

collegiate level at the Georgia Institute of Technology, doing contract research at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and serving six years at the Georgia Department of Archives.

Outside of his academic work, Dr. Bridges has also participated in numerous state and community activities. He has served as President of the Alabama Historical Association, as a member of the Alabama Historical Commission, on the Governor's Mansion Advisory Board, and many more. He received the Alabama Humanities Foundation's Annual Humanities Award and was inducted into the College of Communications Hall of Fame at the University of Alabama. Dr. Bridges expertise is also recognized beyond the State of Alabama, having represented the United States in archival exchanges with both the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, and as vice chairman of the Information Policy Task Force of State Governments.

Ed Bridges embodies the very best qualities of a true scholar, one who knows that knowledge means nothing without the will to pass it on to others and to future generations. Dr. Bridges has done this and more through his outstanding career.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to Dr. Bridges for his service to Alabama's past, present, and future through his stewardship and tremendous leadership of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. I would like to wish him, his wife Martha and their family the very best in their future endeavors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House voted on H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that was introduced by my colleague from Arizona, Representative TRENT FRANKS. This bill would generally prohibit abortions, except in cases where the mother is at risk, 20 weeks after fertilization, the point at which studies have shown an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain.

I strongly believe that we have a moral obligation to protect life and defend those who cannot defend themselves. Recognizing the gruesome nature of late stage abortions, nine states, including my home State of Arizona, have enacted laws to restrict this procedure.

While I'm disappointed that we failed to secure the two-thirds vote necessary to pass H.R. 3803 this week, I was heartened that a majority of my colleagues in the House stood to protect the unborn. This week's vote has only strengthened my resolve to continue to advocate for pro-life policies to hasten the day when all life is valued and treated as a gift.

HONORING JACQUES ALEXANDER MARQUIS MATTHEWS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable 22-year-old young man from Shaw, Mississippi. Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews has answered the call of duty to his country and is currently serving as an active soldier in the Mississippi National Guard stationed in Afghanistan.

Specialist Matthews comes from a lineage filled with military servicemen and women. His paternal grandfather, Mr. William Carter, is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United States Air Force; his maternal uncle, Mr. James Attaway, served in the United States Marines; and his mother, Ramona Matthews, had just enlisted in the United States Army when she learned she was pregnant with her first child, Jacques.

Specialist Matthews was raised in a single parent home by his mother, Ramona, along with his two younger brothers, Chauncey and Malik. Specialist Matthews understood the pain of his mother as she struggled to provide for them and the reproach of his grandparents, William and Alicestean Carter and Susie Matthews. As his mother's oldest child, much was expected of him and he wanted to fulfill those expectations. But like many other young men, what appears to be quick and easy was tempting. And sometimes he was prey to those temptations. In fact he said and I quote, "my mother was more determined than me—for me to succeed. So, she snatched me from that wrong path and told me my life had three paths it could take and I had to choose one right then, college, military, or she was going to commit a homicide and that's all I needed to know. Needless to say, I chose the military."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Matthews has a litany of highlights during his military career including:

2008 Year. Specialist Matthews enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard.

August 2008–October 2008. Specialist Matthews did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

October 2008. Specialist Matthews completed his basic training. He was recognized during graduation for having scored a perfect 300 on the physical fitness portion of the training.

July 10, 2010–July 31, 2010. Specialist Matthews was a member of the 2089th Vertical Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion. He received the Army Achievement Medal for his Superior and Unflagging Support of his unit.

November 6, 2010. Specialist Matthews was honored with the Commanders Award for scoring 297 on the Annual Army Physical Fitness Test while he was a member of the 223rd Engineer Battalion.

November 7, 2010. Specialist Matthews while in the 168th Engineer Brigade received the Silver Castle Challenge Certificate of Achievement for having completed the Army Physical Fitness test with a score of 297. He was recognized for distinguishing himself by his excellent conditioning. He is truly to be commended for the accomplishment and de-

serving of the recognition for his sacrifice and self-discipline.

May 2011. Specialist Matthews was in the 2089th Vertical Construction Company when he was honored with the Army Meritorious Achievement Medal for his selfish service, loyalty and honor, dedication and integrity as an example for all to follow for his significant contribution to the success of his unit and the Mississippi Army National Guard.

October 2011–November 2011. Specialist Matthews received the Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his superior physical ability during the annual training while assigned to Detachment 1 of the 2089th Vertical Construction Company.

May 7, 2012. Specialist Matthews' unit, the 289th Vertical Construction Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion was activated to Afghanistan.

I want Specialist Matthews' story to serve as a one of encouragement to those who think there is no hope for change and to those who prejudge someone because of their circumstances. Specialist Matthews has expressed great interest in building an exciting career in the military answering the call at home and abroad whenever and wherever he is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Specialist Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, now serving as a member of the Mississippi National Guard currently stationed in Afghanistan. As he so proudly represents the United States, I too am proud to represent him as a Member of Congress. I wish him a continued rewarding military career and a safe return home to the United States.

ON INTRODUCING THE PCIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the PCIP Improvement Act of 2012, a bill that will make much needed improvements to the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) program, created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As you know, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from refusing to sell coverage or renew policies because of a person's pre-existing condition. While the provision already affects children up to 19 years of age, it will only apply to adults in January 2014. In the meantime, adults with a pre-existing condition can get coverage through the PCIP program, a temporary high-risk pool which has helped over 50,000 previously uninsured individuals get coverage.

While I have always been a strong supporter of this important program, I believe that some improvements need to be made in order to make it a success. Indeed, enrollment has been significantly lower than initial projections, which varied from 200,000 to 375,000. One of the biggest obstacles for enrollment in the program is a Congressional mandate requiring that individuals applying for PCIP coverage have not had creditable insurance coverage during the 6 months prior to the date they