

age of eleven years old. Like many Americans, Blake watched in horror on September 11th as our nation faced one of the most tragic days in its history. It was on that day that he told his parents that he wanted to help those people who tragically lost their lives; that he wanted to serve his country, that that he wanted to become a Marine.

Blake always impressed his superiors in all of his endeavors. In high school he was a member of the JROTC program, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant. Under his leadership his company won the year's Best Marching Company award. His JROTC service in high school only furthered his resolve to join the Marines upon graduation.

After Marine boot camp and advanced infantry training Blake was assigned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he was assigned as a rifleman and member of First Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. His unit was away from North Carolina for the bulk of late 2009 and early 2010, on training missions and pre-deployment work-ups designed to prepare them for the war they would soon be fighting. He deployed to Afghanistan in March 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. His first and only combat tour ended September 1, 2010.

Two weeks ago Lance Corporal Rodgers came home to Georgia for the final time. There he was met in the small community of Griffin, Georgia with a procession of people who had come to welcome their local hero home. He was laid to rest on September 11th, a somberly fitting tribute to a man for whom the date had overwhelming significance.

Lance Corporal Rodgers was a true hero and I ask that you join me today in saluting one of America's bravest. I honor Lance Corporal Rodger's life and mourn deeply for his family's loss.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIE O'CONNOR

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, Mrs. Georgie O'Connor, on her retirement after 49 years of service on the Lucia Mar Unified School District Board in Arroyo Grande, California.

Georgie O'Connor's family moved to Arroyo Grande in 1928 and she attended Orchard Avenue School. O'Connor and her husband Bill have been married for 67 years and have lived directly across the street from Orchard Avenue School, which is now Arroyo Grande High School, for the past 55 years, where they have raised four sons—Bill, Mike, Pat, and Casey—all of whom attended Arroyo Grande schools.

Mrs. O'Connor has the distinction of holding tenure as the longest continually-serving school board member in the State of California. Mrs. O'Connor was first elected to the Arroyo Grande Elementary School District in 1961. In 1965 the district joined other small districts in the southern portion of San Luis Obispo County in unification and became the Lucia Mar Unified School District. During her first 15 years of board service, she was the

only female on the board. During her tenure, O'Connor has seen the number of Lucia Mar Unified School District schools grow from 4 to 17; expand to serve grades K–12, and an overall student population grow to 10,500 students.

Dedicated to serving her community, Mrs. O'Connor's stewardship and selflessness to the students of Lucia Mar Unified School District will be sorely missed and difficult to replace, but her well-deserved retirement will give her the ability to spend more time with her family. I thank Mrs. O'Connor for her lifetime of board service and dedication to the children of Arroyo Grande and San Luis Obispo County. I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, recognizing National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Month, 2010 drug and alcohol abuse is a growing problem across America, and especially in Illinois. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, drug and alcohol abuse was found among 9.5 percent of our citizens ages 12 and older in 2008.

Established in 1989, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is observed annually every September and recognizes the treatment and celebration of recovery for those struggling with addiction diseases. This year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Now More Than Ever!" calls us to unite and encourage drug and alcohol-free living. Treatment programs, family members and neighbors can all help assist those who experience addiction. It is with this precedent that facilities in my district, like Timberline Knolls Residential Treatment Center in Lemont, IL, are serving those who suffer from addiction, and are dedicating efforts in support of this proclamation.

By recognizing September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, we reaffirm the importance of education and awareness of addiction problems and the important role treatment centers across America play in addiction recovery.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Each year, Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a special time to celebrate how far we have come on the path to eliminating breast cancer, reflect on all we have accomplished, and redouble our efforts for the future.

This year is special because it marks the 20th Anniversary of the National Breast and

Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which provides breast health services to underserved women. This life-saving program has served more than 3.7 million women over the past two decades.

We have made so much progress in the past year for breast cancer treatment and awareness. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act enacts meaningful reforms for so many Americans, but it will prove especially beneficial for those facing cancer.

Through health care reform, we guaranteed that no longer will cancer patients face losing their health care at the moment treatment is needed most. No longer will those battling disease face the atrocious burden of lifetime or annual caps on their treatment. And, a provision that is not only life-changing but life-saving for all cancer survivors: no longer will anyone be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition!

If our health care system does not work for cancer patients, it simply does not work at all; so I am so thrilled to have been able to support these vital reforms for previvors, survivors, and all American families.

Early detection of breast cancer is a key to surviving the disease. We must ensure all women have access to affordable breast health services, and we must maintain our investment in innovative research to develop better screening tools and treatments for breast cancer.

When I was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after my 41st birthday, I was shocked to have to deal with the disease—especially as a relatively young woman.

So often, young women are not aware of their risks, but young women can and do get breast cancer.

That's why, as soon as I was cancer-free, I introduced H.R. 1740—the Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, or the EARLY Act, to educate young women about their risks, empower them to know their bodies and speak up about their health, and work together to wipe out this deadly disease. And, with the passage of Health Reform we turned the EARLY Act from legislation into the law of the land!

Going forward, there is so much more work to be done. Every 69 seconds, somewhere in the world a woman dies of breast cancer—nearly half a million women this year alone, making it the leading cancer killer of women worldwide. Breast cancer will strike 1.3 million women this year alone and one in eight women will be diagnosed during her lifetime. This is simply not acceptable.

There are 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in the U.S. today. I am one of those women—living proof of the power of education, early detection, and the incredible advances in treatment of the disease.

Today, we honor and recognize all those women who have won their fight against breast cancer, are still fighting the disease, those mothers, sisters, friends and wives we have lost, and those who work tirelessly every day to ensure that one day no one else will die from breast cancer.

I am so grateful to all of the wonderful and inspiring advocacy groups who have stood strong as my partners in the fight against this cancer.

During this special time we stand together in solidarity, wholly committed to increasing early diagnoses, saving more lives, and ultimately, finding a cure to wipe out this deadly disease.