

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.

□ 1015

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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the preeminent privilege and singular honor of paying tribute to a great American institution. I do so with H. Res. 760, commemorating Houston Methodist Hospital for 100 years of service, 100 years of world-class healthcare, 100 years of saving lives, 100 years of groundbreaking research.

Houston Methodist Hospital, the world's first multiorgan transplant hospital; first coronary bypass, grafting with the patient's leg vein; ranked the number one hospital in Texas for 8 consecutive years and a national honor roll hospital by U.S. News and World Report.

Houston Methodist has eight hospitals, employing more than 23,000 persons, 1.3 million patient encounters last year alone, acknowledged for their outstanding specialties in neurology, neurosurgery, pulmonology, orthopedics, cancer, cardiology, heart surgery, and urology.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to say that all of my colleagues in the Houston area are cosponsors of this resolution—original cosponsors, I might add. This would include the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the Honorable LIZZIE FLETCHER, the Honorable PETE OLSON, the Honorable SYLVIA GARCIA, the Honorable MICHAEL MCCAUL, the Honorable RANDY WEBER, the Honorable BRIAN BABIN, the Honorable DAN CRENSHAW, and the Honorable KEVIN BRADY.

Houston Methodist has a great president who not only responds to congressional inquiries, but also to the patients themselves. I know. I have known of patients who have actually had the opportunity to see the president of the hospital. Dr. Mark Boom is the president. He is a medical doctor himself, and he is the chief executive officer.

This great institution is one that I am proud to have in my congressional district, I am proud to represent, and I am also proud to say is a part of the great institutions in the United States of America.

Houston Methodist Hospital is celebrating its centennial, 100 years of faithful service and saving lives, not only in Houston, Harris County, in the State of Texas, but across the world.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY ELITE GIRLS BASKETBALL PROGRAM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks County Elite Girls basketball program and those who were recently recognized by the Monroe Foundation for Youth and presented awards for their service to our community as well as for their athletic and their academic achievements.

Over the last year and a half, the team has won 11 tournaments. This is

an incredible achievement that speaks to their teamwork, their coaching, and their dedication. Moreover, many of the team members are also honor students, and many more are active community volunteers throughout our region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Bucks County Elite Girls basketball program for this amazing accomplishment, and we look forward to their future success.

KEYSTONE FOOD DRIVE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of the students, the staff, and the families of Bristol Township's Keystone Elementary School.

This holiday season, the Keystone community came together to help 27 local families in need. The students and staff at the school donated non-perishable items throughout November, and Oldcastle Infrastructure of Croydon, Pennsylvania, provided turkeys and pies to accompany the meal baskets.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third consecutive year that Oldcastle Infrastructure has partnered with the Keystone families. It is great to see our communities come together to help those families who have fallen on hard times, and that is what makes neighbors so great. They are always there to help others in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to see this program continue in the future, and we hope other communities will follow their lead.

SALUTE 2 SERVICE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salute 2 Service, a veteran outreach program based in Bristol, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Langhorne's Rodney Wyatt, Salute 2 Service prides itself on its ability to provide a multitude of services and resources for our veterans in distress. In addition to extensive work towards career growth and homeless outreach, they help veterans through local, State, and national advocacy, community activism, and emergency assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the motto of Salute 2 Service is "Leave No Veteran Behind." With nearly a half million unemployed veterans across our great Nation, Salute 2 Service has vowed to help find jobs for the servicemen and service-women in our community.

I am proud to represent Salute 2 Service and Rodney, and I am glad to see like-minded groups working together to help our veterans each and every day.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS THE NORTH STAR OF HUMANE PUBLIC POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am just so thrilled and excited to be reintro-

ducing my Social Security reform bill, the Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act of 2019.

Today, our prized Social Security program is at risk. Currently, Social Security is fully funded until 2035 but faces a financial shortfall after that.

And while there is broad agreement that we need to take steps to improve the fiscal outlook for Social Security, there is not enough attention given to the need to improve the system so that it works better for vulnerable populations, including women, people of color, and low-income people. My bill would both improve benefits and extend the program's solvency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to three critical components of my bill:

My bill would modify the special minimum benefit to credit workers for up to 5 additional years of work to reflect the years workers provide care for a child under 6 years old. This, of course, is especially important for women. We need to value caregiving and acknowledge that this uncompensated labor is not free. Mother work is work.

My bill also extends the benefit eligibility for children of retired, disabled, or deceased workers who are full-time students enrolled in college or vocational schools up to the age of 26 years old.

In this knowledge-based worldwide economy, this benefit needs to be reinstated. It was particularly helpful to students of color, low-income families with parents working who were at higher risk, those with parents who were blue-collar workers, and women.

My bill also provides additional benefits for all beneficiaries of any income age 20 years after their retirement. People who live beyond the age of 85—God bless them—tend to be more likely to be financially vulnerable, even with their Social Security benefit. They may have exhausted their savings by this point or have more serious health problems that may have been a drain on their finances or have faced any number of financial strains.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security has become one of the hallmarks of our safety net, and I urge my colleagues to improve this system, which has been an integral part of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security is the North Star of humane public policy in the United States, and I would invite all of my colleagues the opportunity to cosponsor this legislation and vote for the Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act of 2019.

MATTHEW CLIFFORD NAMED STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew Clifford on being named the 2019 State Middle School