

In 6A, the Oxford Chargers defeated the Oak Grove Warriors 31-to-21.

Finally, in MAIS 5A, the Heritage Academy Patriots defeated the Starkville Academy Volunteers 55-to-10.

There is nothing that brings Mississippi together more than Friday night lights, and to have this many championship teams in the First District is quite an honor.

I am proud of the young men who gave their all in the heat of August two-a-days, the regular season and the playoffs, and, finally, at The Rock in Hattiesburg to win a State championship.

I recognize the hard work and dedication of the bands, cheerleaders, dance teams, and all the other participants who make football games such an exciting Friday night community event in Mississippi.

I thank the parents who drove their children to and from practice and spent every Friday night in the fall driving across the State of Mississippi to watch their kids compete on the field.

Finally, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers, school administrators, and coaches who work every day to make sure that our kids have a bright future on the field and in the classroom.

SUPPORT LOWER DRUG COSTS NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 3, the Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

I thank the Speaker and my colleagues for working so hard to bring this important piece of legislation to the floor. I believe there are few issues more significant and few issues more impactful to the lives of everyday Americans than the ever-increasing costs of healthcare and the lack of access to vital treatment.

As a two-time breast cancer survivor, I know all too well the stress and the heartache of a life-changing diagnosis. Treatment was exhausting, both physically and emotionally, but I was truly blessed to be able to afford my medication.

Even today, I continue to pay excessive out-of-pocket costs for my medication. However, I am lucky to be in a position where I do not have to make serious sacrifices to pay for the care that I need.

Unfortunately, this is not reality for all Americans. We live in the richest Nation in the history of nations. This is the greatest country on Earth. I refuse to believe that we cannot find a solution that allows every American to afford the medications that they need.

I have been shocked by the stories from my constituents about how pharmaceutical companies continue to gouge their pocketbooks and affect their quality of life.

I heard a story recently of a mother in my district who wrote in about her son, who is 27 and has type 1 diabetes. He pays \$400 a month for his insulin while also trying to repay his college loans from pursuing his master's degree. She wrote in to speak for her son because she is scared. Her son experiences the same hardship that so many Americans do because of a diagnosis they did not choose.

Too often, stories like this end with a patient resorting to rationing of essential treatments, often with catastrophic results.

These are lifesaving medications. They are not optional, and people should never have to make the unthinkable decision about whether to purchase their medications or put food on their tables or gas in their cars.

On average, Americans pay three to four times as much for the same prescription drugs as people in other countries. Over the last two decades alone, the price of insulin has increased by 1,000 percent. There is no reasonable explanation for these costs, and the American people have had enough.

The constantly rising prices have far-reaching consequences, increasing the price of health insurance premiums and eating into workers' wages.

Let us be clear, it is taxpayer dollars and wages that go toward paying for these outrageous prescription drug prices, and it is time for Congress to say that enough is enough.

This is the most comprehensive solution to our country's drug pricing problem ever to be seriously considered by the House of Representatives. This legislation would give Medicare the power to negotiate directly with the drug companies and create a powerful mechanism that forces drug companies to the table to compromise on real price reductions.

It also stops pharmaceutical companies from overcharging Americans while charging other countries less for the same drugs, and it creates a \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Finally, it will reverse years of unfair price hikes above inflation across thousands of drugs in Medicare, making lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare available to Americans with private insurance, not just Medicare beneficiaries.

The Lower Drug Costs Now Act is a good deal for the American people. It saves the taxpayers over \$450 billion during the next decade and allows us to make long-sought-after investments into Medicare and the National Institutes of Health.

In fact, this bill includes legislation that I wrote to include coverage of hearing aids in Medicare, making them affordable for our seniors. It will also deliver vision and dental benefits while investing huge sums into the search for new cures.

All the mothers and fathers who lay awake at night worried about enrolling their kids in after-school activities or

making their mortgage or car payments will benefit from this bill. We are fighting for them, and it is a fight that we intend to win.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF STEPHEN CARR

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of a hero from the Third District of the great State of Arkansas, Fayetteville Police Officer Stephen Carr.

On Saturday, December 7, Officer Carr was preparing to begin another shift of keeping his community safe when he was cowardly ambushed and executed, most likely because of the uniform he wore.

We have lost one of our finest law enforcement officers, someone who dedicated his life to serving Arkansas and defending others. Officer Carr made it his mission to make our State a safer place for everyone.

Officer Carr served as a protector, promoted peace and justice, and demonstrated the valor and integrity that the uniform embodies.

Our hearts are broken as we grieve this unthinkable loss. Today, we vow never to forget his memory and pledge to honor his life of service forever. I join all of Arkansas this morning in the mourning of the loss of Officer Stephen Carr. Our prayers are with his family, his loved ones, and the Fayetteville Police Department.

I also recognize Corporal Seay Floyd and Officer Natalie Eucce, who immediately engaged and eliminated the suspect.

Our police deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. While they know the risks they face are greater than ever, they refuse to shy away from their mission to protect and serve.

Stephen Carr was a native of The Woodlands, Texas. Mr. Speaker, my friend and colleague Representative KEVIN BRADY would have been on this floor this morning to offer his condolences to the family, a family that he knew personally, but because of a markup in the Ways and Means Committee, he is unable to be on the floor with me this morning.

Mr. Speaker, if it please the House, I would like to ask for a moment of silence for Officer Carr, who will be laid to rest tomorrow, and, in fact, for all of our heroes who have faced the end of watch.

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CELEBRATING HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise with love of country at heart and my mnemonic notes in hand.