a degree in Social Work. The inequities she observed during those years are what drove her to become a voice for her community. An activist, she organized community members to stand up against a local plan to build a 16-lane highway through neighborhoods in Baltimore, indeed she was successful.

Her career as a government leader began in 1971, when she was elected a member of Baltimore's City Council. Prior to becoming the first Democratic woman sworn into the Senate in 1986, she served ten years as a Representative of Maryland's 3rd Congressional District.

Without a doubt, Senator MIKULSKI's admirable leadership trajectory is reflected through the varied roles she has held in Congress. She has advanced initiatives involving women's reproductive rights and women's health issues. She is currently a senior member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Children and Families. She is also a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee. In my work as the House CJS Subcommittee's leading Democrat, I have been grateful for the partnership of my companion in the other chamber.

Senator MIKULSKI is a pioneer who has paved the way for many women. Throughout her career she has served as a mentor for women in congressional leadership and continues to create partnerships to focus the spotlight on women.

Her contributions go beyond the walls of Congress and she continues to be an integral part of her community, greeting constituents and lending a hand to empower and help make a difference. She continues to fight to give Maryland the resources necessary to compete in a global economy.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this notable woman who is making history and extend our gratitude for her service and wish the senior Senator from the State of Maryland good health and good times.

STEPHANIE GLANCE NAMED MVC
COACH OF THE YEAR

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephanie Glance, Illinois State University's women's basketball coach, for being named the 2012 Coach of the Year in the Missouri Valley Conference. Glance guided ISU to an 18–12 record in advance of their appearance in the Women's National Invitation Tournament on March 15th. She is in her second year as head coach of the Redbirds, after 15 seasons as an assistant at North Carolina State and one at Tennessee.

The ISU women's team finished second in the regular season this year after returning just one of its top six scorers and landing sixth in the MVC preseason poll. Glance was named Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year in 2011.

Glance credited her players for being eager to learn and improve. "They respond so positively to anything you talk to them about," she

said. "It's really a special group." She also pointed to assistant coaches Sheila Roux, Danielle Santos, and Ryan Bragdon for their contributions. "My staff works really hard. They are very driven," said Glance. "They are people who want to be their best. This is not some kind of individual award. It's about the whole program."

I would like to congratulate Stephanie Glance on a great year at the helm of the Redbirds. The players and their families, as well as Redbird fans and the entire Illinois State University community are extremely proud of her accomplishments and contributions.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING
PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LONGTIME JOHNSTOWN, PA
ADMINISTRATOR JIM WHITE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jim White, a true champion of the people and small businesses of Johnstown, PA. Next month, Jim will retire from his post as Johnstown's Director of Community and Economic Development. In this capacity, he manages millions of dollars in federal subsidies supporting homeowner assistance, street paving and annual demolitions, and oversees the city's planning, zoning, code enforcement and economic development efforts.

Jim became Johnstown's Economic Development Coordinator in March of 1998. Since then, he has helped to revitalize the city's downtown storefronts and improve the city's infrastructure by stimulating investment in neighborhood businesses and cultivating strong relationships with local entrepreneurs. Thanks to Jim's outstanding leadership, the American promise of opportunity is alive and well for all those who live and work in Johnstown.

Jim is the sort of visionary leader our cities need more of. No matter how much he has accomplished for the city of Johnstown, he has never stopped seeing it for what it could be, rather than for what it is. In 2009, Jim played a key role in formulating a master plan for the future of the city. Not even three years later, officials have already begun to implement several of the projects this document proposed, including a plan to comprehensively improve access to Main Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, I want to wish Jim the best of luck as he prepares to begin a new chapter in his life. Having worked with him for over a decade, I know that his strong leadership skills and eternal optimism will serve him well in whatever he chooses to do next.

TRIBUTE TO THE "WELCOME
HOME" VIETNAM VETERANS
CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the valiant service of Vietnam War and Vietnam-Era Veterans who are being honored at the "Welcome Home" Vietnam Veterans Celebration in San Antonio, Texas.

This celebration is an important opportunity to thank the veterans of the Vietnam War and provide them with the welcoming that many did not receive at the completion of their noble service to our country. It is important and fitting that our nation recognizes the brave service men and women who made profound sacrifices in the Vietnam War including the more than 58,000 Americans who lost their lives and the more than 300,000 who were wounded during the Vietnam War.

The celebration is to be held on March 30, 2012 commemorating the historic withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam on March 30, 1973. The celebration will recognize veterans in attendance with a presentation of the colors and full military honors.

Throughout American history, our brave men and women have answered the call to protect and defend our democracy. And while our nation may be divided on other issues, we must always stand together in honoring the service and valor of our veterans. I would again ask you to join me in recognizing this celebration for those who honorably served and sacrificed for our country.

HONORING EDWARD "DUANE"
CANTRELL AND HIS DAUGHTERS
ISABELLA AND NATALIA

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor, at the laying to rest of Special Forces Edward "Duane" Cantrell and his two lovely daughters Isabella and Natalia, who were 6 and 4 years old, respectively, at Arlington National Cemetery. Duane was, and will always be an American Hero, serving 7 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan before perishing with his two daughters in a house fire in North Carolina. He was a wonderful father and husband. Our hearts wave heavy for him and his family, and especially for his wife Louise who has lost the three greatest loves of her life and his son Kenny from his first marriage. Our prayers lie with this great American family on this day. Fortunately, Duane got a chance to come on a wounded warrior tour a few months before his death, and raved to his family and had planned to come back with the rest of his family. He got to see this great Temple of Freedom that him and his brothers had fought and died for. I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

Our Faith This Day

Our . . .

Our Faith This Day . . .

Somehow!