

RECOGNITION OF THE NEWLY UNVEILED NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to pay tribute to the memory of the armed soldiers who resisted communism in Poland during the period between 1944 and 1963, men and women who are referred to as the "Doomed Soldiers." The monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was unveiled on September 18, 2016 and respectfully dedicated to those who fought and defended Poland against the aggressive occupation by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The monument honoring these patriots was erected by the Smolensk Disaster Commemoration Committee with the help of many Polish Americans. Historically, the fight for freedom began in 1939. The brave Polish people continued to struggle for independence, underground, also opposing the communist regime in the post-World War II era. The monument at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa is a way to preserve their place in Poland's history. On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Andrzej Duda, president of the Republic of Poland. I offer my sincerest gratitude for his presence at the dedication on September 18, 2016 and for representing today's Polish citizens who steadfastly honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom they enjoy today.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIM O'DONNELL

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Jim O'Donnell who has been a pediatrician with Kaiser Permanente for 35 years. For the last 16 years he served in a vital leadership role as Physician-in-Chief at the Redwood City Medical Center. Jim is everything a patient can hope for in a physician. He is brilliant, warm, funny, and up to date on the latest research and technology. In addition to his pediatric caseload, Dr. O'Donnell cared for my parents and I could not have imagined a more skilled physician to offer care to them.

Dr. O'Donnell is a visionary. He led the negotiations and planning for the new Redwood City hospital that opened in December 2014. At the ribbon cutting, Kaiser CEO Bernard Tyson noted that he was initially skeptical of the proposal for a new hospital. Now I ask everyone to imagine a poker game between Jim O'Donnell and Bernard Tyson. Let me assure you that it was never an even match. Jim bluffed many times, and eventually Bernard Tyson was forced to fold. South County Kaiser patients won the pot, and it was quite lucrative—perhaps a bit costly for Mr. Tyson—but the hospital is truly amazing.

In addition to its ultra-modern equipment, the hospital offers green architecture and a

soothing environment filled with warm colors and beautiful artwork. The hospital is also a designated stroke center. The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have awarded it the "Get With The Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award" for providing patients with the best possible care. U.S. News & World Report named it a high performing hospital for neuroscience.

Planning a new hospital and seeing patients wasn't enough, and thus Jim was also instrumental in opening the San Mateo Medical Offices in 2011. He is always looking for new and creative ways to improve care for patients. Jim O'Donnell is Kaiser's Johnny Appleseed of clinic and hospital construction. I suspect that his name is well known by Kaiser's capital allocation committee, and most likely because Jim is as prudent with Kaiser's construction dollars as he is with the health of his patients.

Dr. O'Donnell grew up in a small farming community in Iowa. His interest in public service and his honing of great people skills began early when he worked in his father's general store. He developed a deep fascination with science. Combining those three ingredients naturally led him to medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Iowa, College of Medicine in Iowa City. He completed his medical internship and residency at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is also a 1998 graduate of the Kenan Flagler School of Business Advanced Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The reason he chose pediatrics is obvious. He loves children. His awe watching young children grow up and his passion to help them develop into productive and healthy adolescents are palpable.

After he finished his residency in 1980, Jim moved to the Bay Area. He chose Kaiser Permanente because he liked its preventative focus and its integrated model of care. We are immensely fortunate that Jim settled here and made Redwood City his home with his husband, Michael, and he says his most joyful experience in life is time with his two daughters, Emma and Audie.

For 15 years, Jim O'Donnell has served on Redwood City 2020, a partnership among the City of Redwood City, the elementary and high school districts, San Mateo County, Stanford University, the Sequoia Healthcare District and Kaiser Permanente designed to support the success of all youth and families and to engage and strengthen the community. Jim's strategic thinking, problem-solving ability and passion have benefited everyone in that partnership and our community at large. In his well-deserved retirement, Jim will enjoy more time with his family and finally have more time to read, hike, cook and take advantage of our great Bay Area restaurants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Dr. Jim O'Donnell, a top-notch doctor, devoted family man, and extraordinary human being who I am very fortunate to call my good friend. While he is leaving Kaiser Permanente, he leaves behind a first-class hospital with a world-class medical team. His vision for a healthy Redwood City has come alive under his stewardship. His child—the hospital—and the staff that animate the child will now say farewell to their father, but the lessons learned from Jim's instruction will save lives for decades yet to come.

HONORING EL CONCILIO

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and honor El Concilio, the Council for the Spanish Speaking, for their participation in the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week, taking place this October.

Since October 2001, El Concilio has led the Binational Health Week of Stanislaus County in a collaborative effort with a number of partner organizations, including the Tzu Chi Foundation and the Health Initiative of the Americas. This unprecedented effort is overseen by multi-agency taskforces, and conducts health promotion and education activities for the Latino population in the United States. To date, over 1,000,000 people in our country have benefited from the health care activities provided during the Binational Health Week.

Binational Health Week represents an international effort between the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Uruguay and Peru to improve the quality of life for members of underserved populations by expanding their access to health care, increasing their health insurance coverage, and addressing their unmet health needs.

The Health Initiative of the Americas, and the consular network here in the United States, are coordinating the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week. Activities throughout the country will be centered on the communities that have a high level of need for accessible health care.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending El Concilio upon their efforts to improve public health for the Latino community by participating in the Sixteenth Annual Binational Health Week.

COMMEMORATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPPER HANOVER TOWNSHIP

**HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2016*

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the residents, businesses and Board of Supervisors of Upper Hanover Township as they celebrate 275 years as a municipality in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Settled by German-speaking immigrants seeking religious tolerance and economic opportunity, Upper Hanover Township was formally incorporated in 1741. During the Township's early years, agriculture thrived thanks to the rich soil and skilled German farmers. The building construction industry blossomed as a result of an abundance of granite boulders mined from the Hosensack Hills and easily-accessible water from the Perkiomen Creek, which powered five gristmills and four sawmills.

Today, more than 7,100 people call Upper Hanover Township home. At just over 21 square miles, Upper Hanover is geographically