

who is retiring in June as president of Baltimore City Community College. As president of BCCC, Mr. Tschechtelin has worked tirelessly on behalf of BCCC students and on behalf of the greater Baltimore community.

During his 12-year tenure, he helped educate and train a world-class workforce that is critical to the economic success of the entire Baltimore region. He has worked to Modernize BCCC's facilities, increase state funding, improve outreach and enhance responsiveness to businesses. His commitment and dedication to excellence has helped transform BCCC into a leading educational facility that meets the needs of businesses for talented employees.

We are fortunate to have had Mr. Tschechtelin at the helm of BCCC. His vision and dedication have helped the college meet new challenges. In recognition of his success, the BCCC Foundation Board has created the James D. Tschechtelin Workforce Scholarship Endowment, a scholarship that helps working students by providing half of their educational costs.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the accomplishments of James Tschechtelin as president of BCCC. His tenure has marked a turning point for the college as a respected institution that meets the educational needs of its students.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2002 (H.R. 2646)

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my congratulations to Chairman COMBEST, the Ranking Member, Mr. STENHOLM, and the 2002 Farm Bill conferees for their hard work in crafting a bipartisan bill that will help America's farmers.

The Farm Security Act of 2002 is the product of 50 hearings over two years. I am pleased that we were able to pass a farm bill that maintains the market-oriented features of the 1996 Farm Bill while fully complying with the Congressional Budget Resolution. This Farm Bill is critically needed by our nation's farmers who are facing the lowest real net cash income on the farm since the Great Depression. Record high costs of production combined with the fifth straight year of record low prices necessitated the quick passage of a farm bill that addresses these critical issues.

Americans rely on a consistent supply of nutritious food, and our farmers are the ones working hard to make this possible. Not only do they supply food for us domestically, but they also are the hands that feed the world. Our farmers deserve our support, and I was pleased to vote in favor of this bipartisan Farm Bill.

Mr. Speaker, despite my support for this bill, I do want to go on record as having serious reservations about the price tag the Farm Bill could have for taxpayers. There is no doubt we need a strong farm bill, which I support. But I am concerned we are voting today on an overinflated six-year bill that has the potential to cost taxpayers far more than the estimated \$170 billion. We must guard against turning the family farm into the federal government's farm. My concern is that this bill, while con-

taining good provisions, is dangerously close to moving beyond reasonable support for farmers into warding the family farm to the welfare state.

The American dream for agricultural producers is not a land of neo-government farms, but rather individual opportunity to succeed by profitably working the land they love and own. This is the farmer's dream. Then, when help is needed due to unforeseen events like natural disasters, Uncle Sam can offer assistance that encourages and motivates.

Another concern is that the 2002 Farm Bill abuses agriculture subsidies by reviving price supports for commodities such as mohair, wool and honey. It also distorts the market by adding subsidies for milk, peanuts, lentils and chickpeas. I am disappointed that provisions in the Farm Security Act of 2002 succumbed to the pressures of special interest groups while ignoring the best interests of the citizens and farmers I represent and the American taxpayer.

Despite disagreeing with many of this bill's provisions, I will vote in favor of the Farm Bill, because overall, it provides much-needed farm policy for the next six years and will help America's farmers. Without this bill, we would have automatically been forced back to 1938/1949 permanent farm laws, which would have devastated our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I hear from many constituents in the Fourth District of Kansas who care deeply about conservation. I am pleased to tell them that the Farm Security Act of 2002 builds on the current voluntary incentive programs for conservation that have proven to work. Farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to participate in new conservation programs as well. I am pleased to know that the men and women who work the land and care most about it are the ones who are being provided with the power and means to better protect the soil, water and wildlife through the various conservation programs.

This farm bill includes more than \$200 million in federal funding for the Commodity Credit Corporation Bioenergy Program, which will help advance the production of biofuels, including ethanol. I have had many Kansans tell me they support continued investment into ethanol production as a fuel source. The 2002 Farm Bill provides federal assistance to bioenergy producers who purchase agricultural commodities for the purpose of expanding products of biodiesel and fuel grade ethanol.

Mr. Speaker, past farm program levels for sorghum have distorted the market and reduced incentives to plant grain sorghum. I was pleased to see this disparity addressed in the Farm Bill. Equity for Kansas feed grains is important to Kansas farmers, and I strongly support this corrective provision.

I am also pleased that the food stamp program has been simplified allowing states more flexibility in helping those in financial poverty. With the reduction of state reporting requirements, we are allowing states to require households to report changes in household circumstances not less often than once every six months in lieu of reporting changes as they occur. Another simplification in the food stamp program provided for in the Farm Bill allows states the option to exclude, rather than deduct, child support payments, and it allows the use of the Child Support Enforcement Agency data to determine the amount of support paid.

Kansas farmers rely heavily on trade with other countries. With forty percent of U.S.

commodities going into the export market, it is essential that producers have access to expanded markets. The 2002 Farm Bill answers this need by comporting with the United States' international trade obligations under the WTO. This allows for the promotion of more free trade for our future. Furthermore, the Farm Bill makes substantial investments in programs designed to aid in the creation, expansion and maintenance of foreign markets for U.S. agriculture products.

Generous support for the Market Access Program, the Food for Progress Program, the Food for Peace Program, the Foreign Market Development Program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program are a few examples of how this Farm Bill helps expand our markets while sharing our bounty with the needy in developing countries around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, research has been recognized in this Farm Bill as being the key to keeping U.S. producers competitive in the world market. The Farm Security Act of 2002 makes a significant new investment in research programs that will help reap rewards for producers and our society for generations to come.

The Farm Bill makes significant investments in improving rural development. Rural development programs are important to sustaining communities by aiding in the development of infrastructure and job creation in rural areas. Our small communities across this country benefit from these programs, and I am pleased that this farm bill recognizes their importance to our American way of life.

Getting broadband Internet service to our rural communities is also a concern I have. With the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, we will be providing a total of \$100 million to provide loans and loan guarantees to allow rural consumers access to high-speed, high-quality broadband services.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to know that value added market development grants have been expanded to meet producers' interests in start-up, farmer-owned, value-added processing facilities. These grants will help establish resource centers to assist producers in value-added endeavors. The Farm Bill recognizes the importance of enabling producers to capture more of the value of their commodities.

The Farm Security Act of 2002 offers farmers and ranchers and all Americans a balanced approach to securing our agriculture security into the future. I commend the Chairman and conferees for their dedication to a quality farm bill.

BRAIN TUMOR ACTION WEEK

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a speech written by my dear friend and Alabama native, Adrienne McMillan Burns. Adrienne was diagnosed with a brain tumor three years ago and has served as a shining example of how to survive with grace to people with potentially terminal illnesses ever since.

I have reflected on this tragic condition and Adrienne's case in particular during this Brain

Tumor Action Week. It is so important to call attention to the illness, its symptoms, treatment, patient recovery and related issues, and I strongly support the designation of this week to focus on brain tumors.

Adrienne has been an inspiration to me, her many friends and loving family over the length of her illness. I highly recommend her speech to my colleagues. I believe Adrienne's bravery and honesty in confronting and talking about this illness will give courage and inspiration to others in her situation.

To Adrienne, I wish a continuing successful recovery and return to a normal life with her family.

MY JOURNEY WITH A BRAIN TUMOR
(By Adrienne McMillan Burns)

A recent Wall Street Journal article highlighted the fact that a brush with death can temporarily change our perspective on life for the better. Experiencing more than a brush—an extended fight against a potentially fatal disease—has served to sustain such a view for me. I believe these experiences, both brushes and extended fights with death, can ultimately be used to benefit many people. And I believe that those of us with these experiences serve our fellow humans well by sharing our stories.

Three years ago, after giving birth to my first child, I had a grand mal seizure. I awoke the next day in an ICU, and ultimately I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The diagnosis was good as far as brain tumors go, but it was still a brain tumor, and the overall effect was a fast and harsh realization of my own mortality. I was 32 years old.

Life changed for me. As you might expect, I became interested in brain structure and function, and specifically in my own diagnosis and treatment. But life also changed for me in a more unexpected way. After living a life focused, to a great degree, on my own career goals and personal pleasure, I came to a different point of reference. I began to more fully appreciate that we have responsibilities in our journey on earth, not the least of which is the one to our fellow humans. I came to believe that the responsibility is simply to help one another—from the heart—in whatever way we can do it.

I changed my definition of success. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, that is to have succeeded." I immediately needed to know that not one, but many lives breathed easier because of me. As I lay down for my surgeon to cut my head open, it became amazingly clear what really mattered to me. It mattered how I treated people—how I developed and conducted myself in relationships, especially my relationship with my maker. It mattered how proud I could be of the way I conducted my life, something no person in the world but me could know. My personal integrity, my adherence to my core beliefs, mattered. That's it. Nothing else.

I survived brain surgery and recovered, and I desperately wanted to share my good fortune. I wanted to make someone "breathe easier." My husband and I left established careers in Washington, DC (mine in the energy industry), and I returned to school to pursue an MBA focused on healthcare management. I was determined to use my experience to influence what I believed to be the most significant way to help others: improving the patient's experience in health care delivery. Personally, I experienced exceptional technical care, but I also experienced tender, compassionate care. It mattered greatly to me that a nurse who handed me medications in the middle of the night

smiled as she did so. Her tender smile assured me, as I lay in great vulnerability, that the people to whom I entrusted my life cared about my life. There were other smiles in the hospital, and they had the same effect on me. In retrospect, I'll never know if the smiles really indicated such a care. People could have been smiling for any number of reasons. But I believed it was the care, and that made a difference to me. There was an overall feeling of compassion in the hospital, and I know it had as much to do with my healing as did the expert hands of my surgeon.

My plans focused on systemic change. While not attributing health outcomes solely to smiles (!), I wanted to foster compassionate health care delivery. I wanted to provide hospital environments that allowed doctors, nurses and every other employee to deliver compassionate care along with the very important technical care. I believed that basic respect and appreciation of all employees was at the heart of inducing the much appreciated smile and compassionate care.

With a newly found passion, I set an ambitious goal. I believed systemic change could primarily be effected from the top of an organization, therefore, that's where I wanted to be. I envisioned personally catalyzing movement to a higher health service standard by which every patient in the world eventually would be treated!

Two years later I had a recurrence of the tumor. Again, my surgeon expertly brought me through surgery, and this time I received radiation therapy in hopes of being done with the patient side of the health care world! Other than the affront to my vanity from lost hair, brain radiation wasn't all that bad, and getting to know other patients in the waiting room was a blessing.

In the interim two years, I worked towards my goal. I completed half of the MBA, and I worked at a major academic medicine center. What I learned most during that time is that there are a lot of compassionate, smart people out there working to make patients breathe easier. I learned that we are a fortunate people to have so much effort directed at the goal of improving the lives of others.

I'll finish school this year and, God willing, I'll work to effect smiles and compassion in health care delivery! But the recurrence gave me another, perhaps more important, insight. Not only can I improve lives through systemic efforts in health care delivery, but I also can improve the lives, in small ways, of the people with whom I come into contact each day. I can look people in the eye and smile. I can give people the respect we each deserve. I can seek out the good in all people; if I'm looking for the good, perhaps it's what I'll see, and it will probably influence my relationship with that person. That person probably needs to experience a relationship based on that view of him or herself. M.K. Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." I can do that, and I can do it now. That is significant.

In my experience, appreciation of mortality becomes a filter through which everything is forevermore received. This appreciation brought an amazing shift in my perception, and it's made the world seem an even better place to me. I look for and I find more serenity, compassion, and integrity in the world. I find things more beautiful, and I find more beautiful things. I looked up—to God—and I remembered that He is my compassionate and tender caregiver. After experiencing acute depression, He (and a very good psychiatrist!) led me to rediscover pure, unaltered joy—the kind my three year old seems to feel when I allow him to choose any one thing he wants in the bakery near our home.

So, that tumor, as unwanted as it was, changed my life for the better—forever. It's

been said that it's easy to forget a lesson from a brush with death, and I do catch myself taking life for granted on occasion. Yet, there's an underlying permanence to the shift in perception that cannot be reversed for me. I've talked with other patients—brain tumor and otherwise—who've said the same thing. It amazes me. It takes something terribly frightening to make us appreciate all the fortunes we have.

I'll close by going back to my thoughts on responsibility. It seems that many of my friends are searching—soul-searching or otherwise—and it seems that others are too. I want to do my small part to help someone in their search, or to make them breathe easier. Perhaps we all can help. Perhaps those of us who have had the occasion to contemplate mortality, at any level, can perpetuate the important lessons we each learn from the experience. We can tell our stories, thereby reminding ourselves and informing others of what we've found when everything but the basics of life are stripped away. By telling our stories, maybe we help each other to help each other. Maybe then we all breathe a little easier. What a success!!

PROVIDING FOR DISPOSITION OF
H.J. RES 84, DISAPPROVING THE
ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT
UNDER SECTION 203 OF
THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TRANS-
MITTED TO THE CONGRESS ON
MARCH 5, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Joint Resolution 84, disapproving of the President's actions to impose higher tariffs on imported steel products than those recommended by the International Trade Commission, and against the accompanying rule. First, Madam Speaker, let me state in regards to the rule, I feel it is important that this chamber have a full and vigorous debate on the impact of the steel tariffs imposed by the President. This rule is creatively slanted in favor of protectionism and against free and fair trade.

The tariffs, implemented by President Bush on March 5, are a well intentioned, but misguided effort to help the domestic steel industry. Although I agree the steel industry needs to be supported and reformed, protecting it from global competition, which is the essence of free trade, is not the answer. The industries that transport steel and those industries that need steel to make their products in the U.S. have begun to feel the brunt of these protectionist measures. Recent estimates reveal that the restrictions could cost as many as 74,500 jobs in steel consuming industries in order to protect 8,900 steel jobs. In addition, protecting these steel jobs will do nothing to address the needs of the thousands of retired steel workers concerned about their retirement security. Ironically, tax revenue from the jobs in steel transportation and those industries which purchase steel could have been used to provide a solution to these other problems.

The Port of Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, imported 57 percent less steel in 2001 than in 2000 due to federal government steel safeguards—which caused a decrease of