

I was recently blessed to come through a health challenge myself, and I believe more strongly than ever that, whether it is cancer therapy or prescription medication, access to the best treatment cannot be reserved for only the wealthy.

Last week, I secured funding in the Appropriations Committee to study the impact of prior authorization policies on patient health. People are dying because insurance companies want to see lower cost treatments, see them fail before they will cover more expensive ones, even if your healthcare provider specifically recommends it.

Whether you have cancer like I did or you are dealing with a chronic illness, you shouldn't have to endure extra pain or wonder if you can survive long enough to get to the treatment that will work for you.

I will continue to fight for access to high-quality healthcare for all Americans.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ALEX KUNDA

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Alex Kunda for becoming the first student in the history of the Glynn County School System to have perfect attendance from kindergarten through 12th grade.

When Mr. Kunda was 4 years old, his sister, Miranda, passed away from a rare illness. At that time, his sister had maintained perfect attendance through her time in elementary school and during her medical treatment.

Receiving an award onstage on her behalf before her passing, Mr. Kunda pledged to his sister that he would continue her streak for as long as possible.

Madam Speaker, 13 years later, he has done it. He hasn't been tardy. He hasn't been absent. He hasn't checked out one single time during his entire primary and secondary education.

He and his family plan trips and appointments all around his ability to go to school, while fighting the urge to occasionally skip or use a sick day.

Keeping a promise as difficult as this one should be an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Mr. Kunda. Good luck at the College of Coastal Georgia.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, this week, my community and communities across our Nation are paying tribute to law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifices in our defense.

National Police Week is a moment to reflect on those sacrifices and the men

and women who put their lives on the line for ours.

It is a moment to recognize the families who live with this immeasurable sacrifice, and it is a moment to reaffirm our commitment to working with local and State leaders to support these families.

We owe it to the memory of fallen officers and to the majority of men and women in uniform who carry out their responsibilities with skill and professionalism every day to make sure that officers are safe.

We all need to do our part to ensure that the communities they serve are safe as well.

In this same spirit of progress, let's commit to working to shape a more secure future for officers and for the communities they serve.

EXTEND THE SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND

(Mr. ZELDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, during this National Police Week, I encourage all my colleagues to cosponsor Never Forget the Heroes Act, H.R. 1327, introduced by Congress Members MALONEY, KING, and NADLER, which would fully fund and extend the Victim Compensation Fund authorization through 2090.

There are currently 279 cosponsors, but we need more, and we need action on this important legislation.

This should not be a partisan issue. It is not a partisan issue. This needs to be an American issue.

September 11th first responders came from at least 433 out of 435 congressional districts. We lost thousands of Americans on 9/11. We have lost more Americans since 9/11 due to toxic exposure than we did on 9/11 itself.

Any colleagues out there who haven't cosponsored yet, I encourage you to look at H.R. 1327.

Chairman NADLER has scheduled it for a hearing on July 11. Please do what you can to get this passed and signed into law.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Mr. O'HALLERAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Police Week to honor law enforcement officers across Arizona and the Nation.

As a former investigator and officer, I know what the brave men and women and their families go through every day to protect their communities.

This week brings back the memories of the friends and partners I have served alongside during my time on the force. We remember the officers who have been killed in the line of duty, many of them friends of mine, including DPS Officer Tyler Edenhofer and Jesus Cordova.

We will never forget their service to our State and our country.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues this week in thanking the men and women who serve our communities, protect our families, and allow us to continue to be a free society.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST LIEUTENANT HOPE KIRKENDALL

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Hope Kirkendall, a distinguished veteran from Lakeland, Florida, who served in World War II.

Lieutenant Kirkendall heard the call to serve after seeing the bombing of Pearl Harbor when she was only 18 years old.

She joined the Army as a nurse, where she was one of the first women deployed to Normandy after D-Day. During her deployment, she routinely worked 12- to 16-hour days near the front lines of many major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge.

She treated both wounded American and German soldiers. In 2004, she received the French Legion of Honor award for her service in saving France from German occupiers.

Lieutenant Kirkendall provided hope to many on the battlefield, and her legacy continues to provide hope to us at home.

Lieutenant Kirkendall represents our very best, and I thank her for all that she has done to defend and serve our great Nation.

ADDRESS SKYROCKETING COST OF COLLEGE

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, right now, we are in the season where folks are deciding where to go to college. A big factor in that decision is their financial aid package.

The skyrocketing cost of college is saddling many with outrageous student loan debt. The crippling debt of student loans is reaching \$1.56 trillion among 45 million borrowers. It is causing people to delay homeownership, raising a family, and moving comfortably into the middle class.

I have introduced the Understanding the True Cost of College Act. It is to help students and families make informed decisions about financing their education and their future by requiring the standardization of communications and the definitions of financial aid terms.

It is in the best interest of our country to start addressing this issue in a bipartisan way.

**TACKLE ISSUES AFFECTING
BLACK MEN AND BOYS**

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, from their health outcomes to their unemployment income, from their education rate to their incarceration rate, Black men and boys are disproportionately impacted by government policies.

It is not that Black men and boys are falling behind. It is that they have never been ahead.

For centuries, government policies have redefined Black men and boys into a lower social status than their White counterparts. This is an institutional problem.

Yesterday, I joined with many of my colleagues at the House Triangle to stand in support of Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON's bill to create the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

We were joined by young men who want nothing more than to live the American Dream free of discrimination. This country owes them that.

H.R. 1636 will bring together experts to tackle the wide range of issues that have kept Black men and boys behind for hundreds of years. It will mark the beginning of the end of racial disparities that have kept communities across the country down.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support it.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MAURICE A.
FERRE**

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the life of a hero of mine, Maurice A. Ferre. He is a Puerto Rican-born public servant who is a former six-term mayor of the city of Miami and the first Hispanic mayor of any major American city, serving from 1973 to 1985.

He has served as the chair of the Miami-Dade County Expressway Authority and served for 8 years on the Florida Transportation Commission.

As mayor, Ferre provided leadership and vision when Miami took its place as one of the world's most vibrant cities, eclectic and diverse and international in nature.

Throughout his years in office, he focused on economic development, job creation, and a visionary approach to improving south Florida's transportation and public infrastructure, as well as transforming the area into a center of inter-American trade, banking, and commerce.

He remains active in business, commentary on current events, teaching, and public service.

In 2006, he explored issues concerning Puerto Rico in a book on political sta-

tus, "Where is Puerto Rico Headed?"—"Hacia Donde Va Puerto Rico?"

His career has been marked by a style of public service that encourages people from widely different views and philosophies to work together in the name of common good and progress.

Ferre embarked on that journey early on as a Florida House member, then a commissioner, later the mayor of the city of Miami, and as vice chairman of the Dade County Board of Commissioners.

Ferre has served on numerous boards, as well as on President Ford's commission on immigration and President Carter's ambassadorial nominating commission.

Ferre credits his wife of 64 years, Mercedes Malaussena Ferre, as his north star, and his loving family, including 6 children and 13 grandchildren, as his anchor.

BREAK THE CORPORATE STRANGLEHOLD ON OUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, we must have a moral awakening, a spiritual revolution on how we treat a person's health in this country.

We must understand that every single human has a right to be healthy and comfortable, to live with dignity, and to receive the healthcare they need to flourish.

At present, this understanding is in conflict with a sinister, unjust force in our society: corporate greed.

Why are people forced to skip insulin injections so they can pay their rent?

Why are my residents charged \$70 for a PrEP, a pill that could dramatically reduce HIV transmission, when the same pill costs \$7 abroad?

Corporate greed has replaced the moral imperative that everyone live in health and dignity. There is more wealth in this country than any other in human history, and millions go without health insurance and prescription drugs, people condemned to live with pain and suffering because we have chosen corporate profits over our dignity as a nation.

We are watching a crisis unfold in real time. It is time we break the corporate stranglehold on our health and well-being, lost profits of the insanely wealthy be damned.

We have much more important things to protect. We have the soul of this country to rescue.

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CRAIG). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following

Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Inter-parliamentary Group:

- Mr. CORREA, California
- Mr. GONZALEZ, Texas
- Ms. JACKSON LEE, Texas
- Ms. ESCOBAR, Texas
- Ms. LOFGREN, California
- Mr. CARBAJAL, California

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 104(a) of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members to the House Democracy Partnership:

- Ms. MOORE, Wisconsin
- Ms. TITUS, Nebraska
- Mr. CONNOLLY, Virginia
- Mr. TED LIEU, California
- Mrs. TORRES, California
- Ms. KELLY, Illinois
- Ms. SEWELL, Alabama
- Ms. DEGETTE, Colorado
- Ms. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands
- Ms. LEE, California

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**COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
POLICE WEEK**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) is recognized for half the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, this week, thousands of law enforcement officers, their families, and their supporters from around the country gathered in Washington, D.C., to commemorate National Police Week.

We are here tonight to thank those who put on the uniform every day to protect our communities and put their lives in the breach between the criminal element and the public they protect.

We are also here to recognize those who have completed their service and now enjoy a well-deserved thank-you for their selfless service to their communities.

But, most importantly, we are here to honor the fallen.

Last year, 158 police officers gave their last measure of devotion to their communities. Among these heroes, you will find every gender, every creed, every race, every religion. They hail from every corner of America.