

Approximately 18 million Americans have diabetes, an increase of 61 percent since 1990. As diabetes rates continue to rise, the cost of treating diabetes, already estimated at \$132 billion, will certainly rise. One of the most serious complications diabetes patients face is poor circulation and infections in their lower extremities. In fact, diabetic foot infections are the most common reason for hospital admissions among persons with diabetes, accounting for 25 percent of all diabetic admissions in the United States. Loss of circulation and feeling present real challenges to people with diabetes and 15 percent of people with diabetes will experience a foot ulcer, and between 14 and 24 percent of those with a foot ulcer will require amputation. Each year approximately 86,000 non-traumatic lower-limb amputations are performed each year among people with diabetes.

Lower extremity amputations cost Americans \$2 billion a year, with each procedure totaling approximately \$60,000. Although private insurance bears some of this expense, Medicare is saddled with many of these costs since these complications disproportionately affect the elderly. For example, analysis of the 1995 Medicare claims revealed that lower-extremity ulcer care accounted for \$1.45 billion in Medicare costs and contributed substantially to the high cost of care for diabetics, compared with Medicare costs for the general population. In fact, the Medicare costs for diabetes patients with foot ulcers is 3 times higher than for diabetes patients in general, and inpatient care accounts for 74 percent of diabetic ulcer-related costs.

Fortunately, cost effective ulcer prevention and treatment interventions have proven effective at reducing foot complications and lower extremity amputations at only a fraction of the cost. Studies show that a multidisciplinary approach, including preventive strategies, patient and staff education, and treatment of foot ulcers, can reduce amputation rates up to 85 percent. Nationwide reductions of this size would save Americans as much as \$1.7 billion a year. The American Diabetes Association estimates that comprehensive foot care programs can reduce amputation rates up to 85 percent. Furthermore, the LSU Health Sciences Center Diabetes Foot Program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana enrolled over 2,300 diabetes patients with published research demonstrating their prevention and treatment program resulted in an 89 percent reduction in foot related hospitalizations, an 81 percent reduction in emergency room visits, and a 79 percent reduction in foot amputations at a cost of about 50 percent of standard care. Unfortunately, a 2002 National Institutes of Health (NIH) study shows that less than 2 percent of adult diabetics receive the level of care recommended by the American Diabetes Association.

With sound research showing the benefits of preventive care for people with diabetes, now is the time to commission a large, authoritative study on the issue. The results of this study will serve as solid evidence to public and private organizations of the need for preventive care to aid in the reduction of diabetes foot complications and will help foster technical and policy changes to healthcare programs. In addition, thousands of Americans who participate in this study will benefit from the education and treatment provided by this grant program.

Mr. Speaker, I hope members will consider these facts and cosponsor the "Diabetic Foot Complication and Lower Extremity Amputation Reduction Act of 2005."

RECOGNIZING SAWYER DANIEL
BRESLOW FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sawyer Daniel Breslow of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sawyer has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, Librarian, and Quartermaster. During that time period, he earned 50 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Sawyer is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Sawyer also participated in Den Chief Training, Junior Leader Basic Training, Snorkeling, Mile Swim, and National Camping. Sawyer also has 68 service hours, 93 nights camping, and 53 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sawyer planned and built a large board game table with playing pieces for the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sawyer Daniel Breslow for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER TWO CLINT J. PRATHER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize Chief Warrant Officer Two Clint J. Prather for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country. Prather died when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was riding crashed during a sandstorm. The accident took place near Ghazni, Afghanistan on April 6, 2005.

Prather, 32 years old, was stationed in Afghanistan since February as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Serving as a helicopter pilot, Prather was assigned to F Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, Giebelstadt, Germany.

Prather has served his country in the Army since 1992, joining just after graduating from Cheney High School. He previously had served as a medic before becoming a heli-

copter pilot. Prather leaves behind a wife and two children.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clint J. Prather for his spirit and his sacrifice that led him to the danger of the Afghan battlefield. I invite my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Chief Warrant Officer Prather for his service to our country, the Iraqi people, and Afghanistan.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MELANIE HUCKABY,
MCQUEENEY ELEMENTARY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Melanie Huckaby, McQueeney Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Huckaby is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University, from which she received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She has seventeen years of teaching experience, in several diverse environments.

After graduating college, Ms. Huckaby taught first grade for the Seguin ISD for a number of years, before moving to Los Angeles to pursue her teaching career further. She moved back to Seguin to take up the position of Library Media Specialist, which she holds today.

Melanie Huckaby is a believer in the power of reading to help transform the lives of her students. She loves to read aloud to the children, and enjoys answering students' questions and helping them to learn how to find information on their own.

Her passion for reading and learning serves as a wonderful example for her students. The people of Seguin are lucky to have a dedicated teacher and librarian like Melanie Huckaby looking after her students, and I am proud to have the chance to recognize her here today.

RUBELLA ELIMINATION
ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that rubella, or German measles, "is no longer a health threat in the United States." This great accomplishment is worthy of note, and indeed celebration.

Just 40 years ago, the United States had come out of what we now believe will be the last epidemic of rubella in this country. The 1964-1965 epidemic was estimated to have caused 12.5 million cases of rubella—including 20,000 cases of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), where children were born with birth defects such as cataracts, heart defects, hearing impairment, and developmental delay. As a result, this epidemic was responsible for more than 2,000 fetal deaths.

Unless a safe and effective vaccine was developed quickly, the United States expected another outbreak within the decade. In 1969, Merck developed the first vaccine for rubella, and millions of doses were distributed through our Nation's strong vaccination programs. Fortunately, another epidemic never occurred, and by the end of 1979 only 12,000 cases of rubella were reported in the United States.

According to the CDC, since 2001, the annual numbers of rubella cases have been the lowest ever recorded in the United States: 23 in 2001, 18 in 2002, seven in 2003, and nine in 2004. Outside the United States, approximately 100,000 cases of CRS are reported each year. In our global society, diseases do not stop at the border. Therefore, we must remain vigilant, continue to invest in our vaccination system, and do our part to address the remaining international challenge.

Our ability to protect our Nation's health from certain infectious diseases depends on a vibrant and innovative vaccine industry. As we emerge from recent vaccine shortages and exits from the vaccine business, we are fortunate that Merck, for example, has chosen to build new vaccine production capacity in Durham, North Carolina. The continued dedication and commitment of our vaccine manufacturers are essential if we are to make once-feared diseases a thing of the past.

RECOGNIZING SEAN DAVID HUNTLEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean David Huntley of Platte City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been a part of Troop 351 for 5 years, and during that time period he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Librarian. During that time period, he earned 43 merit badges and the God and Church Medal. In addition to the numerous leadership positions and merit badges, Sean is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow, a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and spent 5 years at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Sean also participated in Junior Leader Basic Training, Snorkeling, and National Camping. Sean also has 46 service hours, 99 nights camping, and 78 miles hiking. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Sean reconstructed an outside prayer area for United Methodist Church in Platte City, Missouri. Sean redesigned the fire pit, mulched the area, and then rebuilt the outside cross structure. He also constructed a trail and steps as a path to the prayer area.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean David Huntley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT JAMES ALLEN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Detective Sergeant James Allen of Johnston, Rhode Island. After graduating from the police academy in 1978, Detective Sergeant Allen served on the force of the Providence Police Department for 27 years, until he was tragically murdered in his own police station while questioning a suspect on April 17, 2005.

Detective Sergeant Allen was first and foremost a family man, and he leaves behind his wife Marguerite and two teenage daughters, Jennifer and Caitlin. In addition to his work on the police force, he held down a part-time job to help pay for his daughters' tuition at private school. He was a fixture at St. Thomas Catholic Church in his Fruit Hill neighborhood, where he had regularly attended services since fourth grade. The Reverend Francis Kayatta said, "He was absolutely devoted to God and to his Catholic faith. He was absolutely devoted to his wife and his family. And he was absolutely devoted to the community that he gave his life for."

Detective Sergeant Allen followed his father Captain Lloyd Allen to the Providence Police Department. One of the longest-serving members of the force, James was a respected and well-liked member of the Department. Over the years, he had worked on some of the biggest cases in Rhode Island. In 1987, Allen evacuated several sleeping people from a burning tenement house. He received the Chiefs Award in 1989 for outstanding acts in the line of duty. In 2003, Detective Sergeant Allen played a key role in investigating a shooting at the Mount Hope Police Station, not far from his own office at the Providence Police Station. His affable demeanor, photographic memory, and attention to detail helped apprehend criminals and make Rhode Island a safer place to live.

In America, one law enforcement officer is killed every 53 hours, and Rhode Island is not immune to this tragic statistic. Detective Sergeant Allen is the ninth Rhode Island officer killed in the line of duty since 1952, and the fourth since 1994.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Crugnale and his dispatcher for Yellow Cab. Their quick thinking helped apprehend the suspected murderer shortly after the shooting.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends, and colleagues of Detective Sergeant Allen. Over the last quarter century, Detective Sergeant James Allen made a difference while protecting the people of Providence, and his absence will leave a large void in Rhode Island.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DELIA MOLINA, JUAN SEGUIN PRE-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Delia Molina, Juan Seguin Pre-kindergarten Teacher of the Year.

Delia Molina received a Bachelor of Science and a Masters in Education from Southwest State University. She has taught in Austin, San Marcos, and Seguin Texas; along with her time spent teaching in Fort Knox Kentucky. Highly experienced in her field, Mrs. Molina has also served as Director of the Army Child Development Center in Germany.

She has over 21 years of teaching experience; her last eight years have been spent teaching at Seguin Independent School District. Mrs. Molina currently works with our district's youngest students, teaching bilingual pre-kindergarten to our kids. Over the years she has also served as a bilingual teacher supervisor, counselor, and curriculum specialist.

I am proud to have had the chance to recognize Juan Seguin Pre-kindergarten's Teacher of the Year, Delia Molina. Mrs. Molina has spent her life in the service of our kids, and her hard work has insured that our bilingual students receive the special attention that they deserve.

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, over the past several years I have had the privilege and challenge of serving on both the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Non-proliferation and Human Rights, and the House Judiciary Committee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

As a member of these panels, I have closely watched the work of the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. That is why I was very pleased to see the commission, chaired by former Senator Robb and Judge Silberman, recently present its final report. As someone who works daily to try and formulate the best policies to augment American security both at home and abroad, I have found a number of the conclusions and recommendations contained in this sweeping report to be of great interest.

Those who have seen the news coverage of this report are aware that it serves as a broad analysis of the intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq. But those who have fully read the report know that it puts forth a helpful and needed blueprint for the continued reshaping of our intelligence community to meet the requirements of the 21st Century.