

life to helping others. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifetime contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ERIC NELSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of Captain Eric Nelson of Madrid, Iowa. Captain Nelson is a soldier in the Iowa Army National Guard. In May 2011, Captain Nelson will be presented the MacArthur Leadership Award in Washington, D.C.

The MacArthur Leadership Award is given by the United States Army to those company-grade officers that demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood: duty, honor, and country. It is presented annually to 25 officers that serve either in the Active Army, the Army National Guard, or the Army Reserves. Captain Nelson was the only Iowan selected this year to receive the award.

Captain Nelson recently returned in April 2011 from a year-long deployment in Kosovo. He served with the Iowa Army National Guard Company C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation unit as part of the KFOR13 Peacekeeping Operations. His unit flew and maintained UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters while there, flying over 2,400 hours conducting border patrol, reconnaissance, and air movement flights.

I thank Captain Nelson for his honorable service to our country. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating Captain Nelson in being selected to receive the MacArthur Leadership Award. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Over the past 35 years, Republican and Democrat Presidents, as well as Republican and Democrat-controlled Congresses, have all agreed that American taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortions. Unfortunately, 14 months ago, with the passage of Obamacare, President Obama and Democrats in Congress rejected decades of consensus and abandoned the American people. Crafted behind closed doors and manipulated through the legislative process—despite major opposition by the American people—Obamacare not only attempts to destroy the American health care system, but it fails to protect the most innocent among us, the unborn.

H.R. 3 will fix this problem created by Obamacare, while also establishing a govern-

ment-wide prohibition of funding for abortions. This bill prohibits funding for elective abortions and insurance coverage that would include abortion. It prevents health savings accounts (HSAs) from being used to pay for abortions and protects the rights of conscience by making the Hyde-Weldon provision a permanent fixture rather than having to be renewed annually. This legislation is not only essential policy, but it is also morally imperative.

Madam Speaker, the Obama Administration is openly hostile to pro-life policies. We cannot allow the administration discretion over abortion policy, as with Obamacare. The permanent establishment of the prohibitions in H.R. 3 will reverse the erosion of protections for the unborn advanced by the Obama Administration. We must act now to preserve the rights of the unborn for future generations.

I firmly believe that every unborn life is precious and should be protected. Therefore, absolutely no taxpayer money should be spent on abortions, directly or through subsidized health plans. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act ensures that these protections are permanently established. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SIMON WIESENTHAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Week, I am pleased to reintroduce the bipartisan Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Act, along with Representatives ACKERMAN, PIERLUISI, BERKLEY, HASTINGS, RANGEL, WAXMAN, DEUTCH, and GRIMM. In keeping with the 2011 Holocaust Remembrance Week theme of "Justice and Accountability in the Face of Genocide: What Have We Learned?", it is important to provide educational opportunities for the youth of our Nation to understand the responsibility we all share for the human rights of others.

Named for the honored Holocaust survivor who spent his life working for justice for those murdered by the Nazis and to hunt down those who perpetrated such atrocities, this legislation would provide federal grants to educational organizations to teach students about the Holocaust. Through grants from the Department of Education, Holocaust organization programs would be able to apply for funds to improve the awareness and understanding of the Holocaust through classes, seminars, conferences, educational materials, and teacher training.

As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we must ensure that we learn from their legacy and that it is remembered and honored. Over 11 million people, including 6 million European Jews as well as gypsies, the disabled and mentally ill, homosexuals, and others, were systematically and brutally murdered in the Holocaust as the Nazis swept across Europe, destroying entire villages and communities.

More than half a century later, persecution and murder on the basis of religion, ethnicity,

and sexuality continue across the globe. We need programs in our schools that allow students to learn about the consequences of intolerance and hate, so that we can truly say, "never again."

The Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act is a positive step toward that end. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUPPORT OF THE FORCE PROTECTION AND READINESS ACT OF 2011

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Force Protection and Readiness Act of 2011.

This legislation will provide greater protections for our service women and men stationed in the U.S. and abroad. Sexual assault is a pervasive and serious problem throughout all branches of the military.

Over 65,000 servicemen and women have experienced some form of sexual assault or rape since 2002. In the Department of Defense (DoD) Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, there was a total of 3,230 reports of sexual assault involving military service members as either victims or subjects. This represents an 11 percent increase over FY 2008.

In 2008, in nearly half of all sexual assault cases the commander took no action, and only 13 percent of reported cases were prosecuted and referred to courts martial. These figures are far below civilian prosecution rates, where 40 percent of those arrested for rape are prosecuted. We must ensure that there is zero tolerance for sexual assault in the military services.

The Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services report released in December 2009 estimates that as many as 90 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. We hear too often that the reporting process may be as traumatic for the victim as the attack itself. In order to fully support and protect our troops, we must ensure the rights of sexual assault victims are upheld every step of the way.

If a victim cannot access essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, threats to her career, or because they just do not know what resources are available, the military will continue to lose valuable female and male soldiers. These service members put themselves in harm's way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. This bill ensures they are protected when dealing with the horrible tragedy of sexual assault.

The Force Protection and Readiness Act will expand the rights and protections of victims. First, it will create confidentiality protocols to protect victim rights and raise the propensity for a soldier to report their case by ensuring they receive adequate legal assistance and appropriate privileged communications with victim advocates. Second, it will ensure ease of base or organization transfer for victims or the offender, thereby decreasing fear of retaliation and bolstering victim reports. Third, it

will require that each service branch employ highly qualified experts to train and advise JAGs to handle and try sexual assault cases effectively. Fourth, it will ensure more complete sexual assault data reporting to better track DoD-wide reports and case disposition. Fifth, it will establish in statute a universal hotline to facilitate victim reporting and provide victims an immediate connection with sexual assault response coordinators.

We must put an end to what our former colleague and previous Army Secretary Pete Geren called “fratricide.” We must keep the pressure on DoD to eliminate sexual assault in the ranks.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN BECKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Ken Becker of Cresco, Iowa. For the last 34 years, Ken has worked as a journalist for the Cresco Times-Plain Dealer.

Throughout his career, Ken dedicated himself to documenting the stories and photographs of Cresco and its citizens, preserving the events and stories that have helped to make the town what it is today. Whether it was traveling with the high school basketball team to the state tournament, riding a snowmobile, or climbing the town's water tower, Ken was willing to do whatever it took to capture Cresco's history as it unfolded. His articles and pictures helped to keep the town's residents informed and interested in local happenings.

Ken believes the most important aspect of being a good journalist is to remember that “you aren't the story. The story is never about you as the writer. This is about what you're writing about.”

I thank Ken for his strong and diligent work ethic. It is an admirable characteristic found in many citizens of Iowa, and one that I hope to see all Americans embody.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Ken Becker for his decades of service at the Cresco Times-Plain Dealer. It is an honor to serve as his representative, and I wish Ken a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING NURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND METROPOLITAN REGION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing nurses in the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region during the celebration of National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 2011.

Nurses make up the largest percentage of the healthcare workforce. Washington, DC has the largest concentration of registered nurses. In addition to registered nurses, there are clin-

ical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, and other nurses, who serve patients in our hospitals, community health clinics, doctor's offices, nursing homes, private homes, public and private schools, local and federal government agencies, and private businesses.

Nurses are often patients' primary point of contact, giving nurses the opportunity to get to know patients and their families. Nurses gain patients' trust and are essential to providing high-quality healthcare. Each year, we rightfully celebrate nurses during National Nurses Week for their contributions to patients in particular and to the healthcare system in general.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 83, a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2011, I applaud the nursing professionals who serve the residents of the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region for their continued commitment to patient care. I ask the House to join me in applauding nurses in the District of Columbia, the metropolitan region, and the Nation.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work that federal employees do, day in and day out, to make our country a better place.

Federal employees are on the front lines working to ensure that our government is running as efficiently and effectively as possible to provide the services taxpayers expect. They make our nation a safer and better place. They work in every congressional district of the country and thus it is incredibly appropriate that we honor their service this week.

Whether it's the FBI agent working to find a kidnapped child, the DEA agent keeping drugs out of schools, or the DOJ attorney prosecuting a child molester—all are federal employees graciously serving our nation.

We must also remember that there are intelligence agents risking their lives every day on the front lines side by side with our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other fronts in the Global War on Terror who serve as federal employees. The first American killed in Afghanistan, Mike Spann, was a CIA agent and a constituent from my congressional district. Imagine the dangers a CIA employee or an FBI agent working side by side in Afghanistan with the U.S. military must encounter. A year ago January, I attended funerals for some of the seven CIA agents who were killed by a Taliban suicide bomber at Forward Operative Base Chapman near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Federal employees also put their lives on the line here at home. The Border Patrol agent shot and killed in Arizona this past December who was working to stop the flow of illegal immigrants across our southern border was a federal employee.

The Immigration and Custom Enforcement agent who was killed and the two who were shot this past February outside of Mexico City were federal employees.

Doctors who tend to our veterans and wounded warriors in veterans hospitals and who are developing new prosthetic devices to help them recover, medical researchers at NIH working to develop cures for cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and autism—all are dedicated federal employees. These are individuals who could find more lucrative jobs in the private sector, but who are committed to public service. Dr. Francis Collins, the physician who mapped the human genome and serves as director of the National Institutes of Health, is a federal employee. The National Weather Service meteorologist who tracks hurricanes, the SBA staffer who helps a new business start up, the FDA inspector working to stop a salmonella outbreak—all are federal employees.

Though they often receive little praise for the work they do, federal employees provide many of the services that make this nation great. Today I thank them for their hard work and service to our country.

HONORING THE JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Joint Baltic American National Committee, an organization founded 50 years ago to advocate for democracy in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and to foster a strong relationship between those countries and the United States.

Founded at the height of the Cold War on April 27, 1961, the Joint Baltic American National Committee has been a powerful advocate for democracy and independence for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. After years of oppression and occupation by the Communist regime in the Soviet Union, the Baltic countries finally restored their sovereignty and regained independence in the early 1990s. Since that time, the Committee has worked to strengthen the relationship between those nations and the United States and to scrutinize Russian policy towards its neighbors in Eastern Europe.

Importantly, the Joint Baltic American National Committee was and continues to be a strong proponent of membership for Eastern European nations into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU). When the Baltic countries became members of both organizations in 2004, the Committee focused more of its attention on promoting democracy in Belarus, where Alexander Lukashenko continues to cling to power and oppress his people. Moreover, because of Russia's use of its energy resources as a weapon against its neighbors and the violation of Georgian sovereignty by the Russian military, the Committee has reinforced its work in support of a resilient security partnership between the countries of Eastern Europe and the United States. Today, the Committee continues to advocate for a strong U.S. role in the region, to promote democracy and human rights worldwide, and to bear witness to the legacy of communism.

Mr. Speaker, the Joint Baltic American National Committee has served the Baltic countries and their citizens with distinction. As we