

Earlier this year, as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, we took an important step forward. We passed a temporary \$8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers.

The good news is that tax credit has worked. Closer to home, in the Phoenix metropolitan area, according to at least one recent survey, home sales have reached 9,614 in June, up 11 percent from May.

However, I believe we need to expand this credit to make it available to any American who wants to buy a home, not just first-time homebuyers. As the expiration of the current homebuyer tax credit approaches, I want to encourage my colleagues to consider supporting legislation to expand and extend the homebuyer tax credit.

MEDICARE PATIENTS WILL LOSE QUALITY OF CARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I practiced medicine, general medicine, in the State of Georgia for almost four decades. The American people need to understand if the House bill or the Senate bill is passed into law, my patients and physicians like me all across this Nation are not going to be able to give the kind of health care to their patients that they are today.

Medicare patients are going to lose the quality of care that they are getting today. Tens of thousands of people are going to lose their private insurance. The cost is going to go up for everybody in this country.

The quality of care is going to go down. It's going to be too costly. We are going to be all forced on the government bureaucrat-run health care system, and the American people need to know that, Madam Speaker.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ED GRIER

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Grier, who served as the president of Disneyland Resort in my district for 3 years, before his retirement this October 9.

Ed is a 20-year veteran the Walt Disney Company; and he served in a variety of roles, from senior auditor at Walt Disney World to the executive managing director of Walt Disney Attractions in Japan. But for the last 3 years, we have been lucky enough to have him in Anaheim.

His hard work has continued to make Disneyland one of our Nation's top tourist attractions. In fact, in 2008, while most attractions were hurting, Disneyland hosted 14.7 million visitors

and generated substantial revenue for our local businesses and for our cities. In addition, Disney is Orange County's largest private employer, with about 20,000 employees.

During Ed's tenure, the resort began a \$1 billion expansion of Disney's California Adventure and constructed the company's first west coast timeshare units at the Grand Californian Hotel, which opened last month.

In addition Ed joined the Orange County community by serving as a board member for the Children's Hospital of Orange County. Ed's skill and leadership will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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CONGRATULATING SCOTT McCRERY, EAGLE SCOUT

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, for 20 years, the Honorable Jim McCreery represented Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District. It is an honor to directly follow former Congressman McCreery and represent the great people of northwest Louisiana.

Earlier this week, former Congressman McCreery's son, Scott, received his Eagle Scout award, the highest award given in scouting. Scott's Eagle project was a rather ambitious undertaking. He organized nearly 50 volunteers to remove debris from the historic grounds of Mount Vernon, home of George Washington. The debris covered an area the size of two football fields. In addition to being an eyesore, it also represented a fire hazard to the mansion. Some of the debris Scott and his volunteer corps gathered was used to build habitat for the wildlife that lives on the property.

Scott began his scouting journey in Shreveport 10 years ago when, as a Tiger Cub, he joined the Cub Scout pack at South Highlands Elementary School.

I congratulate Scott McCreery on this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY L. HAYDEN

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, Mr. Bobby Hayden, a scholar, a soldier, a community advocate and a family man.

Bobby Hayden, who resides in my district, was one of the first African Americans on a Presidential Honor Guard. He took the first watch over President Kennedy's body. He became active in our community and has added a great deal to his alma mater, Alabama A&M.

As a middle and high school teacher, Bobby has spent decades of his life shaping the lives of north Alabama's

youth. He has been at the forefront of many activities, specifically working to preserve historical landmarks in the Tennessee Valley.

Mr. Hayden is a dedicated Alabama A&M alumnus, a Bulldog, and has held several positions in the college alumni association. He was inducted into the Alabama A&M Sports Hall of Fame and currently serves as the secretary for the Hall of Fame Association.

It is a privilege for me to mention his name on the floor, as he has gone somewhat unrecognized as one of the first African Americans on President Kennedy's Honor Guard, standing with the family through the ordeal.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST JACOB SEXTON

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, sometimes our heroes fall on foreign soil, and sometimes they come home and fall, but we honor their service and their sacrifice all the same.

Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to mark the sudden passing of a hero from my home State of Indiana and to honor his service and his life. Army Specialist Jacob Sexton, a combat veteran of conflicts both in Iraq and Afghanistan, tragically passed away while on leave from his overseas duties earlier this week.

A native of Farmland, Indiana, Jacob graduated from Monroe Central High School, and like many men in the Sexton family, Jacob chose to wear the uniform.

Jacob served with Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, of the 151st Infantry Regiment in the Indiana National Guard. Those who served with him remember a selfless soldier who was quick to volunteer for difficult assignments.

A Humvee driver while in Iraq, he took on dangerous positions, often leaving himself exposed to IED and small-arms attacks. As an infantryman in Afghanistan, Jacob saw firsthand the perils of combat, but he faced those perils with courage.

Those close to Jacob noted that the stresses of combat and long deployments seemed to have little effect on his infectious personality. However, after this week's tragic events, it is painfully clear that Jacob Sexton was deeply affected by his experiences in uniform and on deployment.

While his loss leaves far too many questions unanswered, I believe it is yet another reminder of the special care our heroes need and deserve, those who defend freedom, when they come home.

Heroes like Army Specialist Jacob Sexton are the pride of their family and our Nation's most treasured citizens. Jacob's family, his parents, Jeff and Barbara; his brothers, Joshua, Jeremiah and Jared; and all those who

served with him, know that you have our deepest condolences, the gratitude of the people of Indiana, and you shall remain in the hearts of a grateful Nation forever.

OBSTRUCTING HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, let me tell an old story relevant to our current health care debate.

One day, a frog was hopping by a river when he came upon a scorpion. The scorpion asked if the frog would carry him across. The frog said, No, you will sting me. The scorpion replied, No, if I stung you, we would both drown. What is the point of that?

So the frog put the scorpion on his back and waded into the river. Halfway across, he felt a sudden sting and his body went numb. Scorpion, why did you do that? Now we will both die. Said the scorpion, It is my nature.

Today, the health insurance industry refuses to cover basic maternity care for four out of five women, while charging them higher premiums. It kicks women out of hospitals within hours of a mastectomy. No industry in history that profits from a broken system has ever moved to reform that system.

After faking support for health care reform for months, why did the health insurance industry on Monday suddenly try to sting us with a flawed and incomplete cost analysis of a health care plan? The same reason they fight to prevent competition through a strong public option, and the same reason many of my Republican colleagues have done nothing but obstruct reform. It is their nature.

SUPPORT THE AMTRAK SECURE TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS ACT

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

Mr. REHBERG. There aren't many things that are more important to the foundation of the West than trains and guns. In Montana, both still have a profound impact on our frontier identity. But these pillars of Western culture find themselves on opposite sides of the fence because of Amtrak's ban on the transportation of legal firearms on its trains.

The Second Amendment doesn't derail the right to bear arms if you happen to be on a train. We allow the transportation of firearms in cars and on commercial airlines, but Amtrak's ban on firearms remains in effect, even as it continues to receive massive Federal subsidies.

The Amtrak Secure Transportation of Firearms Act would force Amtrak to end its ban on firearms once and for all. I hope my colleagues will join me

in sponsoring this important legislation, because the Second Amendment protects you whether you travel by horse, plane, truck or train.

SENIORS AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support health care reform for our seniors. Our senior citizens deserve reform that will lower their medical expenses and provide the highest quality care available. Our health care reform legislation closes the prescription drug doughnut hole which forces seniors to reduce their prescription drug use, that is, not use lifesaving medications, by an average of 14 percent.

The House's health care reform legislation will help guarantee our seniors access to their doctors by eliminating the 21 percent pay cut doctors are facing for Medicare reimbursements. Without this health care reform, 40 percent of our doctors say they will have to reduce the number of Medicare patients they see. Our seniors deserve better than that. They deserve reform that will keep them in good health at a manageable cost.

I urge my colleagues to support quality health care reform for our Nation's seniors.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in women between age 40 and 59. We have all been touched by it with family or friends.

In my home State of Florida, an estimated 12,000 new cases of breast cancer in women will be diagnosed this year. However, if detected early enough, it can be successful in treating the disease.

To this end, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the EARLY Act, a bill introduced by my fellow Florida colleague, Debbie Wasserman Schultz. She has been a leader. She has got a courageous story that she shares with many. This act, her bill, is an education campaign, it is a public awareness campaign, and it will have a huge difference on women in the future. So I really respect her leadership on this.

In my congressional district, I am proud to say, I thank the leadership. We have been active, our employees and our businesses, over the last 10 years. Working together, it makes a big difference. I would like to just say, we need to continue to educate our families and friends on this bill.

IN MEMORIAM OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT JOSHUA KIRK

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Joshua Kirk. Sergeant Kirk was tragically killed in Afghanistan on October 3.

On Tuesday morning, I attended his funeral at St. Michael's Church in Exeter, New Hampshire. There were so many relatives and friends in attendance for a somber and moving ceremony. His wife, Megan, a native of Exeter, and his daughter, Kensington, have lost a husband and father, and this Nation has lost a hero.

Sergeant Kirk selflessly put himself in harm's way in service to America. He and his family are owed a debt of gratitude.

Sergeant Kirk, a native of Maine, joined the United States Army in 2005. He was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when his base was attacked by insurgents on October 3. Kirk and seven of his courageous fellow soldiers, all based out of Fort Carson, were killed during the long battle.

Sergeant Kirk's memory lives on with his wife, daughter, mother and sisters. We will always remember his sacrifice, and theirs, and we are forever grateful for their patriotism and service to America.

AMNESTY ENCOURAGES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, two recent surveys, one of Mexicans and one of Americans, addresses policies that encourage illegal immigration. The first, from Rasmussen, reveals that 56 percent of U.S. voters surveyed believe the policies of the Federal Government encourage people to enter the United States illegally. Also, 64 percent believe law enforcement officers should conduct surprise visits at locations where illegal immigrants seek employment.

The second, from Zogby, reveals that 56 percent of people in Mexico think granting legal status to illegal immigrants in the United States would encourage more illegal immigration to America. Of Mexicans with a member of their immediate household in the United States, two-thirds—two-thirds—said a legalization program would make people they know more likely to go to America illegally.

Madam Speaker, these are more reasons to oppose amnesty for those in the country illegally.

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1