

I encourage all men, young and older, and their families, to develop positive and proactive attitudes toward health and wellness, engage in preventive behaviors, lead healthy lifestyles, and seek timely medical advice and care.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, afflicting 1 out of every 11 American men and killing 34,000 men every year.

In the past 6 years, the death rate for prostate cancer has grown at almost twice the death rate of breast cancer.

The American Cancer Society estimates for 2015 the number of new cases for prostate cancer to be 220,800, and the number of deaths to be 27,540 from prostate cancer.

For African-American men, the rate of affliction is even worse; African-American men have the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the world.

These are not just statistics, each of these numbers represent a father, brother, son, uncle, or cousin who has been affected and passed away from this treatable disease.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made in the past 21 years with improvements in the health and well-being of men and boys, with a dramatic improvement in life expectancy and surprising drops in key mortality indicators.

There has been a steep drop among males in overall mortality, and corresponding improvements in the mortality rates for cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

Our goal this month should be to raise awareness about men's health in our communities and to rededicate ourselves to providing support for our men by further educating ourselves and our communities on men's health and effects.

Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is not just an issue of concern to me because it impacts wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, as a Congresswoman, wife, mother and now grandmother, I can personally attest to the importance of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems as well as encouraging the early detection of disease that affect our young men's lives.

Men's health is truly a family issue.

SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House considered legislation that reauthorizes the United States' efforts to engage and assist the economies of sub-Saharan Africa. I stand in support of these objectives, as well as the efforts and programs that encourage development and improve economic relations between our nation and that region.

Because trade preferences programs between the U.S. and other economies can promote economic development and foster investment, I am pleased that many African countries already join in these initiatives. It is important that long-term certainty is provided for the businesses and workers that have taken

advantage of U.S. trade programs and development efforts. In addition, the United States should also be prepared to engage with and support the sustainable growth of those economies that are currently ineligible for and not participating in current preferences programs.

Although the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, is among those sub-Saharan African nations that are not at the moment eligible for trade preferences, I understand that after a long-fought civil war, the Congolese are working hard to revive their economy. While the challenges facing the DRC are considerable, there are many ways that the U.S. can work with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to reduce poverty, increase stability, strengthen the rule of law, improve workers' rights, and support the establishment of a market-based economy that will allow the Congolese people to grow their economy. These important steps can help nations promote exports and investments that foster economic development elopment in partnership with the United States.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to maintain engagement and support for the growth of the economies of sub-Saharan Africa. It is my hope that African countries continue their involvement, and that those currently outside of the program take steps to initiate participation, such as meeting eligibility standards. I am pleased that the U.S. will continue to partner with the people and countries of sub-Saharan Africa to grow economies, reduce poverty, and share prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 15, 2015, I was absent from the House due to a flight cancellation and a delay to my secondary flight plans. Due to my absence, I did not record any votes for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 364 and Roll Call 365.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce on 90 years of successfully promoting business throughout the entire Northern Virginia region. By clearly and effectively voicing the priorities and concerns of the business community to our local, state, and national leaders, the Chamber has helped make Fairfax a great place to have a business and thrive. Led by President and CEO Jim Corcoran and his dedicated staff, as well as a very engaging board of directors, the Fairfax

Chamber of Commerce is the gold standard for what a local Chamber of Commerce should be, encouraging business leaders and advocates to come together to promote and share ideas that will inevitably help foster a healthy economy. TIME magazine has called Fairfax County "one of the great economic success stories of our time." A George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis study estimated the gross county product, or market value of the goods and services produced in Fairfax County—at nearly \$91 billion. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce has served the community with great distinction and achievement over the last 90 years. I am honored to represent the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce in Congress, and hope that their next 90 years may be even more successful and prosperous.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. JEAN G. CHAMPOMMIER

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jean G. Champommier on the celebration of his 75th birthday, and on his distinguished career of making our communities healthier and our children safer. As a Public Health Commissioner for Los Angeles County, as a community leader and a businessman, as an educator, as a social worker, and as a family therapist, Dr. Champommier has been a prominent part of the continuing fight to make Southern California a better place to live and raise a family.

Since 1983, Dr. Champommier has been the President and CEO of Alma Family Services in East Los Angeles. He oversees a diverse and multidisciplinary staff of 170 people, spread out across 13 locations, 22 schools, and seven health facilities. Alma offers multilingual and multigenerational community-based services for families. These services include behavioral health support, substance abuse services, help for individuals with intellectual and developmental special needs, preschool services, and clinical support for at-risk youth.

Dr. Champommier's work at Alma is in keeping with his life's work. For more than fifty years, he has worked to advance behavioral health and child welfare through community-based efforts. In the 1960s, with the help of funds from the Office of Equal Opportunity, he played a key role in developing family counseling services in low-income parts of Ventura County. These services were an early local version of efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. In the 1970s, he served as Chief of Social Services for a behavioral health clinic in Lincoln Heights, which set up new behavioral health services at local schools.

Dr. Champommier has also been a leader on our campuses and in our classrooms. He has taught about child welfare and community organization at UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Northridge, and Cal State L.A. He has served as a social work field instructor at USC and UCLA. And he has coordinated conferences on farm labor issues and Latino youth empowerment at UC Santa Barbara Extension.

It is little wonder that Dr. Champommier's work has earned him federal, state, and county commendations. I am pleased to add my voice to this chorus of congratulations. I thank Dr. Champommier for his many years of exemplary dedication to the families and children of my 40th Congressional District and beyond. I hope he will celebrate a very happy 75th birthday this Saturday, June 20th, with his beautiful wife—and my good friend—Dr. Marie S. Torres, and their extended family and friends.

CONGRATULATING CRAIG HOWARD
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Craig Howard on the completion of a successful career with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Howard has dedicated his career to serving our veterans. During his 37 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that veterans receive the medical care they need and deserve.

Mr. Howard has served as Director for the Canandaigua VA Medical Center since 2005. His leadership was instrumental in establishing the Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention and PTSD, the Veterans Crisis Line, the National Homeless Call Center, and the National Caregiver Support Line. These resources and services have had a profoundly positive impact on the lives of our local veterans.

During his tenure as Director, the Canandaigua VA Medical Center has ranked highly in both patient and employee satisfaction. Mr. Howard leaves behind a strong legacy of service and leadership: his work has left a lasting imprint on our community.

I thank Mr. Howard for his years of dedicated service to our veterans and wish him the very best in his retirement.

AMERICA GIVES MORE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Customs bill—a bill that was included as part of a trade package that in-

cludes Trade Adjustment Assistance and Trade Promotion Authority, also known as Fast Track. This vote represents a flawed and hurried process to expedite the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. Moreover, the Customs Bill fails to strengthen trade policy and enforcement and instead is being used as a way to weaken TPA and its negotiating objectives.

While the Customs bill is designed to modernize customs operations and promote enforcement at the border through trade laws, it takes a number of steps back in these areas. For example, this bill cuts funding for the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center and the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund. It also removes a currency manipulation provision that passed out of the Senate with bipartisan support that would have imposed countervailing duties against countries that manipulate their currencies. I am also troubled by a provision that weakens a human trafficking negotiating objective that would have prevented the U.S. from entering into trade agreements with countries in the State Department Human Trafficking Report such as Malaysia, by allowing the President to simply certify that countries are taking “concrete steps” to address human trafficking.

In addition, I am deeply opposed to a new negotiating objective that was added in the 11th hour, which ensures that trade agreements do not create new obligations related to combating climate change or that would require changes in U.S. domestic laws. Trade agreements must not restrict our ability to tackle climate change in the 21st century.

This bill also adds restrictive language related to immigration to ensure that trade agreements do not require changes to U.S. immigration laws or the issuance of new visas.

Mr. Speaker, we have to strengthen TPA and its negotiating objectives—not weaken it. We must improve TPA before moving forward on any future trade agreement that will have wide-ranging consequences for America's working class. I strongly urge a “no” vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 364 severe weather unavoidably detained my flight in Chicago, Illinois and I was unable to make the vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

TRIBUTE TO HEIDI VANDERHOLM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Heidi Vanderholm of Stanton, Iowa for receiving a \$2,500 grant from Iowa Communications Alliance to attend Central College.

The Iowa Communications Alliance offers this grant scholarship to high school seniors as well as students already enrolled in technical schools, colleges, and universities who receive service from a telecommunications provider that is a member of the Iowa Communications Alliance. This honor was awarded to Heidi in order to help her achieve her dreams of earning a college education.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent future leaders like Heidi Vanderholm from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious award. I wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 364, flight was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted “Aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2015, I was unavoidably detained in my district due to weather and missed recorded votes #364–365. Had I been present, on Roll Call #364, H. Res. 233—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should immediately release the three United States citizens that it holds, as well as provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within its borders, I would have voted YEA; and on Roll Call #365, H.R. 2559—To designate the “PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway” in the State of Texas, I would have voted YEA.