

sacred agreement between our society and our veterans. I am honored to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2018 Distinguished Service award recipients:

Veteran Business Mentorship Award: Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture: Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture demonstrates the importance of creating more equitable and sustainable local food systems for our community. Since 2010, Arcadia has provided underserved communities with access to healthy, affordable food regardless of where they live or how much they earn. In particular I would like to commend the Veteran's Farmer Program which gives our nation's heroes the opportunity to seek meaningful careers after they complete their service. With their Veteran Farmer Reserve Program, the Fellowship Program, and Veteran Farmer Land Access, Arcadia not only supports our nation's veterans but also reinvigorates the farm sector with skilled new growers, eager to begin their next phase in life.

Meritorious Veteran Owned Business (Emerging): Honor Brewing Company: Honor Brewing Company commits itself to honoring our nation's heroes accompanied with the simple enjoyment of fine craft beer. Along with their wonderful selection such as Honor Warrior IPA, Cherry Wheat, and the Maple Porter, Honor Brewing Company is committed to giving back to our veterans, those who have been wounded, and their families not only financially but with their personal time as well. Their belief of listening and honoring the stories of our nation's heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice stands as evidence of their commitment to America's finest.

Meritorious Veteran Owned Business (Established): ThunderCat Technology: ThunderCat Technology provides federal and commercial customers with strategies for data storage, networking and security applications. With their vision of being a premier trusted provider of Information Technology products, along with their special approach of evaluating consumers specific and unique needs, ThunderCat Technology is a confirmation that veteran owned businesses are trusted sources of quality service. ThunderCat Technology's steadfast involvement in philanthropic organizations that support both wounded warriors and other veteran owned small businesses speaks volumes of their commitment to our community's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these incredible organizations and in congratulating them on being honored as a 2018 Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award recipient. Civic engagement is the foundation of a healthy community, and Fairfax County residents enjoy an exceptional quality of life due in part to the efforts of these individuals. The contributions and leadership of these honorees have been a great benefit to our community and truly merit our highest praise.

RISING DRUG PRICES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the alarm-

ing rise in prescription drug costs in this country.

Earlier this year, the President claimed that drug companies would be announcing "massive" voluntary drug price cuts.

In fact, an Associated Press analysis of brand-name prescription drug prices shows it's been business as usual for drugmakers, with far more price hikes than cuts. The AP found that over the first seven months of the year, there were 96 price hikes for every price cut.

As the AP said in its story, drug pricing is far from transparent. Manufacturers typically set high list prices but then negotiate rebates and discounts with prescription benefit managers, to get preferential insurance coverage for their products.

Many consumers never see the list price, though rising drug prices generally put pressure on insurers to raise rates. Patients with high deductible or no insurance often get stuck being charged the full list price.

In addition, the Republican tax bill is being used by the big pharmaceutical companies to buy back shares in its companies to increase its stock prices. The tax bill is increasing our government debt, taking money from all Americans in order to enrich hedge funds, other Wall Street investors and top drug company executives, but not helping the patients that depend on those drugs.

We need to implement changes that will bring down drug prices.

One way is that prescription drugs that meet a test for an unconscionable price increase will be subject to new investigative and enforcement action by a new "price gouging" enforcer.

National spending on prescription drugs is on the rise. Prescription drug prices increased an average of 12.6 percent in 2014 and 10 percent in 2015. In 2015, 16.7 percent of health care spending in the U.S. went to prescription drugs.

The government needs to be given the authority to negotiate drug prices. Medicare is not allowed to negotiate with drug companies about their product. The government is the largest buyer of most products and the General Services Administration currently negotiates whenever the government is buying a product and puts it on the schedule for all government procurement officers to use. But not prescription drugs. This is a huge giveaway for the drug industry and that needs to end.

Now is not the time to line the pockets of pharmaceutical CEOs while Americans are suffering from high prescription drug costs. It is time to be innovative with our health care and support the working men and women who need the help to live a healthy life.

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK RECOGNITION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of this week as Malnutrition Awareness Week.

Malnutrition Awareness Week is a multi-organizational, multi-pronged campaign created by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. This campaign seeks to edu-

cate healthcare professionals to identify and treat for malnutrition earlier. It seeks to educate consumers and patients to discuss their nutrition status with health care professionals and increase awareness of nutrition's role on patient recovery.

Every 60 seconds, 10 hospitalized patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed, and many of these patients are older adults. Yet, there are common-sense solutions that can close this care gap.

We cannot solve what we do not first measure. Unfortunately, we do not truly know the full extent of the malnutrition problem plaguing our senior population. This is because screening measures for malnutrition are not a part of our national health surveys and malnutrition is not included in the national health indicators and goals for older Americans that help shape public health programs and guide healthcare professionals. I therefore call on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to routinely include malnutrition screening measures in national health surveys of older adults and include malnutrition among national key health indicators and Healthy People 2030 goals for older adults.

We cannot expect older adults and their families to take steps to address malnutrition if we do not give guidance on identification of and interventions for the problem. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture develop new national dietary guidelines every five years, but the guidelines have never addressed the issue of older adult malnutrition. I therefore urge HHS and USDA to include dietary guidance for the prevention and treatment of older adult malnutrition and the closely aligned problem of age-related sarcopenia, the loss of strength and muscle, in the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

We cannot advance malnutrition care and promote improved patient recovery if we do not align the identification of and interventions for malnutrition with health care quality incentive programs. Malnutrition can lead to greater risk of chronic disease, frailty, disability, and increases in healthcare costs, yet nutrition status is rarely evaluated and managed as individuals transition across care settings. I therefore call on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to include malnutrition related quality measures in Traditional Medicare quality programs as well as include measures related to malnutrition in care transition programs.

COMMEMORATING ROBERT MARTINEZ, 14TH PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINIST AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Martinez, 14th President of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers.

Robert Martinez is a fighter for the working man. His current role as President of the IAM is just one of many titles he has carried over 36 years of fighting for union workers.