

trainings at the Brookings Institution. Her mentorship and scholarship have informed a generation of congressional employees and I feel reassured knowing that her institutional influence will continue long past the date of her retirement.

Unsurprisingly given the scope and depth of her achievements, Ms. Schneider has been decorated with many recognitions. She received a Meritorious Service Award and a Congressional Staff Leadership Award from the Stennis Center, as well as several awards from the Congressional Management Foundation and the Women in Government Relations (WGR) society. WGR even created a fellowship in her name to honor her service to “the thousands of women she has mentored, developed, and trained.”

After spending her career shaping Congress into a more effective, procedurally efficient place, Ms. Schneider now heads to Sea Isle City, New Jersey, for an extremely well-deserved retirement. I thank her for her career and service, and I have been immensely proud to call her my friend and constituent and will always consider her so. She has our best wishes.

HONORING CHANDLER PARK CONSERVANCY'S MARSHLAND PROJECT

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2019*

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chandler Park Conservancy as they break ground on a marshland conservation project in Detroit, Michigan.

Michigan is well known for its beautiful lakes and rivers that are home to diverse wildlife. But these areas are at risk of being lost as more areas become developed, especially in cities like Detroit. Chandler Park Conservancy is taking steps to preserve those areas and make spaces habitable for wild plants and animals to flourish again.

Beyond restoring natural beauty to the area, the project will provide the added benefit of diverting storm water from the city's already overburdened sewer system; it will create sustainable rain gardens and house an outdoor classroom where students can learn more about conserving and protecting our natural resources.

Please join me in tribute to the Chandler Park Conservancy in honor of its marshland conservation project.

HONORING COLONEL TODD W. LYONS

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2019*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Todd W. Lyons for his thirty years of honorable service to our country and congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps.

Col. Lyons was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps

in 1989. He graduated with honors from the Field Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses, and in 1994 he returned to serve as a Fire Support Instructor. After his subsequent assignment, he was selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a master's degree in National Security Affairs. Col. Lyons was selected for duty as a Marine Attaché in 2000, studying Arabic at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, DC. Col. Lyons then served as an Attaché in Qatar, Israel, and Oman, where he led strategic planning teams to further national security objectives.

After his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2005, Col. Lyons was selected to attend the Israeli National Defense College where he graduated with honors. In 2008, Col. Lyons deployed to Iraq as an Engagements Officer where he was a key figure in coordinating allies to secure the transfer of Anbar Province back to Iraqi control. In 2014 he returned to the Defense Attaché Service and served as the Chief of Operations until 2016, where he directed operations in crisis regions throughout the world.

Col. Lyons is currently the Senior Marine Representative at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he teaches Innovation Leadership and is widely respected as a professor and mentor of our next generation of military leaders. In his role as the Associate Dean of Research, Col. Lyons employs an interdisciplinary approach by connecting academic researchers with military practitioners.

Col. Lyons' personal decorations emphasize his efforts and unwavering dedication to serving our country. They include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy and Marine Corps Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold stars. Col. Lyons has received two Department of State Superior Honor Awards for his esteemed work as an Attaché, one for his work in Israel during the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 and another for his work in Oman between 2011 and 2014.

Col. Lyons' distinguished career of military service is nothing short of an inspiration, and his legacy of teaching and leadership will undoubtedly live on through our future generations of service members. He embodies dedication and service, and the central coast of California has benefitted greatly from his presence. I wholeheartedly wish Col. Lyons, his wife Kristiana and their three daughters, Grace, Eleanor and Jordan the best during his retirement. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking Colonel Todd W. Lyons for his honorable service to our nation and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DR. KELLY SCOTT SEGARS, SR.

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2019*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Kelly Scott Segars, Sr., who passed away on Tuesday, July 23rd at the age of 89.

Dr. Segars, a resident of Iuka, Mississippi, served his community, state, and nation as a

physician, banker, pilot, farmer, entrepreneur and humanitarian. He was born on March 11, 1930, in Red Bay, Alabama to Dock and Ora S. Segars. He was an honor graduate of Red Bay High School and the Auburn University School of Pharmacy. Upon completion of his studies at Auburn, he married his high school sweetheart, Martha Ann Thompson. He joined the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant and was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant while serving in Korea from 1953 to 1955. He received many recognitions for his service including the American Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Following his military service, he pursued his interest in medicine and graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in 1959. In 1982, he established The Segars Clinic, and it quickly became known as the State's most innovative and technically advanced medical facilities in North Mississippi. In 1962, Dr. Segars chartered the First National Bank of Iuka. Today, First American National Bank operates nine branches in six counties.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of almost 67 years, Martha Thompson Segars; his sons—Scott Segars and Mark Segars of Iuka, MS; and his daughter Leigh Ann Segars of Pensacola, Florida as well as five grandchildren.

Dr. Segars' life was one of service, love for his family, and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

HONORING AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE 1ST CLASS GORDON KINNEY ON HIS 105TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2019*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Gordon Kinney of Chicago, Illinois, who is celebrating his 105th birthday today. Mr. Kinney is a veteran who bravely served our nation in the United States Navy during World War II.

Mr. Kinney was deployed to Japan during his three-year tour of duty in World War II, where he served as a Navy Aircraft Crew Chief aboard a PBM Mariner aircraft nicknamed *ABLE*. PBM Mariner flight crews played a vital role throughout the war, acting as patrol bombers as well as performing high priority search and rescue missions for downed pilots and aircrews. The crew complement consisted of three pilots, two navigators, and four crew. Mr. Kinney was drawn to aviation at a young age and knew he wanted to fly from the time he was only five years old.

Mr. Kinney and each of his three brothers answered the call of duty and fought to defend our country during World War II. He and his brothers were inspired by their family's long tradition of service to our country, dating back to their father and grandfather.

For Mr. Kinney's heroism and extraordinary achievement during his military service, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as the Air Medal. These decorations exemplify Mr. Kinney's dedication to the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment, as well as his country.

Mr. Kinney's sacrifice and dedication to our country are an inspiration to us all. He is a man who defended our country at a time of tremendous need. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his service, bravery, and dedication to his family and community.

#### ASTORIA REGATTA

### HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Astoria Regatta, the City of Astoria, and Clatsop County on the 125th celebration of the Regatta. This is a joyous milestone for one of the oldest festivals west of the Rocky Mountains and an important moment to pause and reflect on the significance of the Regatta to our region.

Since the Astoria Regatta's founding in 1894, it has celebrated our connection to the mighty Columbia River and our heritage as a seafaring and fishing community. The first festival, which evolved out of the custom of boat racing on the river, included a parade of 22 decorated yachts and the presence of the *U.S. Monitor Monterey*. Early Regattas featured a four-and-a-half mile swim across the river, and the popular Salmon Derby. Since then, the Regatta has grown with the additions of the Regatta Court, the Grand Land Parade, the Seaman's Memorial, the rose planting ceremony, and many other special community traditions.

Today, the Astoria Regatta embodies the best aspects of our region. Through the Royal Court, the Regatta helps develop the leadership skills of young women. The Regatta is also an opportunity to praise the dedication of community leaders who serve as Regatta Dignitaries: the Admiral, Admiral's Aide, and the Grand Marshals. And through the Seaman's Memorial, the Regatta allows us to remember and memorialize those we have lost on the river and the ocean.

Although World War I and World War II interrupted the celebration of the Astoria Regatta, the community always found a way to restore it. In fact, many of our long-standing community institutions have ties to the Regatta: in 1933, the newly-founded Astoria Yacht Club helped bring the Regatta back after the First World War, and the Clatsop County Fair began in 1905 as an agricultural exhibit of the Regatta. Past Regattas marked the Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1955, the opening of the Astoria-Megler Bridge in 1966, the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, and the Bicentennial of Astoria in 2011.

We can only imagine what E.J. Smith, editor of *The Daily Morning Astorian*, and Frank M. Gunn, secretary of the Astoria Football Club, would think about the 125th anniversary of the tradition they started in 1894. Like us, surely they would be proud of the community that Astoria has become, the growth and vitality of this region, and the continuation of this grand tradition.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 748

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman NEAL for his leadership managing this bill on the floor. As Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, his advocacy is a powerful message to the House to pass the Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act. I also want to thank Ranking Member BRADY and Rep. MIKE KELLY for their bipartisan efforts in support of this bill, defying the polarized politics that far too often dominates the health care debate.

Madam Speaker, this bill today comes with the support of a more than 650 health care stakeholders who, over the last ten years, have joined together to repeal the 40 percent excise tax on higher premium health plans scheduled to go into effect in 2022.

This tax was a late add on to the Affordable Care Act and has been rattling around in the federal tax code ever since, never having actually collected a penny of revenue, but nonetheless casting an statutory shadow over 180 million Americans' health plans—we know in real life from HR administrators and employee representatives it has added pressure to shift coverage into higher deductible health plans. As the Commonwealth Fund recently reported, the numbers of Americans who are underinsured as the result of high deductibles has grown by over 50 percent since 2005. Kaiser Family Foundation just reported that 31 percent of employer health plans will get hit by the tax in 2022, and that number will grow sharply soon after. Passage of this bill will stop that trend from worsening, lift the shadow that overhangs employer-sponsored plans, and give millions of teachers, factory workers, small businesses, firefighters and the like, relief.

As the bill's lead sponsor, I want to foot stomp the fact that repeal of the tax does not touch the architecture of the ACA's patient protections. Repeal is completely severable from the other 440 sections of the law and leaves intact essential health benefits, and the elimination of preexisting conditions exclusions and lifetime caps to name a few. Given that those patient protections have been in full operation for the last ten years, while this "zombie tax" has been in a coma during that time, it is abundantly clear that the tax is disconnected from the rest of the law. Lastly, I want to underscore the CBO determination that passage will not result in any increase in the number of uninsured.

There is one other concern that observers have raised, namely the impact on the national debt. Again, JCT has given a mixed report. The good news is that repeal this year 2019 will result in no budget impact in 2020 and 2021. In the following two years they estimate a loss of 21 billion in tax revenue. In the out years their projections grow exponentially, based on a theory of "wage effect" cause by the "thinning" of health plans' value and a corresponding increase in wages. To say that the "wage effect" theory is debatable is an understatement, and employee groups such as Wage Works, the AFL-CIO, police and firefighter groups ferociously deny the validity of the "wage effect" based on their real life experience at the collective bargaining table.

The only remaining question a reasonable observer might ask is why has repeal taken so long? Given the initial 5-year delay in the tax's effective date in 2010, based on Speaker Nancy Pelosi's opposition and the two subsequent delays until 2022, it is true that the warning flags were up on this tax early and Congress should have acted sooner. In the Congresses that followed 2010 ACA enactment, there was ample opportunity to get this done. In the 114th Congress an identical surgical repeal bill had 188 bipartisan cosponsors. In the 115th Congress a surgical bill had 304 bipartisan cosponsors. Despite that broad based support, neither Speaker John Boehner nor Paul Ryan ever called those bills up for a vote. I know because I was the lead Democratic sponsor on every one of those measures.

Madam Speaker, with 370 House cosponsors, I am hopeful an overwhelming tally tonight will send a laser-like message to the Senate to adopt this bill as soon as possible, as is.

#### RECOGNIZING LILA MILLER AND ELIZABETH SAUNDERS FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN THE 2019 USROWING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Lila Miller and Elizabeth Saunders for their success in the 2019 USRowing National Championships. Through their perseverance and determination, Lila and Elizabeth have distinguished themselves as athletes and representatives of their community and Michigan's First District.

Although Lila is blind, she has learned to row over the past several years as a member of the Lake Leelanau Rowing Club. Together, she and Elizabeth have developed a passion for the sport—and rowing together at the USRowing National Championships, they brought home gold medals for the club. With rowers varying in age from 12 to the mid-80's, the Lake Leelanau Rowing Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to promoting access to rowing for Michiganders of all ages and experience levels. They host national sculling clinics, rowing camps, and year-round programs for local youth and adults, including for those with visual impairments. These programs are held on the grounds and lakefront at Fountain Point Resort, Michigan's oldest waterfront resort and a National Historic Site. Fountain Point and Lake Leelanau offer the ideal location for cultivating a love of rowing, offering 17 miles of pristine water for rowers like Lila and Elizabeth to practice the sport.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Lila Miller and Elizabeth Saunders for their success in the 2019 USRowing National Championships. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such exceptional individuals. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Elizabeth and Lila all the best in their future endeavors.