

Evans was proud of his family and their accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Frank Evans left a sizable mark on Colorado and there is no doubt his legacy will continue to impact the state. Renaming the Government Printing Office after the Congressman is an appropriate tribute to a man who was central to its construction.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NATHAN KRUSE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Nathan Kruse, of Ottawa, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Nathan brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While a gifted athlete, having earned varsity and junior varsity letters in football and track, Nathan has also maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics. He attained a 4.0 GPA at Ottawa-Glandorf High School and is a member of and president of the National Honor Society. Nathan also participated in the German Club, Academic Quiz Bowl and Science Olympiad.

Outside the classroom, Nathan is an Eagle Scout, Junior Optimist Club member and has volunteered for numerous tutoring opportunities. Nathan's dedication and service to his community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Nathan will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nathan Kruse on his acceptance of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where he will gain a world-class education and receive invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Nathan will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONALIZE YOUR CARE ACT OF 2011

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Personalize Your Care Act of 2011.

Advances in healthcare have led to increasingly complex health care decisions and more treatment options than we have ever before had the benefit—or the burden—of choosing between. Both Democrats and Republicans

agree that individuals should be fully involved in decisions related to their own health care and should be able to make informed decisions about that care reflecting their values and their needs. We also agree that when people have expressed their wishes, particularly in a formal and legally binding manner, those wishes should be known and respected.

While there is widespread agreement regarding these principles, too often this is not the reality. Most adults have not completed an advance directive; if documents are completed, they are not regularly revisited and can be difficult to locate. Because these issues are difficult to discuss, surrogates often feel ill-prepared to interpret their loved ones' written wishes.

These shortcomings can leave families and healthcare proxies faced with the burden of determining their loved ones' wishes in the midst of crisis, sometimes with little or no information about how best to direct care. This adds not only stress and anxiety to an already difficult situation, but studies show that lack of advance care planning actually prolongs the grieving process after losing a loved one.

One of the greatest misconceptions about advance care planning is that it is a one-time event. Attempting to plan for all possibilities in a single document or within a single conversation is overwhelming and, quite likely, impossible. Where possible, this should be an ongoing conversation. Careful, early advance care planning is important because a person's ability to make decisions may diminish over time and he or she may suddenly lose the capability to participate in his or her health care decisions.

Successful advance care planning is less about legal documentation and more about facilitating ongoing communication about future care wishes among individuals, their health care providers, and surrogates. This approach recognizes that advance care documents like advance directives are not the "ends," but the "means"—they are the tools for documenting care preferences based on informed decisions that incorporate an individual's values, personal goals, and current circumstances.

This process not only provides higher quality care, but personalized care.

The Personalize Your Care Act aims to support advance care planning by providing Medicare and Medicaid coverage for voluntary consultations about advance care planning every 5 years or in the event of a change in health status. This periodic revisiting of advance care documents and goals of care recognizes that an individual's preferences can change over time. It also recognizes that the advance care plan should be updated if an individual develops a serious or chronic illness, if additional curative and palliative treatment options become available, and to consistently reflect the individual's current circumstances and preferences.

Honoring the expressed wishes of individuals must also be a priority. For this to occur, advance care planning documents must be accessible wherever care is provided. The legislation ensures that an individual's electronic health record is able to display his or her current advance directive and/or physician orders for life sustaining treatment (POLST), so that his or her wishes are easily accessible and respected. Furthermore, under the legislation, advance directives would be portable, ensuring that advance directives completed in one

state are honored in another state, in the event care needed to be provided there.

The legislation also provides grants to states to establish or expand physician orders for life sustaining treatment programs. These programs have a track record of promoting patient autonomy through documenting and coordinating a person's treatment preferences, clarifying treatment intentions and minimizing confusion, reducing repetitive activities in complying with the Patient Self Determination Act, and facilitating appropriate treatment by emergency personnel.

These investments in advance care planning will reinforce patient-centered care—engaging individuals in planning and decision-making about their future care and ensuring that those preferences are documented, accessible, and can be honored in any state and in any care setting.

I am proud to introduce the Personalize Your Care Act with the support of patient advocates, physicians, nurses, and the faith community who see every day how advance care planning improves individuals' and families' peace of mind and the quality of their care.

TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAELIS MARK NEW ESCALATION

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, the recent bombing in Jerusalem and sharp rise in unprovoked rocket attacks from Gaza have marked an escalation in violence by the Palestinian terrorists backed by Hamas and Iran. These attacks are a stark reminder of the constant threat Israel faces from those who want to destroy the Israeli state. It is also a reminder that the friendship and partnership the United States has with Israel is one that must always be protected and enhanced. Israel must be able to count on the continued support of the United States and the American people as they endeavor to live in a democracy free from the threat of attack.

In just the first 3 months of 2011, terrorists have fired more than 150 mortars and rockets into Israel and murdered five members of an Israeli family in their West Bank home. More frightening, Israeli forces intercepted 50 tons of Iranian arms, including advanced anti-ship missiles and radar, 2,500 mortar rounds, and 67,000 AK-47 rounds destined for Hamas in Gaza. The acquisition of these kinds of weapons makes it clear that Palestinian terrorists do not intend to back down from their campaign of terror.

This violence against the Israeli people is aided by the tacit compliance of the Palestinian Authority, which thus far has not stepped up its anti-terrorism efforts to root out Hamas and other terrorist elements associated with the Fatah Party. Instead, the Palestinians are generally accepting of this continued violence, martyring those who kill innocent civilians. Recently, the terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, who killed 35 Israelis after hijacking a bus, had a town square named in his honor. This behavior—and general popular acceptance of terror—only encourages further violence.

We cannot allow this escalated level of violence to be dismissed as just more back and

forth in a protracted conflict between Israel and Palestine. There is never justification for attacks on innocent civilians, and we must demand that the anti-Israel sentiment that pervades Palestine be addressed.

The Israelis remain committed to the peace process, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has done his part in making concessions that pave the way for substantive talks. This has been met by a refusal by the Palestinians to even recognize Israel's right to exist.

Every sovereign nation has a duty and right to defend its citizens. As a result, the United States must continue to support Israel's right to self-defense. Congress must ensure that the administration does not call on Israel to make concessions that endanger its security without demanding similar changes from the Palestinians. Congress must make clear its support for Israel's right to defend its citizens and demand the United Nations enforce a ban on Iranian exports of sophisticated weapons to Hamas and other terrorist groups.

SIDNEY HARMAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this week, Sidney Harman—a good friend to me and to so many—died at the age of 92. Sidney was the husband of my friend, Congresswoman Jane Harman; he lived a full, rich life, and he will be deeply missed. Sidney was a pioneering entrepreneur in the field of hi-fi stereo systems—but after his business success, he went on to make outstanding contributions to our country's civic life for decades. He was a strong advocate of civil rights who pitched in as a public school teacher; he was Under Secretary of Commerce under President Carter; he was a dynamic philanthropist who made his mark as a patron of education, the arts, and journalism. His many accomplishments, and the admiration of so many who knew him, are certain to long outlive him. But in the wake of his loss, my sincere condolences are with his wife, Congresswoman Harman, his children; and all those who mourn his passing.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, as we debate the House budget resolution today, I ask my colleagues: are you here to make a point, or are you here to make a difference?

We have reached a tipping point in our country's financial future. Our nation is pushed

to the edge of a fiscal cliff. We are over \$14 trillion in debt. CBO projects that the President's budget request will cause net interest payments to skyrocket over the next 10 years—from \$260 billion in 2012 to \$931 billion in 2021. If we continue on our current path, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and interest payments to service the debt will consume all government revenues within 14 years. We're borrowing 41 cents on every dollar. And we're borrowing from nations such as China and Saudi Arabia that do not share our values or national priorities. Moody's has warned that our coveted AAA bond rating could be at risk in as little as a year. We've seen what a downgrade can do to foreign economies, and we must not let that happen here.

Seeing the signs about our nation's financial future, I introduced legislation almost five years ago—during the last Republican House majority—to create an independent bipartisan commission to address unsustainable federal spending, putting everything on the table for discussion—entitlements, all other spending programs and tax policy—and like the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure Commission process, Congress would be required to vote up or down on the commission's recommendations. An iteration of this legislation became the blueprint for President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, or the Bowles-Simpson Commission.

The President appointed the Bowles-Simpson Commission. He established their working parameters in a manner that, quite frankly, I believed was designed to doom it to failure. Despite this, the report released last December by the commission was supported by a bipartisan majority of the commission's 18 members. It makes clear that addressing the debt and the deficit isn't just a simple exercise in rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, eliminating earmarks, and reining in discretionary spending. Those, to be sure, are important reforms, but alone don't come close to solving the debt and the deficit crisis. Reform must begin with entitlements and other mandatory spending and must also include all other sacred cows, including tax reform and defense spending.

Until two days ago, the President barely acknowledged the work of his commission. He didn't help them assemble the necessary 14 votes to send their recommendations to Congress. Then, he walked away from his commission's recommendations, first by not expressing any views on their report, then silence during the State of the Union, and again silence in his FY 2012 budget request. On Wednesday, the President finally started to recognize the seriousness of this problem. His leadership is needed. But I was disappointed that he failed to offer specific solutions, and seemed more interested in staking out political positions than finding common ground. I hope his call for negotiations across the aisle to develop a legislative framework are successful, but this seems like yet another instance where the President is sidestepping the recommendations of his own fiscal commission.

I believe that the Bowles-Simpson proposal offers the way forward for the most comprehensive and realistic solution to our nation's fiscal problems. I have repeatedly said that, while there are some changes I would make in the plan, if a version of the Bowles-

Simpson plan were given a vote on the House floor, I would vote for it. But we don't have that choice in the House.

My friend JIM COOPER, whom I have partnered with over the past four years to offer a bipartisan way forward to address the nation's financial crisis, initially planned to offer the principals of the Bowles-Simpson proposal as a substitute amendment to be considered today. Recognizing that the President's recent speech has inflamed partisan passions, he withdrew the amendment so as not to undercut efforts underway in the Senate by the so-called Gang of Six. Had the Cooper substitute been offered, I would have voted for it, even though I did not agree with every part of it, such as the reconciliation instructions Mr. COOPER had for the committee of jurisdiction over the federal workforce. I would have voted yes to indicate my continued support for the principals of the Bowles-Simpson commission. Mr. COOPER has engaged in the kind of bipartisan cooperation that we must have, the kind of forthright, realistic conversation about our nation's fiscal future in which we must engage across the aisle, across the Capitol and down Pennsylvania Avenue if we are to have any hope of coming up with a credible plan to protect the future of our children and grandchildren.

I see the Ryan proposal as an honest attempt to provide a blueprint to continue the conversation on our country's financial future and move forward so that a conference with the Senate can produce a budget plan that ensures our national security and protects the programs on which so many Americans rely. The Ryan bill may not pass the Senate, but I commend the chairman of the House Budget Committee for his courage in putting forth a bold proposal to address our nation's skyrocketing and unfunded financial obligations. While his focus is not the "everything on the table" approach I prefer, I believe Mr. RYAN could provide an opening to force both chambers and the President to deal with entitlement spending that is consuming the federal budget. He deserves credit for taking on an issue so many in Congress would rather continue to kick down the road.

It's easy to stand in the well of the House and criticize any legislation. As I look at Chairman RYAN's measure, I don't agree with every provision. I believe there are some critical issues that are missing and things that must be changed, and there are several things that I do not support and will not support if authorizing legislation is offered to implement his budget blueprint.

As I have stated, I believe everything must be on the table for discussion, starting with all entitlement spending, discretionary program spending, and tax policy. But we have reached the moment of truth for the kind of country we will leave to our children and grandchildren. Therefore, I will vote for the Ryan budget so that we can continue to move this process forward and continue the discussion.

This proposal would put our nation on course to reduce all of the publicly held debt by 2060, a feat not reached since Andrew Jackson's presidency. Relative to the President's proposal, it cuts \$6.2 trillion. Under this plan, within four years, we would reach primary balance on our debt, which the President's proposal never attains.

Reaching primary balance, which is when revenue is greater than spending less interest