

around the clock ready to save mariners in distress. Vessel examiners are inspecting commercial ships to keep them operating safely and ensuring the environmental stewardship of our waters.

The Coast Guard has a large presence in my district conducting missions vital to the safety and prosperity of the Great Lakes. I am proud to represent the Coast Guard men and women at Sector Detroit and adjoining stations, as well as Air Station Detroit which operates out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. I know the boaters in Michigan's 10th district are in good hands.

Just two weeks ago, I met with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, a superb leader with a bold vision that makes me optimistic for the future of this great service.

The Coast Guard's values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty are seen day in and day out by the men and women who proudly wear the uniform. We are fortunate that they go to work every day ready to serve and protect the American people.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to commend the men and women of the Coast Guard for their many years of service and wish them a happy 225th anniversary.

Semper Paratus.

WASHINGTON TIMES ARTICLE: AN
EXCUSE FOR CRUSHING
KRATOM: THE FDA'S UNDUE
SCRUTINY IS UNSCIENTIFIC

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit an article from the July 23, 2015 edition of the Washington Times entitled, *An excuse for crushing kratom: The FDA's undue scrutiny is unscientific.*

(By Lloyd Billingsley—Thursday, July 23, 2015)

Last year, Americans spent an estimated \$374 billion on prescription drugs, up 13 percent from the year before. These drugs include OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet and others that the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved for sale without regard to their potential for abuse.

Meanwhile, the "potential for abuse" was used for many years to block even a discussion of the possible medical benefits of cannabis. And now federal officials are using it again to attack another potential natural remedy, kratom.

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*), which derives from a tree that grows in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, has been found to reduce pain, lessen dependence on opiates (like OxyContin), and work as a mild stimulant.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration considers kratom a "drug of concern." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) calls it "dangerous."

Last year, U.S. marshals, at the request of the FDA, seized more than 25,000 pounds of raw kratom in Van Nuys, Calif. The action, explained Melinda Plaisier, FDA associate commissioner for regulatory affairs, "was taken to safeguard the public from this dangerous product." Ms. Plaisier called kratom "a botanical substance that poses a risk to

public health and has the potential for abuse."

Kratom's potential for benefit was of no apparent concern.

Edward Boyer, professor of emergency medicine and director of medical toxicology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, told *Scientific American* in 2013 that kratom blunts a patient's withdrawal from opioids "awfully, awfully well."

Dr. Boyer explained that kratom binds with serotonin receptors. "So if you want to treat depression, if you want to treat opioid pain, if you want to treat sleepiness," kratom "really puts it all together." It gives addicts access to a drug that effectively treats pain without causing respiratory problems.

Oregon resident Paul Kemp occasionally uses kratom, he says, to ease back pain, help him relax and gain energy. Last year Mr. Kemp told reporters it was "ludicrous" for the FDA to stop the importation of kratom on the grounds that it "may be" dangerous, when FDA-approved products such as OxyContin are known to be dangerous.

Likewise, FDA-approved Xanax and Valium are often abused, along with the "psychostimulant" Adderall, used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

What bothers the FDA, Mr. Kemp writes, is that kratom is being used very effectively as "a way for America's prescription drug addicts to break free without experiencing the usually traumatic withdrawal symptoms that stop most victims of OxyContin and other opioids from getting clean."

Edward Boyer, the toxicology professor, acknowledges that kratom can be abused, but "speaking as a scientist, a physician and a practicing clinician, I think the fears of adverse events don't mean you stop the scientific discovery process totally," he told *Scientific American*.

If big pharma isn't behind something, the attitude seems to be in Washington, legislators and regulators don't even want to talk about it. But talk and listen they should.

Scientific research should continue. Federal and state officials need to be open-minded, see where the scientific research leads, and consider all the evidence—including the testimony of people like Paul Kemp who swear that kratom has helped them.

Banning kratom or banning its ingredients, as Indiana has done, is the wrong message at the wrong time.

A better option at this stage would be to let the voters decide, as California did in 1996 with medicinal marijuana. Let voters decide if Kratom should be banned—without proof—as a dangerous menace, or whether individuals suffering from withdrawal pain and other maladies should be free to make their own informed choices.

HONORING MARGARET A. "ANNIE" LAUDICK

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret A. "Annie" Laudick, a loving wife and the mother of my close friend, Andy Laudick.

Annie was a devoted wife to James, her husband of 47 years, as well as an adoring mother and grandmother to her two children and nine granddaughters. She was a woman of great faith, belonging to St. Mary's Catholic Church. She was also a member of the Ea-

gles Ladies Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Annie will be greatly missed by not only her family, but also by the Greensburg community. Her capacity for love and compassion is unrivaled, and I consider it a privilege to have known such a benevolent and sincere woman.

On a personal note, I will never forget Annie's smile. In high school, I remember going to Andy's house to swim at their pond. And, every time I visited, I would be greeted by his mom's big smile.

She was a remarkable woman who will truly be missed by everyone whose lives she touched. Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Margaret A. Laudick.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF GEORGE KUBOTA, SR., AND HIS SONS HERB AND GEORGE, JR.

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary life and career of George Kubota, Sr., as well as the lives and careers of his sons Herb Kubota and George Kubota, Jr. After decades of service as both small business owners and public servants, we celebrate and reflect upon their positive impact in Pend Oreille County, Washington.

George Kubota, Sr. was born in Japan in 1886. As a young man, he immigrated to the United States and settled in the small north-east Washington community of Newport, Washington, where he opened the first laundry in the area. His business, Kubota Steam Laundry, primarily served the mining, logging, milling, and railroad industries. As these industries grew to the north, he and his family moved to Metaline Falls, Washington, where they expanded and diversified their business. In 1929, he founded the Metaline Falls Trading Company, a hardware store that still operates today and is an integral part of both the community in Metaline Falls and the county.

In 1942, he was detained by the FBI and was due, along with his family, to be sent to an internment camp. However, due to his positive impact on the community, many residents throughout the northern part of the county made special efforts to prevent their internment. He became a citizen after the war. George was a true patriot, pioneer, and fixture of his community, serving the citizens of Pend Oreille County for decades. George died in 1988 at the age of 102.

George Kubota, Sr. also had two sons, George and Herb, who additionally deserve recognition for their service to the communities in northeast Washington. After receiving college degrees and serving their country in the Armed Forces, Herb and George joined their dad running the Metaline Falls Trading Company in the 1950s, and, like their father, became important fixtures of their community. Herb served for years as an EMT and devoted large portions of his life to help the elderly of the community. Both Herb and George served as volunteer firefighters until the mandatory retirement age. George Kubota, Jr. has also devoted significant time to public service, serving