

retrieve his beautiful Wimple, witness to the Shoah, a memorial to the great German Jewry. He was fortunate to arrive with his family to these shores of freedom and proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

I humbly stand before you as a member of the family of the surviving remnant miraculously plucked from the burning fires. At the mature old age of three and a half, I was already a veteran of Germany's Wetzlar Displaced persons camp in the American zone of occupation, but I am also a veteran of the Israel Defense Forces of a reborn nation. My father Yechiel, of blessed memory, served in the Russian Army's 118th Infantry Division decimated at Stara Rusa by the German onslaught which he survived.

Let the United States and its partners do their best on behalf of the present day multitude of refugees from war-torn countries, particularly Syria, who seek the shelter of a welcoming home. May Shalom's divine blessings of peace enable us to turn violence into vision, pain into promise, fear into faith, and darkness into light. Amen.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MANATEE COUNTY FAIR

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Manatee County Fair's 100th anniversary.

On October 21st, 1915 a group that eventually became the Manatee Chamber of Commerce approved a project that would draw members of the community together for festive celebrations and friendly competition. The Manatee County Fair was born, and opened its tents to the neighborhood for the first time on February 28th, 1916.

The 1916 Manatee County Fair started with a budget of just \$500. Year after year, the fair grew creating an economic boost for the community while providing fun and enjoyment for locals and visitors alike.

Eventually, the fair became so appreciated that the denizens of Bradentown (currently Bradenton, Florida) purchased over 60 acres of land so the fair could continue to thrive for generations to come. As time went on, the Manatee County Fair gave Floridians an opportunity to unite and celebrate in good times and bad.

The Manatee County Fair has fostered community pride for 100 years. Throughout the past century, the fair strengthened relationships between local business owners, shop keepers, vendors, artisans, and civic leaders. Community Members have shared in the pride of hosting such a well-loved event.

It is my honor to recognize the Manatee County Fair's 100th anniversary. This great event has strengthened our community and been a source of civic pride for the past century.

HONORING DR. JAN SONANDER,
M.D.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jan Sonander for his

leadership, commitment, and determination over a decade to update the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) system in California and abolish the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR).

Medicare's GPCI system pays physicians based on the cost of providing care in their geographic region. However, since 1997, the Medicare geographic payment localities have not been updated, leading many Sonoma County physicians to be underpaid. This problem was exacerbated by concurrent flaws in Medicare's SGR.

Since 2000, Dr. Sonander has been a tireless advocate for GPCI and SGR reforms. His proposed changes would have updated payment localities for physicians, and improved access to high-quality care for all Sonoma County residents. Dr. Sonander led a nationwide letter campaign, encouraging Congress to consider funding the proposed changes while writing articles to keep peers informed of his efforts. Those efforts ultimately paid off, as the geographic payment system has been updated and the SGR has been eliminated. Dr. Sonander was essential to that progress.

Leading by example, Dr. Sonander focuses a significant portion of his practice caring for the disabled, working as a hospitalist at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital while also serving as Chief of Staff. He has been active in the Sonoma County Medical Association (SCMA) and the California Medical Association for 26 years. He has served on several committees, including a stint as President of the SCMA Board of Directors in 2003. As a civic role model, philanthropist, medical professional, and political activist, Dr. Sonander's work has placed health care for all Sonoma County residents in safe hands.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Dr. Jan Sonander for his extraordinary work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 650, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

PRESERVE THE EITC FOR LEGAL
AMERICAN WORKERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the Earned Income Tax Credit is one of our most successful welfare-to-work tax provisions. The EITC has helped millions of Americans move themselves out of poverty. But, the president wants to use it as a cash bonus for those who have been working in the U.S. illegally.

Under the president's unilateral amnesty, millions of illegal immigrants will get access to the EITC. They will then be able to claim tax refunds on previous earnings from unauthorized work. The refunds could be as much as \$24,000 for each claimant, which may restrict

the EITC's availability for legal American workers.

To ensure this does not happen, I have introduced H.R. 1657—the FAIRR Act. The bill prevents the EITC from going to recipients of the president's unilateral amnesty. This would strengthen the EITC for American families and save taxpayers almost \$9 billion over the next 10 years.

Our immigration system should not reward lawbreakers at the expense of taxpayers and legal American workers. Neither should the EITC.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEARBORN
OPTIMIST CLUB'S 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dearborn Optimist Club on their 75th Anniversary. As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and a privilege to recognize the great work they have done for the City of Dearborn.

Founded on December 12, 1940, Optimist International chartered the Dearborn Optimist Club to serve the greater Dearborn Community. Since its founding, the Dearborn Optimists have devoted countless hours volunteering in the community by helping to expand access to quality education through its youth programs and scholarships. They have created collaborations between both the public and private schools and with numerous Dearborn public agencies, including the fire and police departments. Each year, the Dearborn Optimist holds art and essay contests to promote the creativity of our students, where the winners receive scholarship money for their college plans. They host the annual Dearborn Public Safety Awards to honor our fire and police departments and recognize extraordinary individual accomplishments.

At the heart of their mission, the Dearborn Optimists have devoted themselves to community service and providing opportunities to enrich the lives of our youth of Dearborn. Their work for the City of Dearborn is truly appreciated and I know that we will see more of the same over the next 75 years of the group and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Dearborn Optimist Club on their 75th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651 and 652. Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote number 646, 647, 650, 651 and 652 and aye on 648 and 649.