

WBPS have been provided greater academic opportunities in the fields of robotics and health sciences.

The results of Dr. Andrees' leadership speak for themselves. At a time of unprecedented uncertainty in our communities, she has guided WBPS to a deficit-free budget while leading the district's 800 employees. Furthermore, she has gone beyond good stewardship of WBPS and directly engaged with the West Bloomfield community to lead in the passage of a bond initiative to enhance WBPS' facilities and technology. During her tenure as Principal of Abbott Middle School, the school was recognized with a National Blue Ribbon of Excellence, the highest honor which can be bestowed for exceptional leadership in education. Dr. Andrees has received many other community awards including the 2012 MASA Winner's Circle Award, the 2012 Michigan Week Dr. Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Award and the 2012 Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Community Excellence Award in Education.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. JoAnn Andrees has not only been a leader for quality public education in West Bloomfield; she has been its staunchest advocate and in doing so, has worked with other area leaders to build a thriving community. I admire her commitment to the virtues of public service and I know that her leadership will be fondly remembered by the thousands of students, families, teachers and staff have benefitted from her work in WBPS and the broader community.

RECOGNIZING DR. FRANK BURKE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Stanislaus County administrator, Dr. Frank Burke, who turns 100 years old on June 19, 2012.

Frank was born June 19, 1912, in Denver, Colorado. He was the first child of Frank and Emma Burke, children of Irish immigrants who had fled Ireland's potato famine of 1846 and settled in Iowa. Frank spent his formative years in Oregon with his brother, Larry, and mother, Emma, who worked as an elementary school teacher in several small schools in the eastern region of Oregon.

Dr. Burke graduated from Gonzaga University in 1932, and after a variety of sales and merchandising jobs, moved to San Francisco. Under the urging of his aunt, a former school teacher, he enrolled in San Francisco State University to seek a teaching credential. In 1940, he married Dorothy Grennan and returned back to school at UC Berkeley, where he graduated with a Doctorate in Education in 1958.

Since 1939, Frank has had an exciting career that took him all over California as an elementary school teacher for Alturas Elementary in Modoc County and Mann Elementary School in Alameda County, to principal to assistant superintendent in Siskiyou, Contra Costa, and Stanislaus Counties.

Frank's final position was in Stanislaus County as the Director of Elementary Edu-

cation, where he was later promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Stanislaus County Office of Education.

Frank retired in 1975, but spent 16 more years supervising student teachers, working for Stanislaus State University as a college instructor, and working for the county office.

Frank was the recipient of Association of California School Administrators Region VII's Retired Administrator of the Year Award and continues to be very active in the Association of California School Administrators, ACSA, the ACSA Retirees' group, and the Exchange Club.

Frank currently resides in Modesto and is quick to jump into a discourse on improving education—providing stimulating opportunities to discuss new ways in which to help students learn and grow. Frank is committed to improving our community and is a frequent writer of letters to the editor of the Modesto Bee.

Frank was married for 63 years to Dorothy, who passed away in 2004. He has six children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Frank Burke for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. Frank serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an issue of great importance to the patient and provider community—the availability of critical diagnostic tests. On June 1, 2011, the Food and Drug Administration issued a draft guidance titled, "Draft Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff—Commercially Distributed In Vitro Diagnostic Products Labeled for Research Use Only or Investigational Use Only: Frequently Asked Questions."

As written, this draft guidance could jeopardize the future of personalized medicine and individualized treatment options for patients. I also want to note that when the FDA sought public comment on this draft guidance, the agency received correspondence from 54 organizations and individuals. Every comment received by the FDA expressed concerns about the draft guidance, and not one endorsed the approach.

For example, the Johns Hopkins University department of pathology surveyed laboratories at the university, and found that dozens of tests could be impacted by the guidance, including diagnostics for viral meningitis, and diagnosis of HIV infection in infants with infected mothers. Mayo Clinic indicated that certain important cancer diagnostics could disappear if this guidance is implemented as currently written. Public health laboratories, including those in my home state of California would lose their ability to identify and provide laboratory-based surveillance for diseases such as measles,

West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis virus, and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

When the academic community expresses such serious reservations, I believe it is important that FDA review and address these concerns. It is important for the Agency to work with all stakeholders, including the patient and provider communities, on a balanced approach before issuing its final guidance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 5651, H.R. 4201, and H.R. 915.

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in tribute to the 94th Anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan this week.

Republic Day celebrates Azerbaijan's declaration of its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, becoming the region's first Muslim democratic secular republic in Central Asia.

While that independence was short lived, from 1918–1920, the young Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan made tremendous strides, granting women the right to vote and laying the foundation for architecture and formal education for future Azeris.

But the new Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was soon occupied by the Soviet Union, losing the hard-won independence, and forced to become a republic in the U.S.S.R.

In 1990, as the U.S.S.R. crumbled, Azerbaijan regained its independence from the Soviets, ending a 70 year nightmare, but the journey to freedom was a bloody one.

In January 1990, referred to as "Black January" by Azeris, the Soviet army crushed peaceful demonstrations in the streets of the capital Baku.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament restored its country's independence for the second time in a century and weeks later adopted their Constitution.

A valuable international ally, Azerbaijan was among the first nations offering unconditional support to the United States in the war against al Qaeda, providing a safe transit route to resupply our troops in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan leads the Central Asian area in regional economic cooperation and is a key player in European energy security matters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in thanking the people of Azerbaijan for their friendship and in congratulating Azerbaijanis around the world on the anniversary of Republic Day.