

on U.S. and Japan communications and trade promotion. Throughout her long career as a corporate leader and community and civic activist, Edie Fraser has been deeply devoted to her family and friends, above all to her beloved husband, Joe Oppenheimer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Edie D. Fraser, a leader, activist, and philanthropist in the finest traditions of our great republic.

HONORING DANBURY VISITING
NURSE ASSOCIATION (VNA)

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), which is commemorating its 100th anniversary this year. Founded originally as the Visiting Nurse Association of Danbury in 1911, the Danbury VNA continues to provide a valuable service for thousands of people in Western Connecticut.

As the Greater Danbury's oldest home care agency, the Danbury VNA serves patients from a number of towns in my district outside of Danbury including, Bethel, Brookfield, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, Southbury, Woodbury and Ridgefield.

Dr. Sophia Penfield, the first licensed female physician in the State of Connecticut, along with members of the Civic Club of Danbury, established the Agency to provide care for the sick and needy, to instruct families in the care of the sick in their homes, and to teach the principles of simple sanitation and hygiene.

Founding member and first president, Mrs. John Downs served as President for an astonishing 47 years. Following her death in 1957, a recognized Board of Directors adopted the present constitution and by-laws and the agency became the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association, Inc. With the advent of Medicare, Danbury VNA became a Medicare certified home health agency in 1966. In 1993, the Agency joined the Danbury Health Systems as the home care affiliate and is now an affiliate of the recently formed Western Connecticut Healthcare, which includes New Milford Hospital.

The Danbury VNA has been a longtime advocate of preventative care for children. The agency established well child clinics nearly 75 years ago to provide physicals and inoculations. Nearly 15 years ago, the Danbury VNA recognized the challenges that many people have in getting to their physician's office by establishing the Wellness on Wheels program. This unique mobile health program for families with limited access to medical care brings a doctor, registered nurse, a social worker and others out to the community to provide critical health care services to underserved Connecticut residents free of charge. Services include physicals, screenings and immunizations for school and work.

While much has changed in light of advances in nursing practices and technology, the vision of the Civic Club and Dr. Penfield have not. The core of the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association is reflected in its mission

and philosophy to serve the community, treating patients with dignity and respect and providing home care and community health services to all in need.

I want to thank the Danbury Visiting Nurse Association for all that they do and I am pleased to congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEIRTON
MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
BASKETBALL TEAM ON BECOMING
STATE CHAMPS

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to West Virginia's Weirton Madonna High School Boys Basketball Team on winning their first state championship on March 19, 2011. The Blue Dons had a close game against Morgantown Trinity Christian High School, pulling off a win with a final score of 44-42. They finished with a record of 24-3. Both teams played with spirit and enthusiasm but the Northern Panhandle's very own Blue Dons were victorious. Much-deserved congratulations should go out to all of the Blue Don coaches: head coach George Vargo, and his assistants Mike Hagg, Chris Blair and Michael Battista. Coach Vargo and the leadership of his assistant coaches throughout the years have made positive impacts in the lives of their players, former and current. The young men of the Blue Dons basketball team should hold their heads high and know they have made all of their community very proud. They played like champions, and they have a fan in Congress.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT
TRANSPARENCY AND ASSESSMENT
ACT OF 2011

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act includes key provisions to increase availability of primary care doctors. For example, it will pay a 10 percent Medicare bonus, expand loan forgiveness programs and create flexibility within the National Health Service Corps. However, and underlying persistent problem exists in Medicare that must be corrected if we are to make primary care sustainable.

No single factor is driving the workforce crisis in medicine more than the income gap between certain procedure-heavy specialists and primary care/cognitive specialists. Last October the Wall Street Journal published an expose of the American Medical Association's Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee, also known as the "RUC".

For two decades the RUC, a specialist-dominated panel, has encouraged national health care reimbursement policies that financially undervalue the essential and complex work of primary care providers and cognitive specialists, while favoring sometimes unneces-

sarily complex, costly and excessive specialty medical services. This imbalance drives results down for patients and drives medical costs even higher.

The RUC's votes are not open to the public, yet Medicare has mostly rubber-stamped the RUC's recommendations over 90 percent of the time. Since the creation of the RUC in 1991, the income disparity between primary care versus procedure-heavy specialists has exploded.

Today, I'm introducing a bill called the, "Medicare Physician Payment Transparency and Assessment Act of 2011" that will put a transparent light on the way CMS identifies and values health care services. My bill would add public and transparent data collected from independent analysts to compare to the RUC's recommendations. It would also use independent analytic contractors to conduct surveys and collect data for physician services paid under Medicare and to annually identify services that may be over or under-valued.

I am proud to note that this bill is endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Society of General Internal Medicine.

It's time we let taxpayers, the citizens who pay the bills for Medicare, see for themselves how Medicare decides how much to pay doctors and for what.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 12TH ANNUAL
MARCH IS RED CROSS
MONTH GALA AND THE FORMATION
OF THE AMERICAN RED
CROSS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 12th Annual March Is Red Cross Month Gala and the formation of the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region.

The gala is traditionally held in the Prince William community to commemorate the work of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. This year's event also celebrates the establishment of the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region, which now serves the communities of Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria in Virginia, the District of Columbia and Prince George's and Montgomery in Maryland.

Our community is enriched in many ways by the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region. The American Red Cross shelters feed and provide emotional support to victims of disasters; supply nearly half of the nation's blood donation stockpile; teach lifesaving skills; provide international humanitarian aid; and support military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

Red Cross offices in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia are combining their operations to deliver a seamless system that carries out the mission of the American Red Cross. The strength of the American Red Cross and the commitment of

its paid and volunteer staff throughout our region help us prepare for and respond to emergencies down the street, across the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 12th Annual March Is Red Cross Month Gala and the formation of the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region. The Red Cross has always depended on the cooperation of communities, neighbors, and volunteers, and this new regional endeavor is in keeping with that tradition.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED CROSS MONTH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, March is Red Cross Month and I rise today to honor the American Red Cross, its chapters throughout the United States, and its affiliates around the world. Founded in 1881, the Red Cross is one of the most effective disaster relief organizations in the world, providing care and comfort to millions of people affected by disasters every year.

We need only look at the recent tragedy in Japan to witness the important work of the Red Cross. The Japanese Red Cross is supporting operations in 1800 shelters and has provided medical care and counseling and distributed blankets and other emergency supplies to those in need. The American Red Cross is also playing a vital role in the disaster relief effort in Japan, sending personnel and monetary support.

Earlier this year here at home, the American Red Cross provided assistance to individuals and families affected by the severe winter storms that impacted the Northeast and Midwest. More recently, the Red Cross provided shelter and meals in response to flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires around the United States.

In addition to its disaster relief efforts, the Red Cross provides training and preparedness information for individuals, families, and organizations. The Red Cross, its dedicated employees, and its many volunteers help to make a difference in American communities every day. Whenever there are people in need, the Red Cross is there.

This March, I honor the Red Cross, its employees, and its volunteers for their continued compassion and assistance in the United States and abroad.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I proudly join in a bipartisan effort with Representatives JEAN SCHMIDT, GWEN MOORE, SUSAN DAVIS, BARBARA LEE, TAMMY BALDWIN, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, DORIS MATSUI, RAÚL

GRIJALVA, KAREN BASS, PETE STARK, JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER, JACKIE SPEIER, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, SANDY ADAMS, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, MARSHA BLACKBURN, MADELEINE BORDALLO, BARNEY FRANK, JUDY BIGGERT, ALCEE HASTINGS, JO ANN EMERSON, MARCY KAPTUR, JAMES MORAN, and YVETTE CLARKE in introducing the National Women's History Museum Act of 2011.

This bill directs the General Services Administration, GSA, to house a National Women's History Museum (NWHM) in one of their properties in Washington, DC. NWHM must pay fair market value for the property and reasonable timeframes are included for the transfer of the property and for construction to begin. NWHM will be built and maintained with private funds. No federal dollars will be spent on this important, new museum.

Women's history is largely missing from textbooks, memorials, museum exhibits and many other venues. In contrast, men have hundreds of years of written and available history to reflect upon and use for inspiration. Of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only 9 are of female leaders. Less than 5 percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievement and according to a survey of 18 history textbooks, only 10 percent were dedicated to women.

The museums and memorials in our Nation's Capital demonstrate what we value. We have museums dedicated to flight, postage stamps, law enforcement and many other important people and issues of interest, but not to women. This bill would provide women, comprising 53 percent of our population, a long overdue home on our National Mall to honor their many contributions that are the very fabric of our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in filling this void and honoring our Nation's foremothers by becoming cosponsors of the National Women's History Museum Act of 2011.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to honor and recognize an exceptional organization located in Michigan's 10th Congressional District—the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce & Industry. On Friday, April 1, 2011, the Sterling Heights Chamber will mark a special day in its history with a very momentous 50th Anniversary Celebration. This "Golden Occasion" will be an opportunity to reflect upon the excellent work performed since the Chamber's inception in 1961 when it was first known as the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past 50 years, the Chamber has adapted and transformed in order to maintain its business edge, and is known as one of the premier chambers in the State of Michigan. While over the years their name has changed to accommodate their growing membership in Macomb County and throughout the region,

their mission and goals have always remained the same—"to bring features, benefits and value to their members, and each and every day strive to bring a return on that investment."

The Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been a true ambassador of economic liberty and an admirable advocate for small businesses. It has always taken a proactive approach to highlight the wonderful resources and services available to potential customers and clients. With business workshops, educational seminars and various community outreach events covering a wide range of topics and issues, the entrepreneurial spirit has been the driving force behind their initiatives to improve our economy, create a better business climate, increase the number of jobs, and enhance the quality of life for all who call this area home.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the chamber's leadership, both past and present, for their tireless work, innovative thinking and exemplary vision. The effectiveness and strength of this Chamber is displayed by the fact it has expanded its designated coverage base of the original communities of Sterling Heights, Utica and Shelby Township to also include communities in the adjoining Oakland and Wayne Counties. It captured the essence of this region by focusing on the industrial, manufacturing and engineering businesses that are unique to Southeast Michigan, and provided opportunities for their collaboration.

During these years of severe economic challenges, especially in Macomb County and in the State of Michigan, one thing has become crystal clear: We cannot afford to isolate ourselves from our neighbors based on parochial interests. The 5 million people living and working in the Metro Detroit Region need to work together to find solutions to our economic woes. This includes all stakeholders, private and public, communicating with one another and using all the tools and resources at their disposal. The Sterling Heights Chamber has always fostered this type of cooperation among its members.

I personally can attest to the positive impact the Chamber has had in Macomb County. Beginning with my years working for my family's marina business, and extending throughout my career in public service at the township, county, state and federal level, the efforts of the Chamber have been nothing short of extraordinary. The executive team, support staff and Board of Directors have always set a robust agenda to improve our economic well-being and I salute each and every one of them for their dedicated efforts and hard work.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my personal congratulations to the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry as they celebrate this milestone event. I wish them nothing but the best and another 50 years of successful service to the businesses in our community.

INTRODUCING THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This