

to meet those challenges, to save the most lives and to have the greatest impact in controlling, if not eradicating, this dreaded disease?

We also took a close look at several immediate threats to global efforts to combat malaria. On April 19th, the subcommittee that I chair held a hearing called "Meeting the Challenge of Drug-Resistant Diseases in Developing Countries." In his testimony at that hearing, Dr. Thomas Frieden, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned that in recent years, malaria infections in parts of Southeast Asia have been showing resistance to artemisinin drugs. These drugs are the last remaining class of anti-malarial drugs and form the basis of malaria treatment globally. If these resistant parasites manage to spread to sub-Saharan Africa, he stated that "the results could be devastating."

Insecticide-treated bed nets, which have an average useful life of two to three years, are an important, proven malaria prevention tool. According to the World Health Organization, 150 million nets are needed each year to provide protection to the vulnerable populations in sub-Saharan Africa. For the past two years however, the supply has been considerably lower than this level, resulting in an estimated current shortfall of 77 million nets. The consequences, if not urgently addressed, could place entire populations, especially children, at risk of a dramatic malaria resurgence and death.

We were fortunate to have with us three distinguished experts who provided us with valuable insights into these challenges.

RECOGNITION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONS OF THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN'S AND THE CONSTITUTION" COMPETITION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, twenty-nine exceptionally bright students from Howell High School in Michigan won a competition on their knowledge of the Constitution. As the winners of this competition, they came to Washington D.C. the last weekend in April to participate in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, helps elementary and secondary students build a strong foundation of knowledge of the history and philosophical influences of the Constitution. The knowledge gained from this experience teaches the students about civic responsibility and how to enhance and uphold the democracy of this nation.

The final activity in this program, which took place April 27–29, gave students the opportunity to "testify" in a simulated congressional hearing. This experience allows them to utilize and demonstrate their understanding and teaches them how to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues based on constitutional principles. I am happy to announce that the Howell High team won the Outstanding

Unit Six award. Overall the team finished 16th in the nation with Unit One also placing in the top ten and Unit Two finishing 14th overall.

I am honored and proud to recognize the achievements of these students, they are Unit One: Heather Buja, Brody Kutt, Aaron Osborne; Unit Two: David Grusendorf, Lauren Lomasney, Nicole Trudeau, Jason Wisby; Unit Three: Ashley Carignan, Megan Isom, Jeremy Johnson, Sarah Kenney, Francesca Mettetal, Benjamin Schultz; Unit Four: Katherine Beard, Dillon Higgins, Adam Hukkala, Samantha Rineman, Christina Szkrybalo, Jake Tholen; Unit Five: Michael Beard, Grant Bowman, Jarrid Rector-Brooks, Erika Senecal, Karsyn Textor; and Unit Six: Breanne Casper, Nadja Grauer, Abigail Harrington, Andreja Petrusis, Jonathon Reck. I also recognize Linda Start, the Michigan state coordinator for the "We the People . . ." program.

I would also like to applaud Mark Oglesby, the teacher who has led the Howell High School class to this national competition after eleven years of competing in the state of Michigan.

It was a pleasure to meet these students while they were here and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CARLEY GRABLE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Carley Grable is a senior at Lutheran South Academy in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Oftentimes, in a nation where people have become relatively desensitized to the acts of the world, it is easy for one to simply fade into the crowd and become a follower. However, without adequate leaders, any nation, regardless of its stature, is destined for degradation. Warren Bennis once stated that, "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality". American citizens need to get involved in even the simplest of ways in the political process because without the opinions and ideas of the people, the foundation of America crumbles.

One cannot completely understand something until they have immersed themselves into every facet of it. This proves to be axiomatic in the sense that numerous American citizens do not voice their opinions or take definitive sides on critical issues simply because of a lack of understanding of the political process. The American government is one of the most fascinating aspects of our nation purely because it was the first successful system of its kind. Nowhere else in the world had a group of people become so passionate about something and create

something based on that passion that was functional and prosperous. In order for citizens to become the leaders that the nation so desperately needs, it is crucial that they educate themselves and become activists for the causes that they believe in.

Although, in the past century, the world as a whole has made great strides in ideas and technology, many people across the globe live in an isolated mindset concerning only themselves and their family or community. One may ponder the relationship between government and one's service to others in the world, however, I believe that if one is to truly make a difference in the world, one must become an active promoter of his/her beliefs. America's future calls for leaders who have a global perspective and are willing to work alongside others in a means of compromise and combination of ideals in order to attain a nation that is concerned with foreign affairs and is willing to use the functional facets of the US government and use them as a model to assist developing governments.

Since the age of Greeks and Trojans, leadership has been a quality that is cherished in society and is placed on a pedestal of honor if attained. The future of America relies on the upcoming generation to provide the knowledge and ideas that will evolve the already great nation into not only a force that remains highly influential in the economic world, but also one that shows compassion through its aid. The involvement with the political process is vital to the creation of new leaders of society because without experience, one is left with a nation led by people who formulate decisions based solely upon instinct, instead of intelligence. Edmund Burke noted that "no one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little". No amount of involvement in one's government is too small to make a difference.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 21, 2013 EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, ninety Iowa World War II and Korean War veterans will travel to our nation's capital. Accompanied by volunteer guardians, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor.

For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I am deeply honored to join them for their visit to the National World War II Memorial to personally thank these heroes for their service to our nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice that they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but

in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. Their generation and our country did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, the Greatest Generation defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161—H.R. 258; 162—H.R. 1073; and 163—Approving the Journal, I was delayed by weather and my flight arrived late. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPARENCY FOR LETHAL CONTROL ACT (TLC)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC), legislation requiring the United States Department of Agriculture to publish clear and accessible information on animals killed through the Wildlife Services program of the Animal Health and Inspection Service.

The Wildlife Services program is responsible for intervening in situations when an animal is considered a threat or serious nuisance to humans. In some cases, animals are killed to fulfill this mission.

Efforts to gather adequate information regarding Wildlife Services operations have been difficult. The USDA has not made detailed data available to the public relating to where, why, how, and which animals have been killed. This lack of transparency and public reporting makes oversight impossible. The USDA could be acting inappropriately or recklessly and without this data, we can't know. That is why I am introducing legislation to require the USDA to publish kill data online by state, county (or other similar political subdivision), and municipality.

The killing of animals should not be a routine or reflexive government response. It should only be undertaken, if at all, after careful deliberation and under strict supervision. For that reason, the public and Congress need to have the opportunity for vigorous oversight to ensure that the USDA is acting appropriately and considering all cheaper and more humane alternatives.

Congress must improve oversight of the Wildlife Services program and ensure that the USDA is using tax dollars efficiently and appropriately. I urge passage of the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House yesterday, Monday, May 20, 2013. Because of this absence, I missed three votes on the House floor and would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance. The votes were:

Rollcall No. 161, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 258, the Stolen Valor Act. I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 162, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1073, the Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013. I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 163, on Approval of the Journal. I would have voted “yea.”

BRANDON PULLIG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Brandon Pullig is a senior at Deer Park High School in Harris County, Texas. His essay topic is:

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ROLE SHOULD GOVERNMENT PLAY IN OUR LIVES?

Ever since the times of the philosopher John Locke to Revolutionary heroes such as Patrick Henry and Thomas Paine to the current President Barack Obama, people have had many different beliefs on how government should play a role in our lives. While there have been differing views since the start, there has been one thing in common; the explicit disagreement on the role of which government should follow. Yes, everyone believes their opinion is correct because that is the definition of a belief. However, I write today not to share why my beliefs are correct nor to express how the U.S. Government should be leading the nation, but to tell my Congress, the most powerful body of our government, what not to do.

Now, I digress momentarily to inform you that I am not a writer. I am not a literary mastermind who can reach into thin air, pick out the perfect sentence, and transfer it

onto paper for all to read. No; I am but a worried 17 year-old, frightened for the future of our country. Thus being said, I apologize for my lack of professionalism and formality. When asked to write this, I saw it as an opportunity to directly communicate with Congress and not as an assignment to write about my feelings whilst hiding behind fancy words causing a lack of personality. Ergo, I plead with you to listen to what I have to say and to take it to heart.

As a young man on the verge of becoming part of the “real world,” leaving high school behind, I find it crucial that I involve myself into the world of government, trying to find what makes it tick. By doing so, I have found that our government is fantastic. The system our founding fathers established is the only reason we, as a nation, have survived the past 236 years. We have evolved the governmental process commendably as well. These facts do not, unfortunately, make up for the horrendous damage politics have caused. The concept of politics has torn apart our government. The lack of cooperation between the two major parties in the last decade and a half has been detrimental to the well being of our nation. Of course our government should tax, regulate trade, deal with foreign nations, create laws to protect the rights of the people, etc. Yet, we have fixated our beliefs so heavily on the ideals of one party or the other and I, as a concerned citizen, am tired of the gridlock that has been hopefully unintentionally created. I urge you to remember the prosperous years in which our nation's leaders, Congress, set aside their party and worked for the better good of all people. This may be hard to do because our minds have been corrupted into thinking black and white, but remember the generation—my generation—that must live with the mistakes made by the Republican and Democratic leaders who were too ignorant to look past their parties' beliefs and to accept what will benefit all. I write to defend my generation and for you to remember the true role of our government, which is to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 157 regarding the Hurt Amendment No. 2 to the “SEC Regulatory Accountability Act” (H.R. 1062). Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161, 162, 163, had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”