

anniversary since negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea signed the historic and landmark U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, one of the most commercially significant free trade agreements to be signed by the United States in over a decade.

The Republic of Korea and the United States are already major trading partners. South Korea has the world's 11th largest economy and stands as our 7th largest trading partner with more than \$80 billion passing between our two nations each year.

Today, Korea took a critical step toward implementing the recent agreement between the United States and Korea that will allow exports of high-quality U.S. beef to resume, based on internationally recognized standards that affirm the safety of U.S. beef.

Before the import ban, South Korea was the third largest sales market for U.S. beef, valued at over \$800 million a year. As the nation's fourth largest beef exporter, Texas would stand to benefit greatly from new opportunities in the Korean market. Under the FTA, Korea would remove tariffs of up to 40 percent levied on U.S. beef, giving U.S. ranchers an advantage over other foreign competitors.

By eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers and strengthening protections for U.S. companies, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement will expand trade and investment further. The U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea FTA would grow U.S. GDP by over \$10 billion annually, upon full implementation. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service providers to the South Korean market.

Should the United States Congress sit idle and continue to ignore the economic potential this historic agreement offers, I assure you South Korea will not stop efforts to liberalize its trade relations with other countries—putting Americans at a disadvantage when competing abroad. We cannot afford a time-out on trade while the rest of the world marches on.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this week, we took a moment of pause on June 25, 2008, to remember the 58th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. As that conflict, out of which was born the U.S.-Korea alliance, has often been referred to as the "Forgotten War," it is our duty to honor and remember the noble sacrifices of our Korean War veterans.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is June 26, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,938 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first

handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them. And it seems so sad to me, Madam Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

So as a small gesture, I would ask those in the Chamber who are inclined to join me for a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,938 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is June 26, 2008, 12,938 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HONORING MONSIGNOR RICHARD O'KEEFFE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD. The presentation was given by Colonel John Bullington, Commander with U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, in recognition of Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe's work in the community.

PRESENTATION TO MSGR. O'KEEFFE ON JUNE 13, 2008

(By Col. John Bullington, Commander, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground)

I'd like to take a few moments to extend a very sincere tribute to a man who is a true treasure to those of us at YPG—Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe.

Since June 1978, thirty years ago this month, the Monsignor, a man of great integrity, energy and sincerity, has faithfully served YPG as Catholic chaplain. He drove from town most Sundays to celebrate mass at the post chapel and is here at least one weekday each week to make visits, perform counseling, conduct baptisms, and perform other duties carried out by a chaplain. He was instrumental in expanding our religious education program and has been an inspiration to all with whom he's come in contact.

I might also mention that Monsignor O'Keeffe is one of the most influential cheerleaders for YPG in the community. He maintains a network of contacts from both political parties, and his advice is always right on the mark. I personally value his input and welcome what he has to say. He represents a rare combination of judgment, fidelity to truth, intellectual force, and clarity of interpretation.

For thirty years, Monsignor O'Keeffe has been there without fail for the people of YPG—of any faith. We could have asked for no better friend, for no better man. Ireland's loss was definitely our gain.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CENTER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Michigan Hospital

and Health Center, UMHHC, Security and Entrance Services for receiving the 2008 Lindberg Bell Award. Bestowed annually by the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, IAHS, the Lindberg Bell Award is given to the hospital with the best healthcare security program in the country. The IAHS has over 1,600 members and is the only healthcare security organization in the U.S. They provide valuable services to those in the field, including education and training programs. The award recognizes organizations that have vastly improved their services over the last year, and the UMHHC Security and Entrance Services should be commended for meeting this high standard.

The UMHHC Security and Entrance Services is charged with protecting hospital personnel and property, in addition to providing excellent customer service. This is no small feat, considering that there are over 10,000 people in the hospital at any given time. Their leadership skills and innovative spirit have been demonstrated through the development of a badge system for the Mott Children's Hospital. Under this program, all visitors to the hospital must check in at a station to receive a badge to wear during their stay at the hospital. This system resulted in an increase in security and has spread to other sections of the hospital. I am confident the UMHHC will continue to provide a high level of security for patients.

As a Lindberg Bell Awardee, it is my hope that the UMHHC Security and Entrance Services will continue to serve as an example to the community and its peers that the security of our patients should not be overlooked. Our hospitals open their doors each day to diagnose and care to the citizens of our community. It is imperative that while serving this mission our doctors and nurses are not distracted by outside issues. By going the extra mile, UMHHC is ensuring that every person who walks through their doors will know that both high quality care and safety comes first. Again, I commend UMHHC for their effort and tireless dedication to its patients. To the doctors, nurses and support staff, I congratulate each one of you for being part of a health system who takes the mission of caring for patients to the next level. Congratulations UMHHC on winning the Lindberg Bell Award.

HONORING GEORGETTE BROWN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues my pride in Georgette Brown. Georgette is a dedicated public servant, a good friend, and a stalwart guardian of the American election process.

Georgette is retiring after 25 years of elected service as County Clerk in Josephine County, Oregon. As all of you know, to be elected to a position repeatedly for over two and a half decades, a person must be extremely well liked, dedicated, competent, and a proven leader. Those attributes truly personify Georgette Brown.

In her career, Georgette has brought innovation and modernization to the Office of Jo-

sephine County Clerk since assuming office in 1983. She oversaw significant transitions that took the county from hand-counted paper ballots to punch cards to optical scan ballots, which are now in their third generation. She flawlessly facilitated the change from voting at polling places to a 100 percent vote-by-mail system today. Georgette has been a true professional as County Clerk, and I have relied on her many times to understand how proposed legislation might affect the local elections process.

Georgette has continually modernized the recordkeeping and reporting functions of the County Clerk's office, now utilizing the Internet extensively. She has created a user friendly office where you can easily obtain passports and other public documents. As County Clerk, Georgette also performs marriages.

To accomplish what Georgette has as County Clerk would be considered remarkable in and of itself, but Georgette also excelled at being a loving wife, mother, and now a grandmother. Her public service and leadership has gone beyond her elected position to include her long service in Rotary and Zonta. Georgette has served as president of both of those organizations dedicated to serving others. Georgette serves on the executive board of the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials, and Treasurers. In her retirement, she plans to continue her international involvement in the elections process.

For most of her adult life, Georgette was at the side of her husband, Larry, who was tragically taken from us all too soon a few years ago when a long battle with cancer ended his life. Larry was, in every sense of the word, a great American, patriot, and one who accomplished great things. Larry and Georgette were a very effective team working to better their community. When Larry passed away, it took great courage for Georgette to carry on without him, but she has been up to this ultimate personal test. She has kept the flame of public service burning brightly for which the Browns were so well known.

Madam Speaker, with all of her significant accomplishments, Georgette would assuredly point with most pride to the two great daughters that she and Larry raised, Monique and Martie. Monique is married to Shane Anderson and they have presented Georgette with her first grandchild, Taylor Anderson.

Even though Georgette Brown is retiring from public office, she will always be active in serving others, and she remains committed to making her country and her community a better place in which to live and work. Madam Speaker, we may pass laws, but people like Georgette Brown make those laws work for all of us. Although she will be missed as County Clerk, she can leave that phase of her public service knowing that she gave it her all and she made a real difference. With public service such a part of her moral fiber, we know that she will soon be serving in new and innovative ways and continuing to improve the lives of others.

I highly value Georgette's service and her friendship. I ask you to join me in honoring this very special woman.

NAAYI YOUTH PROGRAM—ENCOURAGING MORE MINORITIES TO ENTER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge and thank my good friend and colleague Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. As the only doctor in the CBC, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN—we all look to DONNA for her advice and her insight on critical health issues that affect our communities.

Whether it is finding ways to address racial and ethnic health disparities, helping our health care system provide culturally competent and culturally relevant care, or helping encourage young people, like you all, to enter the health professions, we rely on DONNA to guide us.

I want to thank her for her leadership and for helping to organize this event today.

My background is as a psychiatric social worker. I know how important it is to have people of color in the health professions; people that can relate to their patients and who can provide help and advice in a way that is relevant for them.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, I have been working with my colleagues to increase funding to increase diversity in the health professions.

This year I'm pleased to report that we have developed a bill that would provide nearly \$104 million to increase diversity training programs in the health professions. That's an increase of \$34 million from last year.

These funds will go towards programs and institutions that help train minority health professionals and provide scholarship support to help defray the costs of an education.

As we move through the appropriations process I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we keep and grow the money for these programs.

THE MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT: PROVIDING CRITICAL CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Medical Device Safety Act of 2008, which has been introduced today by my colleagues Representatives FRANK PALLONE and HENRY WAXMAN. I am proud to be original cosponsor of this legislation, which will restore consumer protections that were eliminated in the Supreme Court's recent Riegel v. Medtronic decision.

The Riegel v. Medtronic decision ignored congressional intent and disregarded 30 years of experience under the 1976 Medical Device amendments, during which FDA regulation and State tort law worked together to protect consumers from dangerous devices. The Riegel decision gives total immunity to device manufacturers who fail to adequately warn