International. With more than fifteen years of public speaking experience Ms. Brown works with her consulting firm World Network Now to inspire and empower individuals around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to welcome the accomplished Ms. Ona Brown. I ask you to join me in thanking Ms. Brown for speaking at this valued local event. I wish Ms. Brown the best on her mission to change the lives of individuals across the globe.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN HODEL

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary Arizonan, volunteer and fundraiser. Kathleen Hodel has become one of Lake Havasu City's greatest assets over her 20-year career. During this time she has been involved with and served on the boards of some 18 community organizations.

Two years ago, Kathy Hodel was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer. The irony of the situation that Kathy has spent years of her life fundraising for cancer research and cancer patients is not lost. She still continues fundraising and is an active member of her community.

Some of Ms. Hodel's most lasting efforts can be attributed to the fundraising she has done on behalf of Mohave Community College Foundation, resulting in a new library, classroom buildings, and scholarships for students.

Her list of achievements and awards is long and well-deserved. Most recently, in November of 2014, Kathy Hodel was recognized by the Greater Arizona Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the Spirit of Philanthropy Award at the 30th Annual Leadership in Philanthropy Awards Dinner.

It is my honor to commend Kathy Hodel for being such a shining beacon of positive influence and selflessness in the Mohave County community. She is an example to us all of what can be achieved with hard work, determination, enthusiasm and compassion. Kathy, we thank you for your lifetime of service.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM B. WALKUP—TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel William B. Walkup, Commander of the Tennessee National Guard's 118th Wing, Mission Support Group.

After 32 years of dedicated service to our state and country, Colonel Walkup has announced his retirement, effective April 18, 2015.

Through the numerous roles and positions of leadership, Colonel Walkup has made a lasting impact on the guardsmen of the 118th Wing and our state's Air National Guard.

Over the past three decades, Colonel Walkup was a Squadron Navigator, Chief of Current Operations, Chief Navigator, Operations Support Squadron Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander and Maintenance Group Commander. Colonel Walkup has participated in deployments to the Middle East, Europe, Central and South America, and Southwest Asia. He has flown combat and support missions in Somalia, Bosnia and Southwest Asia.

While deployed abroad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Colonel Walkup served as the 485th Deputy Maintenance Group Commander, in charge of the largest C–130 contingent in the war with 46 assigned aircrafts. In addition, Colonel Walkup served as the 486th and 332nd Maintenance Group Commander, during which he successfully lead over two hundred members in humanitarian, logistics and aircraft maintenance support with deployments to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Joint Forge, the Global War on Terrorism, and Operation Unified Response.

Colonel Walkup's success as a guardsman is the product of hard work, an exceptional level of dedication, and a love for country that is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition is certainly well-deserved and is a testament to the heroism and dedication to duty that has marked Colonel Walkup's exemplary service in the Tennessee Air National Guard. I, along with the citizens of a grateful state and nation, extend a heartfelt thanks for his outstanding service to this great country and wish him the very best upon his retirement.

THE MEDICAID PHYSICIAN SELF–REFERRAL ACT OF 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Physician Self-Referral Act of 2015. This bill makes a necessary clarification to Section 1902 of the Social Security Act. It provides that Medicaid designated health services claims are subject to the same requirements as Medicare designated health services claims under the Physician Self-Referral Law.

Currently, there is uncertainty among stakeholders regarding the extent to which the requirements of the Physician Self-Referral Law apply to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. As a result, an important tool for fighting fraud in the healthcare system—which has successfully been employed for many years in the Medicare program—is underutilized in the Medicaid context. Congressional action is needed to provide legislative clarity that will strengthen the integrity of the Medicaid program in this area.

Health care providers subject to the Physician Self-Referral Law should not be able to avoid penalties simply because a claim is a Medicaid claim rather than a Medicare claim. Both programs involve taxpayer money and we need to ensure that law enforcement officials have the tools they need to combat fraud, waste, and abuse.

Although the law has long provided that the Medicaid and Medicare programs are on equal footing with respect to the Physician Self-Referral Law, this bill leaves no doubt that Congress intends this to be the case.

HONORING LARRY SHARP

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Larry Sharp, a community leader from California's Inland Empire. Over the course of his career, Larry Sharp was a consistent advocate for working families. From his leadership on crucial economic projects, to his devotion to public education, to his dedication to support local businesses, Larry was an integral part of our community.

While Larry was the successful CEO and President of Arrowhead Credit Union, he was better known in the community as a leader, activist, father, and grandfather. He was a true community leader, never failing to stand up and defend his friends or neighbors when they were in need. During one of the most difficult times in recent memory, the 2008 economic crisis, Larry was at the forefront of helping Inland Empire residents facing housing and financial challenges. He worked with Republicans and Democrats at all levels of government, as long as it meant he was working on behalf of his community.

Larry was a leader, an advocate, but most importantly—he was a dear friend and mentor. He served his community for decades, and we are so much better for it. He will be dearly missed by his wife Cassie, five children, four grandchildren, and the entire Inland Empire Community. We will always be indebted to him for his devotion and work that bettered the lives of San Bernardino County's working families.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEDICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JOHN SHEA, JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and medical contributions of renowned surgeon, innovator and ''father of middle-ear surgery,'' Memphian Dr. John Shea, Jr. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Shea served in the Korean War before returning to Memphis and taking over his father's medical practice in 1952. Two years later, he traveled to Vienna, Austria where he began extensive research into otosclerosis that would lead to his inventing the world's first prosthetic stapes—the tiny stirrup-shaped bone in the middle ear—and performing the groundbreaking stapedectomy procedure, which has since been used by doctors worldwide.

While in Vienna, he read German manuscripts on otosclerosis, which is a condition of the inner ear that causes calcification of the