

shift in utilization patterns in favor of costlier products coincided directly with the removal of LCA policies.

LCA policies may be a useful tool for conserving taxpayer funds, provided that patients retain access to appropriate care; however, in light of the 2009 court ruling, LCA policies are not likely to be restored without legislative action. Therefore, we recommend that CMS:

CONSIDER SEEKING LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT LCA POLICIES FOR PART B DRUGS UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES

By seeking a legislative change to amend the current statutory Medicare provisions applicable to Medicare Part B drugs, CMS could regain the flexibility to implement LCA policies for certain clinically comparable products under circumstances it deems appropriate.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JIM KOKASKA

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Jim Kokaska, who has safely returned from his most recent tour in Afghanistan. With a distinguished career in the U.S. Army spanning over two decades, his efforts and sacrifices deserve our recognition and gratitude.

Lt. Colonel Kokaska's overseas service began when he was deployed to Germany, and later to Bosnia, where he served as a combat engineer on de-mining operations. More recently, he has completed one tour in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan with the 416th Engineer Battalion. Although his position as an engineer is incredibly stressful and taxing, he has continued to serve admirably and deserves the respect of all Americans. His impressive service record is not only defined by his skills and expertise abroad, but by the continuous commitment and loyalty that he has demonstrated throughout his long career.

Lieutenant Colonel Kokaska is also a devoted husband to his wife, Jane, and father to their five children: Ashlynn, Matthew, Lauren, Julia, and Ella. He will be joined by his friends and family to celebrate his homecoming on Saturday, December 15th, at St. Linus Catholic Church in his hometown of Oak Lawn, IL.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Kokaska for his selfless contributions and long-time service to our nation.

HONORING BENJAMIN S.
SCHMIDLING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin S. Schmidling. Benjamin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benjamin has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and has led his troop in many capacities, including Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Den Chief and National Youth Leadership Training staff member. "Prairie Spirit," as he is also known by, has earned 33 merit badges, his favorite of which is golf. Benjamin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Benjamin remodeled and restored a playground area at Seven Dolores Catholic Church in Easton, Missouri, planting butterfly bushes and cleaning up the garden area. Benjamin hopes to continue pursuing his passion for hockey into high school, juniors, and college, where he plans on studying medicine with the hope of becoming a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin S. Schmidling for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW
HERRNHUT MORAVIAN CHURCH
ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the New Herrnhut Moravian Church on its 275th Anniversary. New Herrnhut, in my district of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, is the oldest Moravian Church in the Western Hemisphere. This weekend, the church and its extended fellowship will celebrate the almost 3 centuries of service to the people of the Virgin Islands and as a fellow Moravian I will proudly join them as they do so in scheduled activities.

Upholding its mission and vision to spread the Gospel and serve people, missionaries of this church, founded in what is present day Czechoslovakia, came to St. Thomas, which was then a Danish possession, on December 13, 1732, exactly 275 years ago today. Freed slave Anthony Ulrich, Leonard Dober and David Nichman arrived in St. Thomas to bring the Good News of Christ and salvation to the enslaved population.

Historical church documents show that despite the resistance and criticism of plantation owners and the general community, one missionary, Brother Frederick Martin purchased Estate Posaunberg, on the eastern end of St. Thomas and renamed it New Herrnhut in 1737. The acquisition of this property allowed the missionaries to minister directly to the slaves, which began the work of the church in the New World.

The original church was destroyed by hurricane and the one that now stands is more than 200 years old. The plain and simple design is modeled after the original Moravian Church in Herrnhut, Germany.

The New Herrnhut congregation today is ably led by Pastor Reverend Anique Elmes-

Matthew, who grew up in the Friedenstahl Moravian congregation on St. Croix. More than 50% of its membership may be able to trace their roots to the original slave members who formed the first church on St. Thomas. The Moravian Church in the U.S. Virgin Islands, present on all three main islands, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John has been a pillar of strength to the community at large, serving as a source of spiritual strength and continuity. The New Herrnhut congregation is renowned for its rich musical tradition which they have shared with the faithful around the world.

On behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the 112th Congress of the United States, I would like to congratulate the Pastor, the Board of Elders, the Board of Stewards, the 275th Anniversary Committee, and the wider congregation on this historic and auspicious occasion.

HONORING THOMAS COX, PURPOSE
PRIZE RECIPIENT

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an attorney in my District who has been awarded one of only five Purpose Prizes this year for his role in uncovering irresponsible and fraudulent foreclosure practices. The Purpose Prize recognizes people over 60 who do great things for the public good.

After years of representing banks during foreclosure proceedings—and literally writing the book on how attorneys perform foreclosures in Maine—Thomas Cox became disillusioned with the industry. He left his firm and didn't know if he would ever practice law again.

Long soul-searching led Thomas to return to law—but this time on the other side of the table. Volunteering for the Maine Attorneys Saving Homes Project, he represented families facing foreclosure. Using his years of experience, he worked with dozens of families to make sure their rights were represented and that everything possible was being done to keep them in their homes.

Representing one homeowner in a battle with GMAC Mortgage—one of the largest mortgage servicers in the country—Thomas helped uncover a practice that came to be known as "robosigning." To speed along foreclosures, the bank was approving documents without verifying their accuracy. His discovery led to a larger uncovering of systematic foreclosure fraud at the nation's largest mortgage servicers. In the end, 49 states sued these banks, winning a settlement of \$25 billion to help those who are at risk of foreclosures and imposing new loan-servicing standards.

As Thomas continues this important work today, he now recruits, mentors, and inspires young attorneys to focus less on making money and more on making positive change in their communities. "I feel more alive than I think I've ever felt in my life because it's good work," he said.

I am so grateful that Thomas took his career and life in this direction. It's a decision that has benefited thousands of families across the country and will have a lasting impact in inspiring young lawyers for years to come. My