

Since PPTA's founding in 1992, the organization has been at the forefront of promoting innovation and patient access to safe and effective therapies used to treat rare and chronic conditions. PPTA is a globally active trade association, representing six plasma protein therapy manufacturers in the United States, and 16 plasma collection companies that operate nearly 400 plasma collection centers across the country.

PPTA is distinguished in the pharmaceutical and biologics industries for the Association's dedication to the continual innovation of therapies for rare disease patients. Today, plasma protein therapies are used to treat a range of rare diseases including primary immune deficiency diseases; neurological disorders such as chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy; hemophilia, von Willebrand disease and other bleeding disorders; and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, as well as specialty immune globulin therapies that treat a range of conditions. Recognizing the unique concerns of the patients living with these rare diseases, PPTA continues to act as a diligent advocate for the protection of therapeutic innovation and patient access to plasma protein therapies. One example of that commitment is the Association's strong support of my bill, the Medicare IVIG Access Act, H.R. 1845, which will make whole the home infusion benefit for patients with primary immune deficiencies. In addition to my work on this legislation, my interest, support, and commitment extend to all of the rare disease patients treated with life-saving plasma protein therapies, and I'm proud to work on issues so vital to the health of these fragile groups of patients.

In addition to the Association's outstanding advocacy, PPTA has also led the industry in quality and safety assurance. In 2000, PPTA and its members implemented the Quality Standards of Excellence, Assurance and Leadership (QSEAL) as voluntary standards that complement FDA regulatory requirements for manufacturing plasma protein therapeutics. QSEAL certification provides a pathway for industry participants to provide independent certification of adherence to the QSEAL standards. The QSEAL program works in concert with the International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP), instituted more than 20 years ago to help ensure the safety of plasma used to produce lifesaving therapies and plasma donors.

A global organization headquartered in the United States, with an office in Belgium, and that serves the needs of chronic, rare disease patients around the world, PPTA and its members should be commended for their ongoing commitment to supporting patient access to innovative, safe and effective treatments.

**HONORING THE GRADUATING 5TH GRADERS AT GLEN MARLOWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2012*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the graduating 5th Grade class of Glen Marlowe Elementary School. They are about to enter an exciting new phase of their lives: making new friends, advancing their edu-

cation, and moving closer to the adults they are destined to become. Some of the most fundamental lessons that one can be taught, such as the importance of hard work and respect for others, have been instilled by the faculty of Glen Marlowe over the past few years and will shine through in every future action taken as they become young men and women.

I would like to offer my thanks to Ms. Kristi Duckett, Ms. Julia Meeks, Ms. Jessica Hudgins, Ms. Deanna McNaughton, and Ms. Kathy Plount for leading by example, and helping to build the foundation of a wonderful group of young people. I would also like to acknowledge the parents of the graduates. All of those carpools, parent-teacher conferences, and late night homework checks have not been in vain, and have helped prepare these graduates for a future that will be shaped by their values and vitality.

It is my honor to congratulate these graduates on achieving this important milestone and I encourage them to follow all of their dreams, wherever they might lead. I encourage my colleagues to join me today in honoring the graduating 5th graders at Glen Marlowe Elementary.

**RECOGNIZING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF CENTRAL IOWA IN DES MOINES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM**

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the AbilityOne program, which in the last several years has helped more than 50,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

The AbilityOne program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life.

I am proud to acknowledge an important local partner of the AbilityOne program, Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa in Des Moines. It is one of 207 regional Goodwill organizations throughout North America and across the world. Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa has been serving Iowa communities since 1955 with a dedicated mission, a clear vision and a strong set of values to empower people with significant disabilities to achieve greater independence, education and employment. With the support of the AbilityOne program, Goodwill's training and job placement programs help clients and their families live more independently while allowing them to make positive contributions to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I strongly support the AbilityOne program and Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa in Des Moines. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of President Marlyn McKeen and her staff for helping individuals who are blind

or have a significant disability find employment opportunities. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and make our country a better place to live.

**HAZING IN THE U.S. MILITARY**

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remind my colleagues about the ongoing problem of hazing in the United States military. Hazing, particularly racially motivated hazing, undermines our military.

Multiple suicides in 2011 by service members of color after suffering hazing drew increased attention to this problem. These incidents involved dehumanizing service members through racist taunting, harassment and physical assault.

Private Danny Chen, 19, a Chinese American, took his own life in Kandahar, Afghanistan in October 2011 after being hazed. Investigators found that he had been physically assaulted and taunted with racial slurs. Eight soldiers were charged with dereliction of duty, assault and involuntary manslaughter in the death of Private Chen.

In his annual holiday message on December 23, 2011, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta condemned hazing in the military. He later directed military commanders to review hazing policies and ensure compliance.

At the outset of this year, our colleagues in the Congressional Tri-Caucus called for public hearings and hosted a forum on the issue. In March, the Armed Services Committees' Subcommittee on Military Personnel hosted a hearing on this subject and heard testimonies from U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard representatives. Those testifying all agreed that hazing is wrong and should not be tolerated.

However, the hearing also highlighted the need for greater transparency and regular oversight in order to ensure real, measurable success in combating hazing within the ranks of our military. Thankfully, a portion of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 calls for annual reports by the U.S. Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security as well as a report by the Comptroller General, which will create help define hazing as well as create systematic means by which data about hazing can be collected and tracked.

As a result of these reports, we will have the common language, tools, data and communication needed to better prevent hazing in our military. By learning from our failure to protect Private Chen and other victims, we also hope to honor their memory.

Mr. Speaker, we owe an immense debt to our brave members of our military who risk their lives for our national security. I join my colleagues in their steadfast effort to make sure that Congress does its due diligence to ensure that hazing has no place in our armed services.