

wholly to our veterans across North Carolina. I ask you to join me in recognizing his long and honorable career.

Dr. Simel's hard work and leadership have been vital to the continued success of the Duke University School of Medicine. After being the Associate Chief of Staff of Ambulatory Care for the Department of Veterans Affairs, he was named the Vice-Chair for Veteran's Affairs in the Department of Medicine. Both of these honorable positions have given Dr. Simel the opportunity to serve those who have served us, and he does so with integrity and discipline. The influential book of which he was co-author, *The Rational Clinical Exam*, is a comprehensive guide for patient exams, and has become a powerful reference tool for those in the field of medicine. He has been the recipient of several honors throughout his career, including the Joseph Greenfield, Jr. Award for Research Mentorship from the Duke University Medicine Housestaff in 2011, accepted the Barnett Berris, MD Lectureship from the University of Toronto in 2006, and was inducted as a member of the medical society of high achievement, Alpha Omega Alpha, in 1985.

Mr. Speaker, even as Dr. Simel has dedicated many years of his life to life-saving medical research and educating future physicians, he has managed to remain a devoted father and husband to his family. He and his wife, Dr. Joanne Piscitelli, have three accomplished children: Lauren, Michael, and Bryan. All of his children were active in soccer and basketball growing up, and Dr. Simel rarely missed a game. They maintain a strong tradition of an annual family trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina, during the summer during which the entire family participates in baseball games and sandcastle building competitions. Dr. Simel and his wife also share a passion for bike riding that has taken them around the world. Together they have visited Tuscany, the Canadian Rockies, Patagonia, Vermont, and Slovenia, with Argentina and Nova Scotia planned for later this year.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Simel's enduring commitment to his family, his students, his patients, and our veterans makes him an exemplary citizen, and someone that I am proud to know. His passion for medicine and improving the health of others will continue to benefit North Carolina for many years to come. Please join me in honoring Dr. David Simel for his intelligence, compassion, and selfless dedication. I pray that he and his family may receive God's richest blessings.

SEEKING A CURE FOR  
PANCREATIC CANCER

**HON. TIM GRIFFIN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the devastating disease pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth largest cause of cancer deaths in the United States. With a five-year survival rate of just six percent, it is one of the scariest and most difficult cancer diagnoses a person can receive.

Hope is found in outstanding treatment and research facilities, such as the Winthrop P.

Rockefeller Cancer Institute, located in Central Arkansas, which I represent.

It is also found in the work of scientists and advocates, such as the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, whose Arkansas chapter tirelessly advances awareness of the disease and supports the researchers seeking cures.

During the 112th Congress, the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which I supported, was signed into law. Passing this bill was a huge step forward for cancer research.

Federal research grants provide the seed money pancreatic cancer researchers need to identify specific risk factors and develop early detection methods—all of which someday, hopefully, will lead to a cure.

Cancer research relies on the certainty that critical research funds will be available into the future.

But, we can make these investments only when our Nation's spending priorities are in order.

America has what I call a Pac-Man problem: autopilot spending is driving up our debt and swallowing up our ability to fund programs like medical research, transportation improvements, and health care for our veterans.

Nearly two-thirds of our Federal budget is auto-pilot, mandatory spending including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on our debt.

Unless we save and strengthen these programs for the future, Pac-Man will continue to swallow up the dollars we'd like to invest in research to fight deadly diseases including pancreatic cancer.

I have long supported critical funding for research and will continue to do so.

I will also continue to fight to reform the drivers of our debt because, unless we do, our Nation will have even fewer resources to direct toward the research and treatments that will save American lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of the South San Francisco Unified School District in San Mateo County, California. This K–12 school district serves over 9,000 students in 15 schools in South San Francisco, San Bruno and Daly City.

As a South San Francisco native, I received my early education in primary and middle school at Magnolia, Spruce and Parkway from 1955–64. There is no question that the years in the South San Francisco school district molded my life.

Today, the South San Francisco Unified School District has nine elementary schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school and one adult school, but its beginnings were very humble. In 1866, an elementary district was formed under the original name of San Bruno District. In 1878, a one-room school near the railroad station known as "Twelve Mile House" became the first school in the area. It had one

teacher and three trustees. The first major school in the area was built around 1885. Baden Avenue School had four rooms, a library, a principal's office and sanitary arrangements outside the building.

In 1913 the high school district was established. Four years later, South San Francisco High School graduated its first class of three proud seniors on the new campus on Spruce Avenue. The flu epidemic of 1918 took a serious toll on the area. All schools were closed and the high school was converted into a soup kitchen.

From the 1920s through 1940s, the district built several schools, including Martin, Magnolia and Grand Avenue Schools. Buildings were expanded, renamed, demolished and replaced. The district was able to serve its students. That changed after World War II when the post-war baby boom created a shortage of schools. South San Francisco's population doubled to almost 40,000 and 40 percent of them were under 18. The district embarked on a massive construction project and built seven schools—Parkway Intermediate, El Camino High School, Ponderosa Elementary, Serra Vista Elementary, Monte Verde School, Foxridge Elementary and Skyline Elementary.

In the 70s, Magnolia and Spruce were closed due to seismic concerns and Avalon and El Rancho were closed and sold. In the 80s, Southwood Junior High School closed and Parkway, Alta Loma and Westborough converted to a middle school format.

With continuing declining enrollment, Foxridge and Serra Vista closed in 1992. Parts of Foxridge were leased to a childcare facility and Serra Vista eventually became the home of the NCP College of Nursing. In 2005, Hillsdale Elementary closed its doors and the facility was leased to Mills Montessori Schools. While the school district has experienced expansions and contractions over the last century, it has always kept the focus on quality education and lifelong learning. The 439 teachers, Superintendent Alejandro Hogan and the Board of Trustees are committed to educating our future generations and to giving them the tools to achieve their highest potentials.

Plato said over two millennia ago: "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to commend the South San Francisco Unified School District for having started thousands of students in the right direction.

ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TICK-BORNE DISEASES

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Patricia Smith, a constituent of mine from Jackson, New Jersey and the President of Lyme Disease Association, Inc., LDA, recently testified before the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee regarding the need to establish an advisory committee on Tick-Borne Diseases. I would like to submit her compelling testimony from the hearing, entitled "Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Local Communities," for the RECORD: