

the world. I would also like to thank the thousands of volunteers and coaches who donate their time and energy to support this great program. I am pleased to recognize Special Olympics International for 40 years of service and commitment to the many Special Olympians both in America and across the globe.

12TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWA
FLIGHT 800 TRAGEDY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, today is the 12th anniversary of the TWA Flight 800 tragedy, which took the lives of 230 men, women and children off the south shore of my district on Long Island.

We must keep alive the memory of those who perished over the Atlantic on July 17, 1996—just 12 minutes after departing for home, school trips, and to visit loved ones.

Just as important, the anguished families of the Flight 800 victims deserve our recognition. As do the emergency personnel, volunteers and other Long Islanders who selflessly worked for days on end in the recovery efforts.

As we recall that fateful day, we must also examine what steps the FAA has taken to safeguard the flying public and prevent a similar catastrophe from occurring as a result of defective fuel tanks.

After 12 years, the FAA finally issued a rule today requiring flammability reduction in new and existing fuel tanks, as well as new design standards and operating rules for retrofitting existing planes.

Madam Speaker, again, my deepest condolences go to the surviving families and friends of the Flight 800 crash victims. And my thanks to everyone who helped memorialize those who died 12 years ago today and who have worked toward making sure the flying public is safer today.

KATHERINE AYDEN HOLLINGS-
WORTH CREECH MAKES HER
MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zeke Creech, formerly of my staff, and his wife Bess on the birth of their first child, Katherine Ayden Hollingsworth Creech. Katherine was born on June 16, 2008, and weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing Zeke and Bess great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father and grandfather myself, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around her to see the world through her eyes as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know Zeke and Bess look for-

ward to the changes and challenges that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch her grow.

I welcome young Katherine into the world and wish Zeke and Bess all the best as they raise her.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE
PROTECTION ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act. This bill addresses a serious problem for those Americans with chronic diseases or disabilities who have a lifetime cap on their insurance benefits and I'm proud to introduce this much-needed legislation.

Most people are unaware that more than half of all private health insurance policies in the U.S. have a lifetime cap on benefits. Once a cap is reached, these individuals are released from their healthcare plans and forced to pay for their expenses out of pocket, try to qualify for Medicaid or other State programs, or seek free care from hospitals or other providers. Some people who reach their limits may forego treatment or use fewer services, which can result in higher costs of care in the future. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation's 2007 Annual Survey of Employer Health Benefits, over half of employer-sponsored health plans set aggregate lifetime caps on covered benefits, which are most typically set at \$2 to \$3 million.

It's not a secret that medical expenditures have grown much faster than inflation, especially for those with chronic diseases and disabilities. Increasing the minimum lifetime cap will result in a net savings for Federal and State governments by allowing individuals with high medical costs to maintain private insurance rather than be forced onto Medicaid.

The Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act will phase in an increase in the lifetime caps placed on private group health insurance plans, reaching \$10 million in 4 years. The bill also calls for an Institute of Medicine study to determine the number of individuals that reach their lifetime caps.

People shouldn't have to job-hop in order to switch insurance plans or quit their job altogether to access Medicaid. This legislation will protect individuals who do have insurance and are still struggling to pay for expensive medical treatments due to their long-term medical conditions.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House on this bill and with Senator DORGAN, who has introduced the legislation in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPECIAL
OLYMPICS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I rise today in recognition of an organization that is influ-

ential in the lives of millions across this Nation and around the world. Since 1968, the Special Olympics has celebrated those who triumph in the face of adversity and achieve victory despite insurmountable odds. This organization recognizes the ineffable beauty of human life and emphasizes the dignity of people with intellectual disabilities.

In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics in honor of her sister, Rosemary. The first games were hosted at Soldier Field in Chicago, and featured over 1,000 participants from the United States and Canada. Since that time, the Special Olympics has become one of our Nation's greatest exports, serving 2.5 million athletes in over 180 nations and offering year-round training and competition in 30 Olympic-type winter and summer sports.

The Fifth District of New Jersey holds two major venues of our Winter Games each year: Campqaw in Mahwah features cross country skiing and snowshoeing, while Mountain Creek in Vernon holds alpine skiing and snowboarding.

Earlier this year, I was honored to have John Rosati, a Special Olympics participant from Mercer County, visit my office. In addition, I would like to recognize one of my own constituents, Kelley Sue Martin of Closter. Not only does she compete in alpine skiing, bowling, and track and field, but she also serves as a spokesperson for Special Olympics New Jersey and speaks at community and fund-raising events throughout the state.

As the Special Olympics celebrates its 40th birthday on July 20, I join my colleagues in recognizing the indelible impact left by this exceptional organization. Over the past four decades, the Special Olympics has been an effective catalyst for social change. Special Olympians develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, and a more positive self-image. Participants grow mentally, socially and spiritually. They exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm while enjoying the rewards of friendship and discovering new abilities and talents.

Few creeds sum up the American Spirit better than the oath of the Special Olympics: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." I applaud the Special Olympics for providing an arena for athletes to follow this creed.

TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE SPECIAL OLYM-
PICS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics. Special Olympics began through the dreams, work, and dedication of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Mrs. Shriver, along with her son Timothy Shriver, and countless volunteers have made the dream of the Special Olympics a reality for 40 years now.

The Special Olympics embody the real American Dream—a world where everybody matters, where everybody counts and everybody gives their all. For four decades, Special