

eight classes of medically important antibiotics that are currently approved for non-therapeutic use in animal agriculture. The bill clearly defines the term “non-therapeutic use” to ensure that sick animals may be appropriately treated, but that any use of medically important antibiotics outside of treatment of a sick animal is not permitted.

Both the American people and the U.S. government need to give this issue the attention it demands. Unless we act now and act together to preserve the effectiveness of our current antibiotics we face a future without them. Strep throat could once again lead to fatal heart infections. Common surgeries such as having wisdom teeth removed, joint replacements and Cesarean sections would become too risky to perform. Even something as common as dressing your child’s scrapes with Neosporin could no longer be able to keep an infection at bay.

Protecting the public’s health is one of the greatest responsibilities of this body and I urge my colleagues to stand with me to support the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FRANCISCAN
SISTERS OF MARY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable and historic order of Catholic women called to the service of all God’s children and his creation, the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, who have been at the forefront of healing the sick, fighting discrimination, advocating for equal rights under the law, and protecting the wonders of the natural world.

Arriving from Germany in the winter of 1872, Mother Mary Odelia Berger and four other religious sisters crossed the icy Mississippi River by ferry to land on the St. Louis riverfront near the site of today’s Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, better known as the magnificent Gateway Arch.

They came to St. Louis seeking religious freedom and as a response to a call to serve the sick and indigent. Beginning with only five dollars among them, and armed with their resolute faith, they quickly deployed to the streets of our growing city to provide care to thousands suffering from tuberculosis, cholera and other epidemics of the time.

St. Mary of Victories Church, at 744 S. 3rd Street would become their first home where they treated the poor suffering from small pox, diphtheria, typhoid fever and scarlet fever. As their patient load increased so did their numbers and they eventually became known as the Sisters of Mary because of their connection to the church.

On May 24, 1877, the sisters opened their first hospital in a renovated home on Papin Street. During its first year, St. Mary’s Infirmary treated 82 patients. Eventually, a newer and much larger facility was built on the same site.

Mother Mary Concordia Puppenthal, the superior general of the Sisters of St. Mary from 1921 until 1956 believed that all persons deserved the best possible medical care regard-

less of their race, ethnic background or country of origin. At a time when educational opportunities lagged for women, Mother Concordia organized the congregation’s first school of nursing in 1907.

In 1924, Mother Concordia signed an agreement with Saint Louis University designating three facilities operated by the sisters (St. Mary’s Infirmary, St. Mary’s Hospital, and Mount St. Rose Chest and Throat Hospital) as teaching hospitals. In later years, Mother Concordia helped reorganize the St. Mary’s Infirmary School of Nursing into the Saint Louis University School of Nursing. In 1933, St. Mary’s Infirmary became the first Catholic hospital dedicated to treating African Americans and training African American physicians and nurses.

In the 1960s, the sisters became very active in the civil rights movement, most notably Sister Antona Ebo, who marched shoulder to shoulder in Selma, Alabama with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and our heroic colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS (D) Georgia, to demand the right to vote for African Americans in Alabama, and across this country.

On Wednesday, March 10, 1965, she and several other sisters and clergymen boarded a rickety airplane in St. Louis bound for Selma with several other sisters and clergymen to protest the Bloody Sunday attack on peaceful marchers and to join Dr. King in his second attempt to cross the bridge on the way from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery.

Once there, Sister Antona, the only African-American sister in the crowd, found herself thrust to the front of the march. Before the marchers reached the end of the block, they were stopped by rows of helmeted policemen standing shoulder to shoulder, three deep, batons in hand.

In the midst of it all, a microphone was thrust in front of Sister Antona. She spoke simply and from her heart into a sea of Confederate flags: “I am here because I am a Negro, a nun, a Catholic, and because I want to bear witness.” She later recalled, “We wore our full regalia of habits at that time. We got a lot of people shook up who thought we should be in church with our hands folded.” Many years later, she added, “Selma happened really because it was the time and place to take a risk. Taking a risk has its payoff, too.” Their courageous actions led to passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The legacy of healing and devotion to building communities of compassionate care by the sisters inspired the development of SSM Health, a system of 19 non-profit Catholic hospitals, more than 60 outpatient care sites, a pharmacy benefit company, an insurance company, two nursing homes, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a technology company, and two Accountable Care Organizations operating in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Oklahoma.

And most recently, the sisters have added their moral force, spiritual guidance and integrity to the cause of environmental justice in North St. Louis County where neighborhood groups and civic activists are advocating for the removal of radiological waste left over from the Manhattan Project that was illegally dumped in an unlined landfill, near homes, schools, businesses and an underground fire.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members of Congress to join me in honoring the Franciscan Sisters

of Mary for their living example of faith in action to heal the sick, advocate for equality and preserve our environment for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO GRANT DENTRY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

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 them with my House colleagues.

Grant Dentry attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

An important event that has occurred in the past 15 years is the rapid evolution of technology in our everyday lives. From single function cell-phones, to compact flip phones with cameras, to the now pervasive “smart phone” that serves as a multi-function computer, phone, hi-resolution camera, personal assistant, and a comprehensive tracking device. I believe technology; although innovative and fun, can have a negative effect on our country. While technology has benefited our lives, its evolution has changed how America operates and is watched over.

Even though technological evolution has made our lives easier, it can expose our personal and private business to the Government (and hackers) who can access our information at will. The evolution of technology has reshaped the security of American citizens. Our Constitutional freedoms as Americans have been infringed upon because of our technological devices do not guarantee secure privacy. Now that almost everyone in America has a laptop or cellphone, the Government is able to conduct surveillance on its citizens. Constantly being watched over has had unfortunate effects on what we consider personal, private, freedom. The effect of being watched over has caused citizens to be constantly vigilant of what they are doing on electronic devices, where they go, and what they say. The Government is able to read our text messages and listen to our calls as well as see us through cameras on streets, smartphones and computers. Although we are still technically free, it is not the freedom we used to have before technology evolved. Fifteen years ago, concerns about Government surveillance on citizens was not as alarming as today.

The next 15 years will bring changes in the relationship between Governments and their citizens. While many found out in 2012 about Government surveillance, more and more Americans are becoming increasingly concerned about the issue of privacy now. Sadly, our media is distracting our citizens away from privacy issues. Many disapprove of the spying and frown upon the Government’s decisions to monitor U.S. citizens. Since 9/11,

security has been stepped up (rightfully so), but it has been taken to a level almost comparable to George Orwell 's Nineteen Eighty-Four in which everything is closely monitored and scrutinized.

Overall, the surveillance technology revolution has changed our country drastically and has brought concern and worry to many American citizens. Monitoring citizens was not the intent when surveillance technology first developed, but now it has the potential for large scale abuse. While technology has benefited our lives in many ways, it has also changed how America operates, how we are kept safe, and how we view our Constitutional freedoms and our privacy. Hopefully, the next 15 years will bring us towards a balance between security, safety, and privacy.

BREANNA NELSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Breanna Nelson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Breanna Nelson is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Breanna Nelson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Breanna Nelson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.