

and as he leaves the military he will continue to be the best.

I thank him for his many years of service, and may the good Lord continue to bless and keep him.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DENNIS P. SUGRUE FOR HIS SERVICE WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Sugrue for his service as Commander at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion, LTC Sugrue has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

LTC Sugrue first assumed command at the Detroit District in July of 2016. Under his leadership, the Corps has worked to ensure environmental stability and engineering excellence in the infrastructure of the Great Lakes Region. From dredging waterways and mitigating the threat of natural disasters to preserving and improving the Soo Locks, the work of LTC Sugrue and the Army Corps has been critical to protecting the Great Lakes and promoting the livelihoods of Michiganders and Americans everywhere.

Prior to his work in Michigan, LTC Sugrue served as the Deputy District Commander of the Corps' Los Angeles District. His service also included work in Germany, New York, two tours in Afghanistan, and one in Kosovo. He is a 1999 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, and holds two Master of Science degrees from Missouri Science and Technology and The Johns Hopkins University. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and several other prestigious awards recognizing his extraordinary service. Lieutenant Colonel Sugrue will be officially relieved by LTC Gregory E. Turner on July 26th at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Sugrue for his service to the people of Michigan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On behalf of my constituents, I wish LTC Sugrue all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRY'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th anniversary of Christian Care Ministry, an outreach of the American Evangelistic Association. Based in Melbourne, Florida, this not-for-profit organization was founded by Dr. E. John Reinhold as a formalized approach to sharing healthcare burdens.

Beginning with a mere 600 households in 1993, membership in Christian Care Ministry's Medi-Share program has skyrocketed over the last 25 years. Through Medi-Share, over \$2.6 billion in medical bills has been shared and discounted by more than 400,000 members across the nation.

"Launched from a kitchen table at our home, Christian Care Ministry has served hundreds of thousands through providing a mechanism for mutual care. I am proud to have founded this ministry and to have been part of what it has meant to so many," Reinhold shared.

After the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Christians recognized an opportunity to be part of something bigger than healthcare—a sharing community that met the requirements of the new healthcare law without compromising their values.

Christian Care Ministry has not only helped many to faithfully handle expensive medical bills, it has also been a boon to the economy of Brevard County.

The mayor of Melbourne, Kathy Meehan, stated, "by providing more than 430 jobs at its Melbourne headquarters and making significant financial investments in its facility, Christian Care Ministry has made a substantial economic impact on our community. We are proud to have the ministry in the City of Melbourne and are grateful for the benefits it has provided to our community for the past 25 years."

Christian Care Ministry has more than 600 faithful and dedicated employees nationwide and are proud of their diligence in providing outstanding customer service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Christian Care Ministry for 25 years of service and for their dedication to assisting those who need medical care.

PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2017 (H.R. 184).

The medical device industry serves a vital role in Minnesota by supporting thousands of jobs and providing lifesaving technology.

Nonetheless, repealing the medical device tax without a fiscal offset only intensifies the Republican sabotage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I represent 700,000 constituents and the majority have made it clear the ongoing attacks on the ACA and our healthcare system are intolerable. Therefore, I cannot support a tax cut on medical devices while the White House and Republicans in Congress continue to cut healthcare for millions of Americans, including stripping protections for individuals with preexisting conditions.

The fiscal shortsightedness of this legislation is deeply troubling. Like most corporations, medical device companies received billions in tax cuts that were completely unpaid for in the recent Republican tax overhaul. Repealing the medical device tax would give another tax break in excess of \$20 billion to

these same medical device companies with devastating fiscal implications.

Unfortunately, it has become clear that Republicans plan to cover the costs of these deficit-exploding tax measures by forcing drastic cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. It is simply unacceptable that these already cash-strapped programs will be forced to foot the bill for corporate tax cuts. Considering that the Republican tax bill eliminated healthcare coverage for 13 million people, we should be investing in earned benefit programs now that the need for them is greater than ever. Passing yet another unpaid tax break simply makes these pending cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security all the more likely.

A bipartisan, responsible bill should be drafted that allows the medical device sector to continue to innovate and invest without this target tax, but any solution needs to be paid for and it should have broad support from Republicans and Democrats.

UNITED STATES-TURKEY RELATIONSHIP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the United States-Turkey relationship continues to deteriorate. Turkey has long been an important American ally and key NATO member. However, this relationship has frayed in recent years, and I increasingly question whether Turkey's autocratic ruler, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is truly committed to his country's relationship with the United States.

I must first express my profound disappointment in the Turkish court's verdict last week against American Pastor Andrew Brunson. While yesterday's step to move him from a Turkish prison to house arrest is a step in the right direction, it is still not enough. I call on Turkey to release Mr. Brunson, who has committed no crime, and return him to his family. I make the same call in support of NASA scientist Serkan Golge as well as other United States citizens and U.S. Mission local employees who are wrongly held.

Two years ago, this month, a failed military coup took place in Turkey. This was a traumatic experience for the Turkish people, as it would have been for the citizens of any country. There is no doubt that it has been a challenge to effectively deal with this situation. Nevertheless, I remain deeply concerned about the Turkish government's response which has led to curtailing personal liberty and press freedoms and, in many cases, suspending or ignoring the rule of law. While the State of Emergency has expired, President Erdogan continues to crackdown on suspected opponents. Such actions are inconsistent with Turkey's international commitments to organizations such as NATO and with its aspiring European Union membership.

In my experience, America's partnerships are strongest when our friends and allies are fully committed to democratic values. Among the challenges in our relationship with Turkey are the Turkish government's constraints on freedom and democracy. I believe that removing these constraints will substantially benefit both the United States and Turkey.