

Community advocates like Jane exemplify Ventura County's impressive leadership. Though Jane will be stepping down from her position as CEO of the Camarillo Health Care District, her immense impact on the community will continue to inspire the future of public health services.

For her lifelong work, Jane is so deserving of our immeasurable gratitude. I graciously thank Jane for her unwavering commitment and dedication for the past 22 years as the CEO of the Camarillo Health Care District. It has been my sincere pleasure to work with Jane over the years.

There is no doubt that Jane's legacy will extend to future generations for her extraordinary commitment to excellence. As she starts this new chapter in her life, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

MIRABEAU B. LAMAR
OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Rodney Bell of Needville High School and Junior High for receiving the Mirabeau B. Lamar Outstanding Educator Award. The Mirabeau B. Lamar Award is given to individuals who overcame personal adversity and have gone on to strengthen their community.

Dr. Bell, the choir director at Needville High School and Junior High, has shown outstanding perseverance and an unrelenting dedication to the education of our future leaders. For all of his efforts, the Morton Masonic Lodge No. 72 in Richmond has recognized him by giving him this prestigious award.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Rodney Bell for receiving the Mirabeau B. Lamar Outstanding Educator Award. Thank you for your positive impact on the Needville community.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.
JACQUELINE H. GRANT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and outstanding public servant, Dr. Jacqueline H. Grant. Dr. Grant will be leaving her position as the District Health Director for the Southwest Georgia Health District, where she managed public health programs in fourteen counties for ten years. A reception will be held in her honor on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dougherty County Health Department.

Dr. Grant is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, but traveled far and wide to attain different educational experiences before returning to her home state. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University. She then received her medical degree from

Morehouse School of Medicine, a Master's in Public Health from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University. She completed her medical residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Emory University.

Dr. Grant previously served as Medical Director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She also served on the faculty at Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine prior to working full-time in the private sector from 1994–1997.

In 2005, Dr. Grant began serving as the top public health official in Southwest Georgia when she was named as District Health Director. Under her leadership, Southwest Georgia has seen incredible advancements in public health. The District has established an interactive worksite wellness program as well as the non-profit organization Friends of Southwest Georgia Public Health. Additionally, Dr. Grant has presided over district restructuring to improve efficiency and has provided valuable guidance during disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

In 2009, Dr. Grant was instrumental in obtaining a March of Dimes grant to launch CenteringPregnancy, a support group for pregnant women that promotes positive outcomes throughout the gestational period and beyond. It is the first Public Health-administered CenteringPregnancy program in the state of Georgia as well as the first such program in the southern part of the state. The program was a great success and a second site aimed primarily at Hispanic women soon opened, while the first site continued to address the needs of primarily African-American women.

A well-known and respected public health professional, Dr. Grant has received national recognition in Best Doctors of America in 2003, and was the recipient of the Tee Rae Dismukes Award in 2012 and the District Public Health Award for Excellence in Prenatal and Reproductive Health in 2015.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Not only has Dr. Grant established a legacy in public health leadership, but she has also done a tremendous job of giving back to Southwest Georgia, and I am very grateful for her tireless advocacy to make the community stronger and more healthy. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise in her field are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others is what makes these qualities truly worthy.

Dr. Grant has accomplished much in her life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of her husband Steve, and two children, Steve, Jr. and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Dr. Jacqueline H. Grant as she embarks upon a new journey in her life.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently announced a sweeping recall that encourages consumers to replace airbags installed in millions of vehicles on the roads of our nation.

The companies that manufacture the parts that go into the vehicles American families use in their daily lives have a responsibility to ensure their products meet the highest possible standards. Americans deserve the confidence of knowing safety features will perform their mission effectively.

Government, for its part, also has a responsibility. Its job is to ensure there is accountability in the development and implementation of these mechanisms, and to apply the laws of our country fairly and judiciously in carrying out its mandate.

As the recall is implemented, the safety of American drivers and passengers must be our highest priority. We must ensure there is accountability for failures in the system. But we also must ensure that the recall process does not devolve into a scorched-earth campaign that wrecks a vital industry, destroys jobs, and ultimately makes Americans less safe.

The loss of any life in conjunction with a product failure is tragic and unacceptable. As a representative of TK Holdings stated in recent testimony before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, "it is unacceptable to us and incompatible with our safety mission for even one of our products to fail to perform as intended and to put people at risk."

This is a higher standard than the federal government itself embraced nearly a quarter-century ago, when it mandated that all cars and light trucks sold in the United States be equipped with self-deploying driver-side airbags.

The federal airbag mandate was adopted by Congress in 1991 amid concerns by some experts that the airbags themselves could pose a danger to drivers and passengers in certain situations. Our colleagues, who authored the law, were aware of these concerns, but determined that the benefits far outweighed the risks.

Over time, their assessment has been proven correct. Thousands of lives have been saved by the presence of airbags as a standard feature in our vehicles.

Every life is precious. And the reality is that millions of airbags and other safety products produced by Takata—including those made by the many hard-working Americans employed by the company and its subsidiaries here in the United States—have inflated successfully and worked as intended. Thousands of Americans owe their lives to this success.

Correcting the problems identified with some of the airbags produced by Takata starts with recognizing this, and acknowledging the need for prudence in the manner in which the federal government responds to the problems that have been brought tragically to light.

We also should recognize that, in thinking about safety, we need to look beyond airbags

to the broader question of how to protect drivers on the road and how to encourage them to drive more safely. As NHTSA itself recently recognized, “[o]nly a small percentage (approximately 2%) of the annual highway fatalities is directly attributable to vehicle factors (some design issues, some owner maintenance issues, some defect issues). Rather, 94 percent of highway fatalities are related to various human factors, including driver actions, such as speeding, distraction, impaired driving, and not wearing a seatbelt.”

No one questions the need for accountability in this case. My concern is with potential unintended effects of going too far in an effort to ensure accountability, as well as potentially getting distracted from the larger issue of how to encourage our constituents to drive more safely and responsibly.

In this instance, pushing Takata too hard financially, for example, will not save a single American life. To the contrary, it will make it harder to ensure safe airbags are installed in every vehicle that needs one and potentially put lives at risk. Moreover, doing so could significantly disrupt the auto sector, which depends on the company for airbags, seat belts, and other safety features that are essential for protecting lives.

Let me put this in perspective.

Takata’s Highland Industries, headquartered in Kernersville, North Carolina, in my congressional district, is one of the largest suppliers of fabric for the North American airbag market. My talented, hard-working constituents at Highland Industries take pride in their work, which has played a direct role over the years in saving thousands of American lives. In addition to helping save the lives of individuals in an accident, they produced the fabrics that have safely gotten astronauts into space, including to the moon and back. Indeed, the flag planted on the moon is made of fabric that was produced by these hard-working Americans in my congressional district.

Destroying the jobs of my constituents in the name of safety will not make American drivers and passengers safer. It will ultimately make them less safe.

We all mourn the American citizens who lost their lives tragically in accidents in which an airbag did not perform as intended. Their legacy should be a better and stronger system of airbag safety in the United States, through the development of even more advanced airbags and other safety features. We owe it to their families to put political agendas and posturing aside and work together to achieve that goal.

RETIREMENT OF COL ROMNEY C.
ANDERSON, M.D.

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the U.S. Military medical community, I congratulate Colonel Romney C. Andersen, M.D. on his long-standing dedication to our nation.

With over 30 years of service, Colonel Andersen exemplifies the values of a model Soldier with his utmost commitment to caring for the combat injured casualty.

Colonel Anderson’s distinguished service to our nation began as a cadet at West Point,

followed by leadership as an infantry officer and continued training including Ranger school.

Dr. Andersen’s time in uniform is celebrated by the advancements he made in the military medical community. It has been my honor to serve under Colonel Andersen at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; he is an irreplaceable asset to military medicine.

As an exemplary man of many roles, Dr. Romney Andersen has brought unparalleled virtue to himself, his family and his nation.

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service to the United States of America.

May God bless you.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY CITIES ON
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Valley Cities Behavioral Health Counseling on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Valley Cities was first established in 1965, formed by members of south King County community who advocated for better mental health resources and with the belief that all people are capable of overcoming personal obstacles and barriers with proper support. The organization’s aim is to strengthen communities through the delivery of holistic, integrated behavioral health services that “promote hope, recovery and improved quality of life.” Valley Cities became a United Way partner agency in 1967.

Over the last 50 years, Valley Cities has grown to operate six clinics in the cities of Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Des Moines, and Bellevue. As a reflection of the diversity of the 9th Congressional District, Valley Cities serves clients from around the world. Their health clinics often provide care for those with low incomes and who are from our most underserved neighborhoods, making Valley Cities an important healthcare partner in our community.

Today, Valley Cities remains dedicated to helping individuals and families through licensed mental health counseling, chemical dependency treatment for adults, family support programs, and specialized veterans services. In recognition of the pace of change in south King County, Valley Cities continues to evolve to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Valley Cities Behavioral Health Counseling on its 50th Anniversary. I am proud to have such a dedicated organization serving and healing community members in and around the 9th Congressional District of Washington.

PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION
ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts on the medical device tax.

H.R. 160, the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015, would repeal the 2.3 percent excise tax on medical devices enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. While I voted in opposition of H.R. 160, I recognize the concerns of many in the medical technology industry regarding the implications of an excise tax on medical devices.

Under the Affordable Care Act, 16.4 million Americans have gained health coverage and access to critical health services. The tax on medical devices was designed as a means to offset the gains made by the industries that benefit from the law’s successful expansion of healthcare coverage and is a critical component of paying for the law’s implementation. It is problematic that H.R. 160 does not provide for the cost of eliminating the tax. I do not believe that it is prudent to repeal this tax at this time, but we should continue to monitor its long-term impact and perhaps revisit the issue in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO ACCEPT A STATUE DEPICTING PIERRE L’ENFANT FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Pierre L’Enfant from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in the United States Capitol.

Pierre L’Enfant was born in France in 1754. He was an engineer and an architect, and he traveled to the United States to serve with the United States in the Revolutionary War. In March 1791, L’Enfant was hired to develop the design for the District of Columbia. L’Enfant’s design for the city was so remarkable that it remains and is cherished today in the nation’s capital and throughout this country. L’Enfant’s design envisioned a federal and residential city with diagonal streets propelling from Congress and the President’s home, beautiful boulevards on local streets and neighborhoods, and open spaces for monuments, memorials and historical structures, all of which largely remain intact, protected as a historical treasure.

In 2006, the residents of the District of Columbia chose L’Enfant as one of the top ten Americans that have given distinguished service to the District, and the selection committee created by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities chose L’Enfant as the second statue from the District of Columbia to be