

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.

HONORING CHP OFFICER ROGER
GORE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and sacrifice of California Highway Patrol Officer Roger Davis Gore. On April 5, 1970, Officer Gore was one of four CHP officers tragically gunned down in a police shooting near Interstate 5. In remembrance of his sacrifice, a section of State Highway 99 in Merced is being dedicated to him and his colleague, Officer Walter Frago.

Born on February 17, 1947 to Max Gore and Bertha M. Staley, Officer Gore was the second born in his family of three in the Merced County town of Snelling, California. He graduated from Merced High School and later attended Merced College before becoming a CHP officer in 1967. Together, he and his wife Valerie were the parents of one daughter, Elyce.

On April 5, 1970, Officers Frago and Gore were the first to respond to a suspect who had been reported brandishing a weapon. Upon pulling over a vehicle with two men, a gun fight ensued leaving Officers Frago and Gore, as well as Officers George Aleyn and James Pence dead. This tragedy is one still remembered by the law enforcement community and Merced County residents as Officers Frago and Gore were both born and raised in Merced.

In honor of Officer Gore's commitment to duty and sacrifice, the section of Highway 99 between Mission Avenue and Campus Parkway is being dedicated as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway. This location is fitting, as Campus Parkway will eventually connect Highway 99 to the University of California, Merced campus. This section of highway being dedicated will continue to ensure our local community and future generations remember and honor the sacrifice of these two young officers, each of whom lost their lives at 23-years-old on that tragic day.

The CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway symbolizes the sacrifice these two gentlemen gave for all citizens to help continue building a better future for our community and country. Furthermore, it will help bridge Merced County's past to its present and remind community members of the dedication to duty exhibited by these two fine officers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the duty and sacrifice of CHP Officer Roger Gore. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor him as the CHP Officers Walter Frago and Roger Gore Memorial Freeway is dedicated. I wish his family, the California Highway Patrol, and the Merced law enforcement community the best as this section of Highway 99 is dedicated in his honor.

IN HONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL
OF TAPPAN CHAIRS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tappan Chairs of Sandwich as

they celebrate their bicentennial. First opened in 1819 by Abraham Tappan, Tappan Chairs has become a pillar in the Sandwich community.

This business stayed in the Tappan family for over a hundred years through the work of the founder's son, Daniel, and grandsons, Walter and Winthrop. Although it has changed owners since those early days, the style and durability of Tappan Chairs has remained, and they are still produced on the same vintage equipment that they were crafted on so many generations ago.

The success and longevity of Tappan Chairs is a testament to the enduring work ethic of its owners, who for generation after generation, stepped in to take its mantle. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate everyone at Tappan Chairs on an exciting anniversary. I hope that they are able to celebrate this impressive milestone and wish them the best of luck in their next 200 years of business! I thank them for all that they do to make the Granite State such a wonderful place to work, live, and play.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALLOWING
BODY CAMERAS IN JOINT TASK
FORCES ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, Representative DONALD S. BEYER, Jr. and I introduce the Allowing Body Cameras in Joint Task Forces Act of 2019. This bill would prohibit the federal government from refusing to work with local police departments that require their officers to wear body cameras. Our bill would apply to all federal agencies.

Under current policy, though it appears to be unwritten, the Department of Justice has been refusing to participate in task forces with local police departments that have body camera requirements.

The Justice Department has determined that 47 percent of police departments in the country have body cameras. It is beyond reason to prevent these numerous police agencies from participating in federal task forces if their officers wear body cameras. The federal government should be encouraging the use of officer body cameras instead of discouraging their use. This bill only applies to uniformed officers, which means federal officials could refuse to participate in task forces if body cameras are used during undercover operations.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS FOR
INDIVIDUALS IN CUSTOMS AND
BORDER PROTECTION CUSTODY
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3239) to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on detainees, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3239, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act.

Having visited federal immigration detention facilities along the U.S.-Mexico border, I have seen firsthand the alarming conditions imposed on many immigrant refugees by the Trump administration. There is no question that we have a humanitarian crisis on our border. It is also clear that the immigrant detention system operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) needs significant reform and passing H.R. 3239 is the first step in the process of improving this distressing situation.

H.R. 3239 would finally establish a basic standard of care for immigrants in CBP custody, including clearly defining the requirements for sanitation, nutrition, and hygiene in CBP detention facilities. The legislation would also ensure health screenings by medical professionals for every immigrant in CBP custody. I would note that this legislation was written with the input of CBP Officers who both understand the scope of the humanitarian crisis and the changes that need to be made in order to ensure that immigrants in CBP custody get the necessary medical care they may require.

With regards to the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3239, I am unable to support it because Congress still requires answers from CBP officials on why Members of Congress and immigrants were targeted in a derogatory Facebook group run by current and former CBP employees. However, I would like to strongly state that I will always stand in support of our federal employees who follow their oath of office. Many employees at CBP put their safety at risk on a daily basis, conduct themselves with integrity, and they should be supported.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3239.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. J.
FRANK FILGO

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. J. Frank Filgo, on the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer for the Alabama Trucking Association after more than 24 years of service. Mr. Filgo made a tremendous impact on the Alabama Trucking Association, leading it with honor and character while advocating for the trucking industry's needs in Alabama's political arena.

Mr. Filgo graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Teacher Education and is a graduate of the National Institute of Organization Management at the University of Delaware. He received his Certified Association Executive designation in 1988 and served as Chairman of the Alabama Society of Association Executives. Throughout his career, he has been active in several state pro-business coalitions, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Alabama (BCA).