

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
DURING COVID-19

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, while we must continue to focus on flattening the curve and supporting struggling Americans here at home, we must also help combat the spread of COVID-19 abroad. The pandemic is just beginning in many developing countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. It is not hard to imagine a worst-case scenario as COVID-19 ravages these fragile nations, particularly in areas already plagued by conflict and extremism. The destabilizing impact that the virus will have on economies, government institutions, and communities is deeply concerning.

This is a global pandemic, and the work that we do overseas makes us safer here at home, too, as this virus continues to spread. Since the outbreak began, the U.S. has provided \$775 million to over 100 countries around the world to combat the spread of COVID-19. This commitment builds on over two decades of sustained U.S. leadership and investment to strengthen health systems and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. In addition, according to the State Department, the American people, NGOs, faith groups, and the private sector have also stepped up to provide an estimated \$3 billion in donations and assistance to save lives around the world.

However, we must ensure that these vital resources are used as effectively and efficiently, as possible. Unfortunately, the Chinese Communist Party continues to cover up their culpability—withholding test samples, lying about mortality rates, and suppressing doctors and journalists from covering the facts and ultimately undermining the global response. I support the Trump administration's efforts to insist on transparency and accountability. This includes accountability at the World Health Organization, which failed to immediately and effectively respond to this global pandemic. We cannot allow taxpayer resources to go toward organizations that were complicit in this cover up until there is accountability.

Our assistance must not only consider the short-term needs of vulnerable populations and our partners overseas, but also longer-term recovery efforts to generate economic growth and opportunity. In this unpredictable time, authoritarian regimes, terrorist groups, and hostile nation states will try to take advantage of the chaos for strategic gains. The Chinese Communist Party, acting as both the arsonist and the firefighter, is leveraging this pandemic to project their power and influence through economic dependencies created by their Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As African nations cry out for much-needed debt relief from China's predatory BRI lending, reports are already emerging that China is seeking to condition relief on the handover of strategic assets, such as copper mining assets in Zambia.

We must consider the follow-on shocks of COVID-19—on nascent democracies, counterterrorism operations, refugee camps, vaccination campaigns, education systems, food security, and nutrition interventions—as

existing humanitarian crises, security threats, and development challenges are compounded and exacerbated. The U.S. must be strategic in our investments and adapt and prioritize our assistance to prevent further destabilization and conflict in the wake of COVID-19. Otherwise, the cost, in both lives and foreign assistance dollars will be exponential in the long run.

I applaud Representative YOHO and Representative BERA for organizing this special order and for working across the aisle to address this crucial issue. I would also like to thank the frontline healthcare workers, both in my district and around the world, for their life-saving work. Finally, I would like to thank the NGO community and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition for their leadership and advocacy.

COVID-19 LANGUAGE ACCESS ACT

**HON. GRACE MENG**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the critical need for translated COVID-19 outreach materials during this pandemic response. We must ensure that language barriers do not prevent individuals from accessing vital and potentially life-saving information.

No one must be left in the dark. Each of us must do our part to overcome this unprecedented public health crisis. And yet, there are over 25 million people across our nation who have limited English proficiency.

That is why I introduced the COVID-19 Language Access Act, which would require any federal agency that receives coronavirus-related funding to provide COVID-19 written resources to the public in 19 languages: Spanish, Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, Haitian Creole, French, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Russian, Tagalog, Urdu, Vietnamese, Greek, Polish, Thai, and Portuguese. These selected languages are based on the languages required in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Language Access Plan for Disaster Assistance.

The CDC already provides language accessibility telephone services in 16 languages and some COVID-19-related material in up to 14 languages. Additionally, the CARES Act requires the SBA to provide resources in 10 languages.

Madam Speaker, fighting this pandemic requires the collaboration of everyone. But to do so, we must eliminate any language barrier for our constituents, so that they are best prepared, informed, and ready to fight against this pandemic. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR.  
PETER KLEIN

**HON. TOM MALINOWSKI**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Peter Klein, a World

War II veteran and beloved member of the VFW Post No. 335 in Cranford, NJ.

Mr. Klein is typical of his war time generation. He is soft-spoken, and self-effacing, never bringing up his wartime experiences unless you broach the subject first. Even then, his humility is an obstacle you must overcome to get him to truly discuss his history, and history is what he does indeed possess.

In World War Two, Peter Klein was a military trained medic. He was armed in battle with only his modest medical kit and the knowledge he was taught on how to give first aid and comfort to those down on the battlefield of war. His very first opportunity to put his expertise to use was a significant one. Mr. Klein was in the third wave of the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach, on June 6, 1944. Rushing off the landing craft, he soon found himself knee deep in sand tending to those boys who had fallen while machine gun bursts flew above his head.

As if D-Day wasn't enough, he went on to see action during the frigid Battle of the Bulge and Hurtgen Forest, in Germany as well. These were two of most significant events of the latter stages of the war. Mr. Klein undoubtedly did his part in fulfilling his obligations to the country he loves.

Coming home after the war, Mr. Klein found work as a mason and building inspector, raising a fine family in the town of Cranford, NJ. His wife passed a few years ago and he will tell you his life will never be the same. He still visits the VFW Post in Cranford on a weekly basis, "shooting the breeze" with his veteran buddies and enjoying his 97th year of life. To the men and women of the VFW post No. 335, he has always been and will always be their "Pete," a very special veteran.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of Peter Klein.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH  
EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
ACT OF 2020

**HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2020.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is disproportionately affecting communities of color—including Latino, African American, and Asian American communities—who already face exacerbated risk factors for health inequities. This unprecedented public health crisis underscores the health disparities and racial inequities that have existed in the U.S. health care system for many years. Most importantly, it points to the need to implement a comprehensive and strategic plan to improve the health and well-being of communities of color through a health equity perspective, which the Health Equity Accountability Act (HEAA) puts forth.

HEAA 2020 provides critical federal resources and establishes policies and infrastructure to eliminate long-standing health inequities. It would improve data collection and reporting, expand access to health care, build more robust telehealth systems, implement

more culturally and linguistically appropriate care, and eliminate Medicaid funding limitations for the U.S. territories, among other priorities for the communities we represent.

For the past 17 years, the Congressional Tri-Caucus—comprised of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC)—has led to the introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA).

Since its initial introduction, HEAA has resulted in key legislative proposals that have been passed into law—such as the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA), the creation of the Office of Minority Health, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act.

I urge this body to swiftly pass this legislation.

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HONORING NEAL SMITH AS IOWAN  
OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Neal Edward Smith of Des Moines, Iowa—in recognition of his 100th birthday—as our Iowan of the Week.

Neal served our state as 'the gentleman from Iowa' in the United States House of Representatives from 1959 to 1995—the longest that any Iowan has ever served in the House. As the current representative of Iowa's 3rd Congressional District, which spans much of the same area Mr. Smith represented here in Washington, I was glad to have the example he set to look to when taking office last year.

As a fifth-generation Iowan, I've grown up with Mr. Smith's legacy across our state. Whether it's families using the Neal Smith Trail, employees working in the Neal Smith Federal Building, folks visiting the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, or even students studying to be a part of next generation of leaders at the Neal Smith Law Center at Drake University—all of us feel the presence of this Iowa legend and newly minted centenarian.

Mr. Smith honored our country by serving in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II as a bomber pilot. After his plane was shot down, Mr. Smith received a Purple Heart, Air Medal, four oak leaf clusters and nine battle stars for his bravery and heroism.

After exiting military service, Neal graduated both college and law school before entering public service, serving as the assistant county attorney for Polk County. In 1958, he was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and he was reelected 17 more times after that.

It is an honor to commemorate Neal's commitment to public service for his 100th birthday, and applaud this 'gentleman from Iowa' for his hundred years of hard work and dedication to making Iowa better for everyone. Happy birthday, Neal.

REMEMBERING CHARLES "CHUCK"  
ALAN STRANGE

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles "Chuck" Alan Strange from Surprise, Arizona.

He was loved by many including his wife, Rosie, his three children, Alan, Chris and Laura, his two sisters, Barbara and Carolyn, and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Chuck served honorably in the Army for 21 years, including as an Army Ranger for 3½ years in combat in Vietnam.

During his service, he was awarded: 7 O/S Bars—(7) six month deployments overseas; Bronze Star Medal with 12t-3rd Oak Leaf Cluster; Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal; Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Star and three Bronze Stars—5 Campaigns; Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Medal 1st and 2nd Awards; Meritorious Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal 1st–7th Award; National Defense Service Medal; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device 1960; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Bronze Star; Combat Infantry Badge; Vietnam Ranger Badge; and Expert Rifle Badge with M–14 Bar.

He was a member of the Peoria Chamber for more than 15 years and served on the Board of Directors as well and many other positions.

Chuck also served on the Peoria & Surprise Regional Chambers and was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Surprise.

He was active in many charities and volunteer positions including Luke Air Force Base, Military Affairs and the Rio Vista Veterans Memorial Wall.

On this day, we as a community honor him and ask those who knew him to pray for his family during this time of mourning.

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HONORING STEVEN M. DUBINETT,  
M.D. 2019 WILLIAM S. MIDDLETON  
AWARD WINNER

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mr. LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Steven M. Dubinett—a pulmonologist, professor, and researcher at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System—in recognition of his life-saving contributions to the field of oncology and lung cancer research.

The William S. Middleton award is the VA Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development Service's (BLR&D) highest honor. Named for the VA's chief medical director between 1955 and 1963, it is reserved for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to biomedical and bio-behavioral research that is relevant to the lives of veterans.

As many people know, the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) is a

beacon in the community and indeed the country for high caliber researchers who dedicate their careers to improving the quality of life of those who have served. Dr. Dubinett is an exemplary representative for both VAGLAHS and his profession.

In addition to his admirable dedication to service, his work proves the valuable connection between basic research and real-world treatment applications. His research has directly led to a new treatment regimen and immunotherapy trials for lung cancer patients.

As a veteran, I have worked hard to ensure that our nation's service members are given the chance they deserve to succeed. I am always deeply moved by the work our partners do at the VA, in the non-profit sector, and at the state and local level to improve outcomes for our nation's veterans. That work—and all the headway we have made—is threatened by every new case of cancer, our progress undermined each time we fail to beat what has claimed the lives of too many veterans at home. Simply put, Dr. Dubinett is one of our most valuable allies in that fight.

From his work on in situ vaccination strategies and his research for the National Lung Screening Trial, to his membership on philanthropic boards and his mentorship of the next generation of scientists, the American people owe Dr. Dubinett a debt of gratitude. I am honored to count him among my constituents.

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HONORING IOWA'S HEALTH CARE  
WORKERS AS IOWANS OF THE  
WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, each week, I honor an Iowan who has done something outstanding that deserves to be recognized. I started my 'Iowan Of The Week' because I want to honor our unsung heroes, our everyday Iowans who leave a positive impact on their community not for reward, but because that is who they are. I've found parents, teachers, and farmers to celebrate each week.

This week, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Iowans a little differently. I ask you to join me in honoring all our health care workers. Our doctors, our nurses, our PAs, our RNs, our medical residents, our hospital administration staff and so many more have gone into work each day, working tirelessly as this outbreak of COVID-19 has spread across this country. They are working extra shifts and additional hours, leaving their families at home. They know they must work to contain this outbreak while taking extra precautions to keep themselves and their families safe.

As schools, small businesses, restaurants, and more close down to minimize the spread, our health care workers know that they will never be shut down. They are our first and last lines of defense against this outbreak, and I know they will see us through it. I've spoken with many in the health care field this week, and I've heard how they are being asked to cover longer shifts, to conserve medical supplies, and to care for and comfort patients. At a time when many Americans are working from home and engaging in social distancing,