

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in my home state of Texas:

1. 10.7 million individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history;

2. 4.9 million uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the ACA Marketplace; and

3. 5.2 million persons on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the ACA has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade, and helped save taxpayers \$116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than \$5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the ACA's critics, private insurance companies have leaped at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remain obsessed with destroying this law, and with unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

Medicare and Medicaid also continue to drive innovation and are set the standard for coverage, quality, and innovation in American healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare and Medicaid continue to play crucial roles in providing equitable and affordable healthcare, leading innovation in payment and delivery reform, carrying out outreach to the most vulnerable communities, and reshaping the delivery of care for the future.

Because of these programs, more Americans have access to affordable, equitable health care today than at any point in our history.

And I am committed to making sure that number will continue to grow.

On this 53rd anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, we should remember that a healthy America is a prosperous America.

And as we look ahead to the next half century, we can celebrate that what was put in place in 1965 has given us the foundation for a healthy and prosperous future for all Americans.

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TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE  
OF JAMES PERRY THURBER

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, a true patriot, and one of the most highly re-

spected and beloved members of my congressional district, James P. Thurber.

Jim Thurber was born on June 3, 1928, and died on June 16, 2018, at the age of 90. He lived a full and exceptionally productive life, and he will be missed by all who were privileged to know him.

Jim Thurber graduated from Milton Academy, Stanford University and George Washington University where he received a Master's degree in International Relations. He also attended the National War College from 1973–1974.

Jim married the love of his life, Emily (Emy) Forrest in 1950, and together they raised four children: James Perry Thurber III (Debra McGibbon); Harriette Thurber Rasmussen; Alexander Forrest Thurber (Courtney Graham); and Mary Thurber Martin, and have 12 beloved grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Prior to his long Foreign Service career, Jim Thurber was a reporter and editor for the Wall Street Journal and worked at Stanford University as an academic administrator. He served with courage, dignity and effectiveness in the Foreign Service for 23 years. When he was serving in Islamabad, Pakistan, the U.S. Embassy was attacked, and Jim earned the State Department's Award of Valor for his actions during that crisis. He served as Director of the USIA's operations in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, and he retired as Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Canada in 1990.

Jim Thurber spent his entire life in service to his country. His public service included serving as Mayor of the City of Los Altos, and June 3, 2002 was designated by the City as Jim Thurber Day, for the Mayor who served the most consecutive years in that office. He served as President of the Los Altos History Museum; President of the Foothill-DeAnza Foundation; Director of the Campaign Ethics Foundation; and Treasurer of the Foreign Service Association of California. He served on the boards of many organizations, including the Los Altos Community Foundation; the Santa Clara County Airports Commission; the League of Conservations Voters; Goodwill Industries of California and many more. Jim was extremely active in the Democratic Party in California and was an elected member of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee and the California State Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our sincerest condolences to Jim Thurber's wife, Emy, and to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and in doing so, honor a great, good and gentle man who loved his country and served it with distinction.

Jim made our world better, and our country and our community stronger. How blessed I am to have known him and been inspired by his integrity and patriotism.

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REMEMBERING OFFICER DIEGO  
MORENO

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Officer

Diego Moreno. An eight-year veteran of the Kent Police Department, Officer Moreno tragically passed away while in the line of duty last Sunday, July 22, 2018. He is survived by his wife Shelly and two children.

A dedicated public servant, Officer Moreno was doing what he had done tirelessly during his 8 years on the force: keeping his community safe. He was known for his kindness, bravery, and unrelenting commitment and dedication to the residents of his community. He has received multiple awards for his service, including one in 2011 for saving a child from drowning. In 2017, Officer Moreno once again saved a life by administering aid to a resident suffering from a drug overdose. These are just a few instances of bravery and dedication that Officer Moreno exemplified throughout his career.

Officer Moreno will forever be remembered as an active and caring member of our community. He served with immense integrity, earning the respect of his colleagues as he courageously gave his all to the City of Kent. His profound sense of duty will live on as an example for us all. Officer Moreno will be greatly missed.

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IN HONOR OF MR. SAM SCHMIDT

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sam Schmidt, who is a former IndyCar driver and advocate for the disability community.

On January 6, 2000, Sam Schmidt crashed on a test run in Orlando, Florida while practicing for the season-opening Indy Racing League event. He endured a massive hit, severing his spine between his third and fourth vertebrae. Following the crash, he was placed on a respirator for five months, and life sentenced in a wheelchair, but he knew he was one of the lucky ones.

Sam vowed that when he was able to leave the rehabilitation hospital, he would not forget the less-privileged patients he had met. Shortly thereafter, Sam became a team owner with Rick Peterson, to head Schmidt Peterson Motorsports. He started the foundation with a firm belief that at end of the day, he would fight to find a cure for paralysis and help individuals overcome spinal cord injuries and other neurological disorders. He also formed the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, with the help of several of his closest friends, which is leading the charge to find a cure to paralysis by funding scientific research, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and technological advances.

Fast-forward, fifteen years later, when Sam finally began to feel like himself normal again, he traded in his wheelchair for a modified Corvette that he could drive at Indianapolis Motor Speedway once again. The breakthrough was the work of a team of engineers for seven months on a special car that many thought couldn't be built, but it turned out to be a vehicle that Sam could drive by just moving his head.

Sam Schmidt is not only a loving husband to his wife Sheila, and father to their two children, Savannah and Spencer, but he is determined to get back on his feet and is dedicated

to helping others get out of their wheelchairs and continue to live their dreams.

In honor of his dedication and perseverance, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Sam Schmidt for his tremendous efforts to assist the disability community and encourage people to find their passion.

HONORING FRANK E. MARRA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate one of my constituents who is larger than life itself, Mr. Frank E. Marra. I want to wish you the happiest of birthdays as you turn 100, just the latest amazing milestone in an amazing life.

The son of Italian immigrants, Frank, was the first of Arthur (Arturo) and Mary's (Carmelina) three sons born in New York City, just before the Armistice which ended World War I. Frank attended PS 57 Theodore Roosevelt High in the Bronx before answering the call to service. Frank would join the National Guard for a short period of time before enlisting in the U.S. Military in 1941.

As a member of the U.S. Army's 258th Field Artillery, Frank trained for several months in the United Kingdom before his deployment in Europe. Frank fought the Axis powers in Normandy, through Northern France, Belgium in Ardennes, at the Battle of the Bulge, in Lichtenstein, Austria, and Germany. It has been said that Frank was the first soldier to fire an artillery shell into Nazi Germany, as our forces pushed forward to victory.

Following WWII, Frank returned home, and married Cecilia Genovese, who had sent him care packages during his time in Europe. The two honeymooned across the country and settled in San Bruno, California. In late 1947, Frank and Cecilia returned to New York, and had their two sons, Albert, and Eugene. Frank and Cecilia had a remarkable romance, and were married an incredible 70 years, until Cecilia's passing 2 years ago at the age of 97.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Marra has lived quite a life. He saw the stock market crash of 1929, the resulting Great Depression, and served during World War II. He saw the Yankees greats such as Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle play baseball, and witnessed the first men walk on the moon. He held down two jobs, which allowed him to send both his children to college and grad school, and he volunteered for many years at St. Bart's Church and the Jewish Home for the Blind. He danced with his wife at the weddings of two of his grandchildren and he has held in his arms three young great-grandchildren: Margaret, Cecilia, and Dominick. Frank Marra has experienced and achieved the American Dream, and his distinguished life deserves our honor and recognition. Happy birthday Frank, I wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

OFFICER ADAM JOBBERS-MILLER

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Adam Jobbers-Miller, who recently passed away at the age of 29.

Officer Jobbers-Miller spent his life placing service above self. From 2009 to 2015, Jobbers-Miller was a respected member of the Wayne Fire Department in Wayne, New Jersey. Then Fort Myers was fortunate enough to have Adam Jobbers-Miller join their team as a devoted officer of the law. As soon as he began his career with the Fort Myers Police Department, it was apparent to all those around him that Officer Jobbers-Miller would stop at nothing to protect and serve the people of Southwest Florida.

On Saturday, July 21st, Officer Jobbers-Miller responded to a call at a gas station in Fort Myers. An armed assailant at the gas station fired several shots at the FMPD officers, one of which struck Jobbers-Miller. He was immediately rushed to Lee Memorial Hospital, where he remained in critical condition until he passed away on July 30th. His passing brings great sorrow not only to the Fort Myers law enforcement community, but to our entire Southwest Florida community.

Every day, our officers and first responders put themselves in harm's way to ensure that the safety of all its citizens are protected. Officer Jobbers-Miller made the ultimate sacrifice to maintain this safety, and for that we are all immensely thankful.

In the face of certain danger, Adam Jobbers-Miller never hesitated to act in a truly heroic manner. His life of selfless service was tragically cut short, but his tireless dedication to the welfare of others will forever be remembered by all who were fortunate to know him. Kathleen and I extend our deepest condolences to Officer Jobbers-Miller's family, friends, and fellow officers.

HONORING ROBERT GHIRELLI

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of a distinguished constituent of mine, Robert P. Ghirelli, of West Covina, CA. Mr. Ghirelli is retiring after almost four decades of public service to the citizens of Southern California. His career exemplifies the work of water quality professionals who every day advance the health of our nation's waters to provide economic, recreational, and environmental benefits to us all. He is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles with an undergraduate degree in bacteriology and a doctorate in environmental science and engineering, and he holds a master's degree in health science from California State University, Northridge.

Most recently, Mr. Ghirelli has served as the Assistant General Manager at the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), the third

largest clean water agency west of the Mississippi River. In this role, he has overseen the day-to-day operations of six hundred employees and a \$164 million annual operating budget that delivers water quality improvements to the regions rivers, streams, and coastal waters for the 2.6 million residents served by OCSD.

Prior to joining OCSD, Mr. Ghirelli had a distinguished role serving for 13 years as the Executive Director of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles/Ventura Region. He reported directly to a nine-member board of directors appointed by the California Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. In this position, he administered the region's clean water programs and the management of one hundred water quality professionals that ensured the approval of water and waste discharge permits, compliance with federal and state water quality mandates, and effective monitoring of water quality. Following the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Mr. Ghirelli entered the private sector to provide his expertise in demystifying the regulatory process and enhancing efficient and effective compliance with our state's water quality protection programs.

Mr. Ghirelli returned to the public sector in 1998 when he joined OCSD as its Director of Technical Services where his responsibilities included managing the District's environmental affairs and regulatory compliance programs, environmental laboratories, and industrial waste control programs.

Mr. Ghirelli has dedicated his life to advancing the professionalism of his vocation by actively participating in regional, state, and national public agencies and trade associations related to water quality, water resources, and utility management. He has served in the following organizations: Board of Directors of the San Gabriel River Watermaster; Board of Directors of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies; Member of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies; Valencia Heights Water Company, West Covina; Commissioner and Past President of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project; Board Member and Past President of the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works; Board Member of the National Water Research Institute; Board Member of the Southern California Salinity Coalition; Board Member of the Orange County Business Council; Member of the Science Advisory Panel of the American Association of Environmental Engineers and Scientists; Member of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; Member of the American Public Works Association; Member of the Water Environment Federation; Member of the California Water Environment Association; and Member of the Executive Advisory Council of the Environmental Science & Engineering Program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mr. Ghirelli has been a leader in providing common sense solutions to waste water problems and delivering the highest level of water quality to the citizens of Southern California. He has also mentored the next generation of water professionals. After decades of dedicating his time to improving our water resources, I wish Mr. Ghirelli the best in his retirement.