

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.

#### 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 Conservation 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.

#### 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.

#### 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