

years ago. In addition, based on strong, competitive bids by health care plans for 2007, average monthly premiums will be approximately \$22 for beneficiaries, a drop from last year's average premium and well below initial premium estimates.

The bottom line is that consumer choice is working. There are currently many different drug plans available to seniors. These plans compete with each other and negotiate prices with the pharmaceutical companies. As we have seen, this competition has resulted in lower costs for the program than originally expected. Such cost savings have been achieved while preserving the ability of seniors to obtain the drugs their doctor has prescribed from a local pharmacist of choice.

The misguided proposal before us today to put the government in charge of negotiating prescription drug prices does not serve the interests of seniors. Government controls will lead to restrictive formularies, denying seniors coverage for the drugs their doctors prescribe. While seniors will have fewer prescriptions to choose from, they will not realize savings from this reduction in prescription options. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) affirmed that government negotiation will only yield savings if access to medicines is restricted.

H.R. 4 will limit seniors' choice of plans and access to necessary treatments; what's more, it will stifle innovation. In examining ways to control the costs of prescription drugs, we must not forget that innovations by pharmaceutical companies lead to the development of newer and better treatments. Price controls create barriers to pharmaceutical innovation that can hurt patients and slow the potential for innovative therapy discovery. Some estimates find that almost 200 new drugs would go undiscovered over the next two decades as an indirect result of federal price negotiations.

We all want to ensure our seniors can get the prescriptions they need at the lowest cost. The debate before us today is about who we think is most effective in negotiating with the drug companies to achieve this low cost. We do not need to speculate on the answer to this question. The current program of senior choice and market competition has already lowered costs by forty percent in one year. In contrast, the CBO has said that the proposal to move toward socialized medicine will not save seniors any money unless access to needed medications is limited. I cannot support limiting access and choice for the 66,000 Medicare Part D beneficiaries in my district and as such strongly oppose H.R. 4.

CORRECTING THE COLLOQUY OF JANUARY 19

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, during this afternoon's colloquy between the Republican Whip and the Democratic Leader, I was in a bipartisan meeting of the leadership of the California delegation. However, I understand that the distinguished Majority Leader indicated that I had objected to consideration of the member pension bill today. While I am flattered that my colleagues believe that I still

wield that level of influence now that I am the Ranking Republican of the Rules Committee, I simply want to clarify that at no time did the Republicans object, but simply pointed out to the new majority that a meeting to consider a rule would need to be an "emergency" meeting under the committee rules.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and individual of the highest integrity, Larry Welch, who has announced he is retiring after 12 years as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and a lifetime of public service in law enforcement.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, with undergraduate and law degrees, and of the FBI Academy, Larry Welch served as an FBI agent and supervisor from 1961–1986 in Tennessee, Washington, Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas, Missouri and Kansas. From 1986–1989, he served as deputy director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, where he also served as director from 1989–1994. In 1994, he was named director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation; his longevity in that post is exceeded only by the first director, Lou Richter, who served from 1939–1956.

The KBI has approximately 300 employees, including about 80 agents posted across Kansas. It has four forensic labs, with 53 forensic scientists at the labs in Topeka, Great Bend, Pittsburg and Kansas City. The labs provide technical support to local police agencies in areas including DNA analysis and fingerprint analysis.

Larry and Shirley Welch have three grown children and eight grandchildren. During my twelve years as District Attorney of Johnson County, I worked closely with Larry in his capacity as administrator of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. He is a public servant of unquestioned dedication and skill. The people of Kansas have been extraordinarily lucky that he has served them in a series of sensitive, important law enforcement positions in our state.

Madam Speaker, I include with this statement a column by the editor of the Lawrence Journal-World, Dolph Simons, Jr., entitled "Welch has run KBI with integrity and professionalism." I couldn't have said it better myself, and I commend the career of Larry Welch to all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From LJWORLD.COM, Jan. 13, 2007]

SIMONS: WELCH HAS RUN KBI WITH INTEGRITY
AND PROFESSIONALISM

(By Dolph C. Simons, Jr.)

Kansas and the residents of the state are losing the services of an excellent lawman.

At the end of May, Larry Welch will step down as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

He has done a superb job as KBI director since assuming the role in 1994 at the invitation of then-Attorney General Bob Stephan. Welch became the KBI's 10th director and served in this position under four Kansas attorneys general, including the recently sworn-in Paul Morrison.

Whether Welch's decision to leave at this time has anything to do with the new attorney general is anyone's guess. However, his announcement about plans to retire said nothing to indicate he has any differences with the new leadership in the AG's office.

The KBI does not have a high public profile, and it is obvious Welch has directed the agency with the goal of being an excellent arm of the law enforcement business, conducting its affairs and efforts in a professional manner, not trying to capture headlines and public attention. Welch and his associates have been far more interested in capturing those who violate the law rather than tooting their own horns or patting themselves on the back.

Welch is a professional and served as a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent before moving into the KBI director's office. He has put together an effective, efficient and lean staff and has gained the respect and high regard of Kansas legislators. He has kept lawmakers informed about KBI activities, and his annual reports detail the work of his agents, scientists and other members of the KBI team.

In his latest report, he notes the success of the KBI in identification and seizure of meth labs in 2006. Over the past five years, the number of meth labs seized and put out of operation has dropped from a high of 846 in 2001 to an estimated 155 for 2006. He attributed this success to the support of Kansas legislators and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and the legislation that provided funding and manpower to discover, seize and destroy the labs.

He points out, however, "Before we form a circle, hold hands and sing 'Kumbaya,' let me hasten to admit that even one meth lab, with all its dangers and attendant dire consequences is too many, and let me also remind you that, as I have been advising you since 1997, the majority of methamphetamine in Kansas, probably more than 80 percent, has always been of foreign origin, mostly Mexican, and not manufactured locally."

Welch tells the lawmakers the effort to seize and shut down meth labs "remains one of the most dangerous of all law enforcement activities."

He added there still will be meth labs to seek out, investigate, seize and prosecute, but with the effectiveness of the current program, KBI agents will be able to spend more time on efforts to reduce the importation, trafficking and interdiction of methamphetamine in Kansas. He noted, "We will not completely solve our state's methamphetamine problem, of course, until our nation's Southern and Southwest borders are better secured, in my opinion. If that's ever possible."

Not only has Welch's professionalism added stature and respect to the KBI, but also his personal manner has reflected credit on the organization.

The public must have respect for those in the law enforcement business. They don't have to like a local police officer, a member of the sheriffs staff, a local judge, a KBI agent or judges on high state and federal benches, BUT it is essential that citizens respect these men and women. Those in the law business, at whatever level, must perform in a manner that reflects credit on their respective agencies if our system of laws is to work and be effective.

Larry Welch certainly has done this in how he supervised and led the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. All law-abiding Kansans are better off and safer today because of the efforts of Welch and his fellow agents.

The state will miss Welch, and it is important he be succeeded by an equally committed, effective and professional individual.

This is no place for political games to be played; the KBI office should never be used as a means of passing out a paycheck or IOU for some previous political or monetary favor.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI BIAN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud our government's decision to allow Taiwan President Chen Shui Bian to visit the United States earlier this month. As you know, President Chen visited both Los Angeles and San Francisco as part of a larger North American trip.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, the government of Mexico was not nearly as hospitable to our democratically elected friend.

While President Chen was on his way to Los Angeles, however, he was informed by Mexican authorities that his plane was prohibited from flying over Mexican air space. This unexpected notification forced the President's plane to make a detour over the Pacific Ocean, extending his flight time to Los Angeles from 5 to 10 hours. This arbitrary decision delayed some of President Chen's meetings with U.S. officials, and more importantly, put President Chen and the other passengers on his plane in danger.

Mexico had given Chen permission to fly over Mexican air space on Chen's way to Nicaragua, so why did Mexican officials refuse to grant Taiwan's democratically elected President the same courtesy on his return flight? I think we all know the answer to this question, Madam Speaker.

In all likelihood, Mexico's sudden change of heart is attributable to pressure exerted by the People's Republic of China. Beijing has been relentless in its efforts to isolate our democratic friends on Taiwan, and this shameless move by the mainland is just the latest in a long series of indignities that the Beijing authorities have visited on the Taiwanese people.

Madam Speaker, communist China is always quick to talk about how much they respect the "Taiwan Compatriots" across the Taiwan Strait. Unfortunately, their hostile actions never reflect that deceptively rosy rhetoric. By continuing to insult and disrespect Taiwan's democratic government, China insults and disrespects the people of Taiwan who elected that government.

By outsourcing their campaign of intimidation to other countries like Mexico—who seem more than willing to subcontract their foreign policy to Beijing—China continues to drive the people of Taiwan further and further away.

I hope that the next time Taiwan's democratically elected president visits the United States; we can host him here in Washington.

And finally, Madam Speaker, I hope next time Taiwan's democratically elected president visits North America, that other democratic countries in our region will treat him with the courtesy and respect they would afford to any other democratically elected head of state.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General Robert E. Lee in celebration of the bicentennial of his birthday. A U.S. war hero, Lee has been lauded by past presidents and historians and as one of our nation's greatest men and greatest generals.

His birthday has been celebrated in Georgia as a state holiday since 1889 and the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be marking the occasion this year with a birthday celebration at the Georgia State Capitol. It is my pleasure to also recognize this event within our nation's Capitol.

Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807, in Virginia to parents who played instrumental in some of our country's early history.

Lee also dedicated himself to his country—graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and accepting a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lee's first assignment was in Georgia, where he supervised the construction of Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island.

While Lee is probably best remembered as a commanding officer in the Confederate States Army, he also played a key role in defending our country during the Mexican-American War, protecting settlers on the Texas frontier and educating future leaders as superintendent of West Point.

Following the Civil War, Lee accepted a position as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. As president, Lee worked to rebuild the war-ravaged South and stressed the importance of moving forward as a nation of united Americans. Lee also is credited with transforming the college, which has since been renamed Washington and Lee University, into one of the nation's finest institutions of higher education.

Lee continued to serve as president of Washington College until his death on October 12, 1870. Years later during the unveiling of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Statue, President Franklin D. Roosevelt would call Lee "one of our greatest American Christians and one of our greatest American gentlemen."

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this great American.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI WILLIAM ABRAHAM GREENEBAUM II ON HIS 50TH YEAR AS A RABBI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Rabbi William A. Greenebaum of Monterey County, CA, who is celebrating 50 years in the Rabbinate. From the American Civil Rights movement to the Allocations Panel for United Way, Rabbi Greenebaum has spent his days working to

improve the lives and spirits of the elderly, the powerless, and the poor.

Rabbi Greenebaum was born in Philadelphia to a rabbinical family that included a grandfather and great uncle who held prominent positions in the Jewish community. Rabbi Greenebaum received his bachelor's degree in Ancient and Medieval History from the University of Cincinnati in 1948, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Hebrew Letters as well as a Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa from the Hebrew Union College in 1957.

Shortly after his ordination as a rabbi from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Rabbi Greenebaum enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as Jewish Chaplain for two years in San Antonio, Texas. After his military service, he served in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as Assistant Rabbi, led Congregation Beth Torah in their efforts to build a synagogue in Prairie Village/Overland Park, Kansas, served as Rabbi in Flint, Michigan, and also in Fremont, California, where he met Nancy, his wonderful wife of 35 years.

In 1972, Rabbi Greenebaum enlisted in the active duty U.S. Army and served as Chaplain in Columbia, South Carolina, Heidelberg, Germany, and Monterey, California. After his retirement in 1990, he continued to serve as a civilian chaplain to the Jewish military community in the Monterey Bay region until 2001.

Since his retirement in 1990, Rabbi Greenebaum has continued to serve the Monterey Bay Area full time; as a member of the Board of Directors and substitute rabbi for Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel Valley; interim rabbi for Temple Beth El in Salinas, California; as Assistant District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America; as a Monterey County Civil Grand Juror; and as a member of the distinguished Allocations Panel for the Monterey County chapter of the United Way. Rabbi Greenebaum also spends many hours visiting the sick, elderly, and others in his community who are in need of spiritual comfort.

In the 1960's, Rabbi Greenebaum met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when they both addressed the National Bar Association Convention in Milwaukee. In 1969, he was appointed Chairman of the Flint, Michigan, Human Relations Commission and served as President of the Flint Ministerial Association. He served as volunteer Jewish Chaplain at the Kansas State Prison and at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth. In 1962, the mayor of Kansas City appointed Rabbi Greenebaum to the Cuban Refugee Committee where he helped the city prepare for and welcome more than one hundred Cuban refugees to Missouri.

The principle of Tikkun Olam, "world repair" through social action and justice, has guided the actions of Rabbi Greenebaum throughout his life. As a prominent community leader, human rights activist, and helping friend, he has given countless hours, tears, and moments of laughter to many who would otherwise have suffered alone, while building religious and civil institutions to support spiritual values and integrity in every sphere of our community lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi William A. Greenebaum for more than fifty years of outstanding dedication and public service. His deeds are a strong example and inspiration to us all.