

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ALEX
AZAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Alex Azar, 80, of Salisbury, MD. He is remembered as a brilliant and devoted physician, passionate for his family and community.

Born May 4, 1939, in Johnstown, PA Dr. Azar graduated from Westmont Hilltop High School in 1957. He attended University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for three years before accepting early admission to Pitt's Medical School where he graduated magna cum laude in 1964. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, an Honor Medical Society membership I shared with him, as well as Phi Beta Kappa.

After interning at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital, he served as a Captain in the US Army Medical Corps at Fort Bliss, TX from 1965–1966. He eventually completed a preventive medicine and ophthalmology residencies at the Ohio State University.

In 1976, Dr. Azar joined Dr. Robert Dickey in practicing ophthalmology in Salisbury. Over the course of 40 years, he founded both the Peninsula Eye Center and the Azar Eye Institute. He discovered several new and innovative eye surgical techniques and ophthalmology care to several communities on the peninsula across southern MD and DE.

He was noted for his devotion to his patients, never denying care because of a patient's inability to pay. He often made house calls in the evening, even performing eye surgery on a patient in a rocking chair on his porch on Smith Island.

As part-time faculty of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University, he was voted most outstanding part-time professor in ophthalmology in 2011 and 2012. In 2015, he received the prestigious Arnall Patz Fellowship Award through the local Lions Club and the Wilmer Institute for his contributions to the field of ophthalmology.

In 1996, Governor Schaeffer appointed Dr. Azar as the first and only physician member on the five member MD Health Care Access and Cost Containment Commission. He held various state and county medical society leadership positions, including President of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society.

An active member of his community, Dr. Azar served on the Board of Directors of the local YMCA, the Board of the Three Lower Counties, the Center for a Healthy Maryland, the local Humane Society, as treasurer of the Camp Horizon Board of Directors, and as an officer of the Greater Salisbury Committee. He was also a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Wicomico Lodge #91, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and the Scottish Rite.

I am honored to acknowledge the legacy of a fellow caregiver and community servant. I join his family and community today in celebration and memory of his lifetime of meaningful contributions to humanity.

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HONORING BENTON, ARKANSAS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize the City of Benton, Arkansas, for the healing and hope promised as part of their Wall of Prayer in the city's downtown.

Benton Mayor Tom Farmer has constructed a lattice wall for residents to share their prayer requests on while preparing for the National Day of Prayer, May 7.

This initiative reflects that many of Benton's residents are looking for opportunities to maintain their sense of community during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19 while at the same time staying safe by following social distancing guidelines.

Residents are encouraged to hang a prayer written on a piece of cloth on the wall, and each day at noon until May 7, faith leaders will pray over the wall uniting in the shared experience.

While they are there, they can further show support for their community by taking a picture with the nearby "I Love Benton" sign.

I congratulate Mayor Farmer and the City of Benton for this creative way to come together and pray for our community, and I look forward to joining in prayer for this strong community on May 7.

RECOGNIZING SWEDISHAMERICAN HOSPITAL FOR SHARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WITH THE ROCKFORD COMMUNITY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SwedishAmerican Hospital for its kindness and generosity in sharing personal protective equipment with at least 15 long-term care and rehabilitation facilities in Rockford, Illinois. The hospital recognized a need in the community and decided to use their resources to step up.

SwedishAmerican Hospital has received numerous donations in the past two weeks, allowing it to share gloves, hair nets, masks, Lysol wipes and other items. When other facilities were running low on supplies and did not have the capacity to organize and accept donations themselves, SwedishAmerican Hospital stepped in and helped ensure that supplies were delivered. For more than a century, this hospital has been serving the Rockford

community in many ways. The people working at SwedishAmerican Hospital are Hometown Heroes for all they do to serve patients and their community.

It is because of community leaders such as SwedishAmerican Hospital that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize SwedishAmerican Hospital for identifying the need in the Rockford community and filling that need.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DURING COVID-19

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, government and public health officials in the U.S. have started grappling with how to reopen the economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of this discussion has understandably focused on what we need to do here in the U.S. such as drastically expanding testing capacity and hiring additional personnel to conduct a massive amount of contact tracing. For us to be prepared to prevent outbreaks here at home, however, we also have to think beyond our borders.

The reality of infectious diseases like COVID-19 is that outbreaks anywhere in the world threaten transmission here in the U.S. The pandemic has upended countries in almost every corner of the world, but the impact on developing countries will be especially devastating. Not only do these countries already have low-resourced health systems but many are facing other challenges caused by conflict, climate change, droughts, migration and displacement. Their ability to prevent, contain, and respond to outbreaks is severely limited, making assistance from the international community critical.

While the prevalence of COVID-19 in most developing countries remains unknown due to limited testing, the impact of the crisis is already taking its toll. The economic fallout from the pandemic will hit vulnerable populations the hardest; hundreds of millions of people could be pushed into poverty. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has warned of a looming food crisis caused by significant strains on the global food supply chain. By the end of this year, the number of people on the brink of starvation around the world could double.

In the short-term, the U.S. must bring significant investments in emergency economic and humanitarian relief to the table. The potential for drastic increases in poverty and widespread famine will foster further instability and displacement. Progress in developing countries to reduce conflict, increase economic opportunity, and promote good governance will be set back. Providing immediate additional resources to combat COVID-19 in other countries will not only alleviate the humanitarian

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

crisis and reduce its potential destabilizing impacts, but it will also help prevent new outbreaks here in the U.S.

In the long run, the work to prevent future outbreaks and combat the next pandemic is never-ending. The investments we make today in global health and development will help determine our ability to prevent and combat future outbreaks. For decades, unfortunately, this work has been underfunded. We have to increase our funding for global health security to strengthen health systems in developing countries so they are better prepared to contain diseases and prevent outbreaks. Investments in development and economic assistance, global health, and humanitarian relief are also vital for countries to improve their outbreak response and recovery. Efforts to cut these programs and gut key agencies such as USAID, the State Department, and the CDC are short-sighted and harm the long-term health and economic wellbeing of the U.S.

In the coming months and years, a lot of attention will be given to questions around how the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded and how we prevent and better mitigate future outbreaks. We must use this opportunity to reinforce the value of U.S. global leadership and make the case for strengthened investments in global health and development. If anything, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder that these investments are critical to protecting the health, economic, and security interests of the U.S.

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL
(ICC)

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Building Safety Month and the men and women of the International Code Council (ICC) for their dedication to public safety.

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council and its partners to remind the public about the role our code officials' play in ensuring safe, efficient, and livable buildings. The theme this year is "Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World," and encourages all of us to raise awareness of the importance of safe and resilient construction, fire prevention, disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry.

The International Code Council brings together local, state and federal officials to develop an international standard to protect us in the buildings we live, work, and play in. Those standards are then implemented year-round by building safety officials, architects, engineers, and laborers to ensure the safe construction of buildings.

Building and fire prevention departments are essential to the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic by protecting the health and welfare of building occupants. They enforce regulations requiring sanitation of hospitals, plumbing systems, and adequate facilities for handwashing. They inspect existing infrastructure, including plumbing, mechanical, ancillary, and fire safety systems to verify safe maintenance.

With natural disasters increasing in frequency and severity, building codes include important safeguards to protect the public from snowstorms, tornadoes, and earthquakes. In April of this year, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) found adopting modern building codes saves \$11 for every \$1 invested. This means fewer casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the International Code Council Board President and Chief Building Officer for Thornton, Colorado, Greg Wheeler, ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, ICC's members and staff, and ICC's partners in the construction and design community across the country as we all recognize Building Safety Month.

HEROES IN THE WUHAN VIRUS
PANDEMIC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the National Emergency being successfully faced by President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE, there have been so many citizens stepping forward to help fellow neighbors in need. I am grateful to recognize heroes who are making a difference.

Journalist Kara Gormley Meador has initiated highlighting innovative citizens efforts to address the Wuhan Virus with former S.C. Revenue Director Burnie Maybank of the Nexsen-Pruett Law Firm, there is free streaming at www.buzzpodcast.com. The first conversation was with President Lou Kennedy of Nephron Pharmaceutical where she explained retooling her operation almost overnight to respond to the virus. She has been welcomed to the WVOC Radio in the Midlands with Gary David and Christopher Thompson.

Dale Hatchell and Elizabeth Burt of Lexington have organized Support a Nurse to provide "Light of Love" care kits to nurses on the front lines. These kits are donations of nutritional and immunity products with a support message helping the Dorn Veterans Administration Hospital, Lexington and Prisma hospitals, and Department of Juvenile Justice.

Talk radio host Kevin Cohen has been relentlessly providing important updates for the Midlands of South Carolina, fulfilling his goals on The Point promoting charities and local events.

Halsey Cook, Chief Executive Officer of Milliken & Company of Spartanburg is continuing the visionary tradition of the late Roger Milliken. Milliken & Company of Spartanburg is developing the manufacturing process for a new nanofiber with antiviral properties in cooperation with retired Colonel David Lobb of Aiken and Ascend Materials of Florida.

Scott Gottlieb of the American Enterprise Institute in The Wall Street Journal (April 12) has thoughtfully presented a plan to reopen the economy for jobs with companies diagnosing coronavirus cases in the workplace. He understands healthy citizens need a healthy economy.

Ambassador Andre Haspel of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has thoughtfully forwarded

encouragement to members of the Congressional Caucus of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The alliance of the Netherlands and the United States is strong and appreciated to defeat the Wuhan Virus.

General Milford Beagle, Commander of Fort Jackson, with Army Chief of Staff Major General James McConville have been pro-active to protect the lives of new recruits and the dedicated personnel at Fort Jackson. The installation trains nearly 50 percent of all Soldiers and more than 60 percent of all women entering the Army each year.

Cecil Staton, President and CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners of America, with Vice President Chirag Shah have worked tirelessly to promote the gruesomely impacted hospitality industry. AAHOA is the largest hotel owner's association in the world with 20,000 members owning half of hotels in America.

Walgreens Drug Stores with the dedicated staff in West Columbia is appreciated for featuring "Thanks to our frontline heroes." On Saturday, first responders, law enforcement, doctors and nurses will receive 30 percent off Walgreens brands and 20 percent off other brands. Drug stores, grocery stores, convenience stores and grocery stores, truckers, and other essential enterprises have been vital service for communities.

RECOGNIZING LESLIE WILLIAMS
FOR SEEING A NEED IN THE MO-
LINE COMMUNITY AND MAKING
OVER 1,200 MASKS FOR ANYONE
WHO NEEDS ONE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leslie Williams for recognizing a need in Moline, Illinois for protective masks and making over 1,200 of them for police, firefighters and all who need them.

Leslie is currently out of work as a server and owner of a cleaning company; but is using her time to help others by creating masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The masks are meant to go to first responders, front liners and all who need them. She says there is always something we can do to help others and that mentality is why she is a Hometown Hero. Leslie is using her forced time off to do good in the world and in her community. I commend Leslie for her efforts to help others and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

It is because of leaders such as Leslie Williams that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Leslie Williams for her generosity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOGNIZING THE FISCAL IMPACT
OF THE CORONAVIRUS PAN-
DEMIC ON THE TOWN OF SCOTCH
PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the devastating impact the