

To Cathey's family and friends, her quick action was not a surprise, because it wasn't the first time she comforted a stranger in distress.

I thank Cathey for her willingness to help others around her everywhere she goes. Please join me in recognizing Cathey Anderson for receiving this prestigious award.

PERIPHERAL ARTERY DISEASE PATIENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, thousands of unnecessary amputations are conducted each and every year as a treatment for those who have peripheral artery disease.

PAD patients suffer from poor blood circulation, which often results in amputation, higher mortality rates, and the other complications that come with it. It doesn't have to be this way.

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Minnesota is the epicenter for groundbreaking innovation in new PAD treatments. Dr. Osama Ibrahim of Minneapolis' North Memorial Hospital is helping spread the word about revascularizations instead of amputations. The University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic are also at the forefront of these new procedures.

I am working now with Congressman DONALD PAYNE to raise PAD awareness, increase screening for at-risk patients, and improve access to care to different therapies so patients don't have to undergo unnecessary amputations. This means better healthcare outcomes, as well as a higher quality of life for thousands of Americans coping with PAD every year.

SUPPORT THE AMERICAN INNOVATION ACT

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I speak in favor of H.R. 6756, the American Innovation Act, which will spur innovation by helping startups survive the first few years of their existence and access the capital they need to grow and expand.

This bill also includes a key provision that I authored to help entrepreneurs not only survive, but thrive. Entrepreneurs and startups are a key source of innovation and job creation, particularly in Minnesota.

But the tax code today puts them at a disadvantage. It makes it harder for them to access new capital, and it disadvantages them as they struggle through the hardest part of their existence, which is the very first few years of profitability. This bill changes that. It brings tax regulations for governing startups now into the 21st century so that entrepreneurs and capital intensive sectors, like medical devices, can make the necessary investments in research, development, and manufacturing to grow and hire more people.

Ultimately, this means more jobs and more flexibility for Minnesota entre-

preneurs to not just come up with the next big idea, but to actually make it a reality. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

SUPPORT THE FAMILY SAVINGS ACT

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6757, the Family Savings Act, which includes a provision that I authored that improves 529 college savings plans.

Now, we all know that 529 college savings plans are a popular saving tool to help families save for college costs tax free. But today, student loan payments are not a qualified expense. Withdrawing any funds from the 529 for any other reason results in those funds being taxed as ordinary income, as well as a 10 percent penalty.

That is why I authored legislation to solve and address this problem, and it was included in the Family Savings Act. By expanding the list of 529 qualified expenses to also include student loan payments, this will allow a 529 savings plan to be used to pay up to \$10,000 in student loans. It will certainly help make it easier now to pay off loans and mitigate the anxiety that comes for a new graduate who is starting a career.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ADOLF "WES" WESSELHOEFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life of Lieutenant Colonel Adolf "Wes" Wesselhoeft, who, as a child, was one of 11,000 German-Americans placed in internment camps during World War II. You see his picture to my left.

Wes was born to German immigrants in Chicago in 1936. When he was seven, his family packed what few things they could and were taken to Crystal City, Texas, to a detainment camp built there for German, Japanese, and Italian immigrants.

Just a year later, in 1944, his family packed up once again and was sent to New York City to board the M.S. *Gripsholm*. The M.S. *Gripsholm* headed to Portugal where the Wesselhoeft family and 633 other German expatriates and repatriates were exchanged for American prisoners of war and then sent back to Germany.

Once back in Germany, Wes and his family lived in the town of Hamburg with his grandparents. Unfortunately, Hamburg was the center of Allied bombings during World War II. Wes has vivid memories from the bombings, seeking shelter in bunkers with his family. Despite those experiences, Wes remained a true American patriot, and he was committed to coming back home to the United States of America.

After the war ended, Wes and his family moved to Konstanz where he finished school and worked manual labor jobs to save money for a return

to America. He stayed in touch with the American consulate in Stuttgart, riding his bike 2 days each way to meet with them until finally in 1958 the consulate informed him he could return home. He bought the cheapest passage to the United States.

Upon arriving in New York, he went straight to a recruiting office to enlist in the United States Air Force. Wes served 22 years in the Air Force and flew EC-121Rs and B-52s during the Vietnam war. During his service, he was exposed to Agent Orange. He is now legally blind.

Wes and his wife, Shirley, now live in Ruston, Louisiana, where I proudly represent them in Congress. Wes represents the best of America, a patriot who never gave up on his country. His service to his country, as well as the horrors he and his family suffered in Germany, will never be forgotten. America is better because of people like Wes, those willing to give up everything to serve the American cause.

THERE IS A CRISIS BREWING IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis brewing in America. Two-and-a-half million workers face the challenge of losing their pension through no fault of their own. These are the folks who get up every single day, they work hard, they play by the rules, and all they want is a fair shake, some decent healthcare, and the retirement that they earned and that they paid for.

One of these people is Ed Barker, III, from Youngstown, Ohio. He worked for 45 years driving a truck. He worked 60 to 70 hours a week, 6 to 7 days a week. He now faces a 50 percent cut in his pension. He missed baseball games, he missed birthdays, and he missed family events because he was driving a truck with the promise that at the end of his career there would be a solid pension.

Now he and his wife are taking care of their 96-year-old father, they try to baby-sit for their kids when they get deployed and try to help out with the grandkids, and they try to help their kid through grad school to make a better life, all based on the promises they were given. But now they face the horrendous situation where they may lose half of their pension, cuts to healthcare, and all the rest that come with that. They did nothing wrong.

Yes, this is going to cost money. But let me share with the American people, and remind some of my colleagues, that we had no problem in this Congress giving a \$142 billion bailout to Bank of America, \$280 billion to Citigroup, \$25 billion to the auto industry, \$180 billion to AIG, \$400 billion to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$30 billion to Bear Stearns, \$18 billion to the airline industry, and \$300 billion to the savings and loans.