

for healthcare. It's absolutely unacceptable to propose forcing a greater financial burden on our nation's veterans. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of H.R. 579, the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, which would protect our veterans from these unnecessary TRICARE fee increases. Our promise of affordable health care for our veterans is one that we must keep.

Additionally, the generation of veterans returning home from combat areas in Iraq and Afghanistan requires new resources to treat their medical needs. However, rather than re-investing in treatments for traumatic brain injuries (TBI), the Administration has barely scratched the surface of addressing the mental health needs of our veterans. That's why I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 1944, the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act, which would require the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to actively screen and develop long-term care programs for veterans suffering from TBI.

Furthermore, we must not allow the substandard care, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and dilapidated conditions at Walter Reed to symbolize our dedication to our veterans. I was pleased that the House unanimously passed H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will reduce much of the bureaucracy that prevents veterans from receiving quality healthcare, require more caseworkers to be hired, improve the system enabling wounded soldiers to transition from active duty to the VA system, and create a system of patients advocates to hold the VA accountable for problems.

We cannot allow this Administration's record of broken promises to our veterans become an accepted standard of treatment. We can do better. I have introduced H.R. 508, the Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act, which would require sufficient funding for veterans' health care every year and would guarantee broad physical and mental healthcare for our veterans.

Memorial Day reminds us that meeting the needs of our service men and women requires sustained commitment and determination. We have a moral obligation to ensure that our veterans have the benefits they need. Their profound dedication and patriotism deserve no less.

IN MEMORY OF RALPH BERING
BUSCH, JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend Ralph Bering Busch, Jr., MD, who passed away on May 23 at age 84.

Dr. Busch was a medical pioneer in Ventura County, California. In the 1960s, Dr. Busch and his partner, M. Kathleen Belton, MD, became the first anesthesiologists to practice in Ventura County. They covered St. John's Hospital in Oxnard, Santa Paula Memorial Hospital, Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, and occasionally Ojai Valley Community Hospital. Dr. Busch served at Santa Paula Memorial Hospital for twenty years and retired from Community Memorial Hospital in 1989.

Dr. Busch came to California after serving in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy for four

years, after graduating from high school, college, and medical school in the Midwest. He interned at University of Southern California, Los Angeles County Hospital and then practiced at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank for the next ten years.

In 1959, he married Deborah "Deedee" Bennett of Palm Springs. As their family grew, they decided to seek the country life of Ventura County. It was a good choice for them and for Ventura County. Ralph and Deedee have been blessed with six children and eighteen grandchildren.

In addition to his dedication to his practice and his family, Dr. Busch dedicated himself to the greater medical community and the community in which he lived. He was a past member of the California and American Societies of Anesthesiology, Ventura County Medical Society, Community Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, Ventura County Museum of History and Art Board of Directors, and Berry Petroleum Co. Board of Directors. He was a forty-five-year member of Saticoy Country Club.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Dr. Ralph Bering Busch, Jr., as a good friend, a loving family man, a pioneer in Ventura County medicine, and one who worked to make his community stronger. In addition, I know my colleagues join me in extending our condolences to Deedee and their family and to all who called Ralph a friend.

Godspeed, Ralph.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT M.
STEPTOE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a great patriot, public citizen, and revered member of his community, Mr. Robert M. Steptoe.

Born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on May 15, 1920, Mr. Steptoe grew up in north central West Virginia and thereafter attended Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia. He continued his studies at Haverford College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

At the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Steptoe served in the United States Navy as the commanding officer of two ships in the sub-chaser class. Mr. Steptoe was involved in the invasions of Sicily, Anzio, southern France, and a brief stint in the Southern Pacific. He retired from the United States Navy with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Following his service during World War II, Mr. Steptoe graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in February 1949 and began a career in law that spanned over 50 years of distinguished legal practice in Martinsburg, West Virginia. A member of the West Virginia State Bar, the West Virginia Bar Association, the Berkeley County Bar Association, and the United States Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit; Mr. Steptoe was awarded the Award of Merit by the West Virginia Bar Association in 2003 in recognition of his years of service.

Mr. Steptoe was also an active public servant who was elected to the West Virginia

House of Delegates for four terms and the West Virginia Senate for two terms. He also served as a judge of the West Virginia Court of Claims.

In addition to his professional activities, Mr. Steptoe was an active member of the Rotary, Trinity Episcopal Church, and a member of the Elks Club. Above all, Mr. Steptoe was a proud and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Steptoe's life and accomplishments are truly representative of the courage, character and altruism that is often associated with members of our "Greatest Generation." West Virginia was well served by this great American and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD L. BOUIE,
SR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many schools strive to excel in competition on the national level.

Ten years ago, the DeKalb County School system gave birth to Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School and named this extraordinary school for an extraordinary man.

For 10 years now under the leadership and guidance of the past and present principals, teachers, staff, parents, and students, this school has met and exceeded national standards.

The Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School family constantly demonstrates the will to win, the courage to win, the mechanics of teamwork and the astounding spirit of triumph gained from educating students to be the very best in leadership, scholarship, and service.

Our beloved county, children, and community will benefit from the fruits of that labor insuring that our district, our state and our nation will always be prosperous and productive.

This extraordinary school is celebrating the milestone of their 10th anniversary and I was pleased to proclaim May 18, 2007 as Edward L. Bouie, Sr. Elementary School Day in the 4th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING COLBY JOHN
BUEHLER FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colby John Buehler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Colby has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Colby has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.