

decades, the cost of insulin has risen 600 percent, a lifesaving drug that more than 350,000 Minnesotans rely on.

That is unacceptable and that is why I have introduced the Emergency Access to Insulin Act, to make insulin more affordable, and hold big drug companies accountable for jacking up insulin prices and making other lifesaving drugs unaffordable for Minnesota families.

Over the past 10 years, the cost of Canasa, a medicine for Crohn's disease, has increased by 150 percent. That is why I have cosponsored 61 bills to address skyrocketing healthcare costs.

We do not have the luxury of standing by any longer while 3 in 10 Minnesotans are rationing their medicine. It is time to sit down with my colleagues and lower the cost of healthcare.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MAYOR DEBBIE JOHNSON

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Ms. Debbie Johnson, who passed away from complications due to an illness on Monday, January 13.

At the time of her passing, Ms. JOHNSON was serving as mayor pro tem of Port Wentworth in the First Congressional District of Georgia. Mayor pro tem Johnson's colleagues remember her as a larger-than-life figure, who served the city with the utmost dedication to the people she represented.

For 17 years she worked at Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department before becoming one of the first African American women ever elected to the Port Wentworth City Council.

While mayor pro tem, she fought for the voices of the unheard and made fundamental rights and equality a top priority. One of her most important projects included coordinating events to feed the hungry during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor pro tem Johnson's work and presence will be deeply missed in Port Wentworth. Her family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

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MARKING ROE V. WADE 47TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 47th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22, I rise for the 1-in-4 women in America who have had an abortion, and the 1-in-3 women living in a State where abortion would be banned if Roe was overturned.

On March 4, the Supreme Court will hear June Medical Services v. Gee. The Louisiana law requiring admitting privileges would leave just one clinic open and one physician to provide all the abortions in Louisiana.

Although Roe is the law of the land, 27 States impose waiting periods, 12 ban private insurance coverage, 18 mandate counseling, and 43 have abortion-ban laws ready to go.

Mr. Speaker, to those waging war on the rights of women, next week is the anniversary of the Women's March. We have seen the power women wield when they march to the ballot box. Get ready for 2020 because we are not going back.

ROE V. WADE DECISION DEPRIVES STATES' RIGHTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, 47 years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States incorrectly decided Roe v. Wade. Since then, the rights of States to determine whether or not they will provide unborn children the same right to life and liberty as those outside the womb has been eliminated.

Since then, 61 million American children have been killed without a say and without due process. Since then, the Supreme Court has effectively tied the hands of those with compassion by depriving States the ability to protect life.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in his dissent in Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, saw the harm in this, saying: "By foreclosing all democratic outlet for the deep passions this issue arouses, by banishing the issue from the political forum that gives all participants, even the losers, the satisfaction of a fair hearing and an honest fight, by continuing the imposition of a rigid national rule instead of allowing for regional differences, the Court merely prolongs and intensifies the anguish."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree with the late Justice Scalia more.

HONORING JEANETTE PEDONE ON HER RETIREMENT AS ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK OF DEBATES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeanette Pedone on her recent retirement as our Assistant Chief Clerk of Debates, after nearly 17 years of service here in the House.

Jeanette grew up along the eastern seaboard but always enjoyed her summers in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey. She attended the Fashion Institute of Technology and the New York School of Interior Design. Jeanette came to the House from the Stenograph Com-

pany, where she was a sales representative. She first served as an editor for committee hearings in the Office of Official Reporters in 2003, and she became an Assistant Chief Clerk of Debates a year later.

Jeanette was a debate clerk for more than 16 years, the longest job she ever held, and served under four Speakers of the House, four Clerks of the House, and four Chiefs of the Office of Official Reporters.

As a debate clerk, she coordinated the production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from the floor of the House, recording who spoke on the floor and all parliamentary actions of the House, a pretty big job. She also assisted the official reporters and editors in gathering speeches and supplemental information for the RECORD.

Jeanette was a familiar face on the floor and had a front-row seat to history. She represented the office at a State of the Union Address, five speeches to joint meetings of Congress by foreign leaders, and many important legislative moments here on the floor. But she most fondly recalls meeting her childhood idol, Patty Duke, and her son, the actor Sean Astin, when they toured the House floor late one night after adjournment.

Jeanette retired to Lords Valley, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Joe. She looks forward to spending more time with her family, including her daughter, Courtney, and her son, Jeff. She also now has two baby granddaughters to shower with attention.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Jeanette all the best on behalf of the entire House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING REFUGIO HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Refugio High School Bobcats football team for winning their fifth State championship. The Bobcats had a 16-0 record this year on the way to the Class 2A Division 1 championship game, where they won 28-7.

What makes this win extra special is that Refugio was one of the hardest hit communities by Hurricane Harvey. Initially, the vast majority of students was homeless, and football games were delayed as the school and stadium were repaired. While the damage to homes, schools, and businesses in that community were devastating, the spirit of Refugio remained strong.

Head coach Jason Herring consistently gives all the credit to the kids who put in the hours and showed up to get their work done. He has played a big role in helping these students fulfill their potential. All in all, it was an awesome year for the team.

In Refugio, winning football games is part of the legacy that goes to building

that strong community, and I look forward to seeing what the team does next year.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the players, coaches, families, and the entire Refugio community on this achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIE BELTON

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Willie Belton, a political leader, successful businessman, and decorated war veteran who passed away on January 8, 2020.

Born and raised in Basile, Louisiana, Mr. Belton went on to serve in the United States Army and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his heroic acts of sacrifice. Later, he received the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal in gratitude for his faithful service.

Mr. Belton was also a monumental figure within the civil rights movement. In 1960, he was chosen to lead a local NAACP chapter and worked alongside some of history's heroes, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to put an end to racial discrimination and ensure equal opportunity for all.

Mr. Belton was the first African American in Evangeline Parish to run for State representative in a predominantly white district. Even though he didn't end up winning that election, he made an enormous impact on the State of Louisiana by breaking down barriers, extinguishing fear, and paving the way for those who followed.

Our prayers are with the Belton family as they grieve the loss of an American hero. His service to this country and his active commitment to social justice will never be forgotten.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT EVAN MICHAEL HOLMES

(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. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Evan Michael Holmes from Troop 95 in Upper Township on the attainment of his Eagle Scout rank. Eagle Scout is the highest rank obtainable from the Boy Scouts of America, and only 4 percent of all boys ever achieve this prestigious recognition.

Eagle Scouts are more likely to dedicate their life to service, and his service is very special. He is planning to join the Navy in February 2020. I was proud of Evan's beautiful Court of Honor that was celebrated earlier this month, and I congratulate Evan.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of Evan and look forward to big things in the future from him. Some of us look for

heroes in celebrities—God help us. Some look for heroes here in Washington—equally, God help us. But my heroes are individuals, young men like Evan, who do more, who work harder, and who know what it is to be a true American and a good person, who really care for and love their families and the people around them.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Evan the very best, and may God bless him.

THANKING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FOR DEFENDING UNBORN

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as pro-life, pro-family, and pro-child. No matter what your faith is, everyone understands that life is very precious and that life is a gift.

I believe that as Members of Congress and, really, as all citizens, we are called to protect the vulnerable, and this is one of my core beliefs. Being pro-life means not just pro-birth but being interested in the welfare of the child during his or her entire formative years.

That is why I am not only a longtime member of the Pro-Life Caucus but also the co-chair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank this administration for the work they have done to defend the unborn, including changing the rules for title 10 and expanding the Mexico City policy. I look forward to continuing to work with the administration on these issues as we come to the time of January when we remember the ruling on Roe v. Wade.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when there are no more abortions because there are no more unwanted children.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 15, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write to respectfully tender my resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND MORAL AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER).

PROTECTING OUR WATERS AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the House passed H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019. This important legislation marks a critical step forward in addressing the public health crisis caused by so-called forever chemicals like PFAS.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, certain compounds of PFAS, like PFOA and PFOS, are known to cause liver damage, thyroid disease, asthma, birth defects, and even some cancers.

Unfortunately, for many in northeast Wisconsin, this fight is personal and tragic. Anyone who has been to our small corner of the country knows that water is part of what makes northeast Wisconsin so special and beautiful. Unfortunately, this water, which is so central to our way of life, is under threat from chemicals like PFOA and PFOS.

While until recently, PFAS was an unknown contaminant. Recent studies give us a better understanding of the risks posed by compounds like PFOA and PFOS. Not only have our communities been unwittingly placed at risk by these toxins, but it has taken far too long to get them the resources required to mitigate their effects.

As a result, these toxic chemicals have contaminated local water sources and literally poisoned the well from which Wisconsinites drink.

No one should be afraid to drink or use the water from their tap. The fact that this is the case for many across the country, including in northeast Wisconsin, and in Peshtigo, in particular, means one thing: We must act with a sense of urgency to defend our communities and protect the clean water that underpins our way of life.

As a member of the PFAS Task Force, I am committed to finding ways to combat PFAS and its negative effects on our communities.

Last year, Representative DELGADO and I introduced the PFAS Right-to-Know Act, a bipartisan bill that would require PFAS to be listed on the Toxics Release Inventory and require manufacturers, processors, and producers to report their usage of PFAS chemicals to the EPA.

Signed into law last month as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, this bill provides communities with a better understanding of where these toxins come from so we can better combat their effects. While this was an important first step, there is more to be done.

The PFAS Action Act builds on last year's progress through a number of important provisions. It designates