

health care system during a catastrophic emergency.

Specifically, PHERA would provide a temporary emergency health benefit for uninsured individuals and individuals whose health insurance coverage is not actuarially equivalent to benchmark coverage, in the event that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declares that a public health emergency exists and chooses to activate the benefit. It would clarify who is eligible for this benefit, including individuals displaced by a public health emergency, limit the amount of time for which the benefit would last, and stipulate what providers would be covered under this Act. It would not use Medicare, Medicaid or SCHIP funding. The funding mechanism would be the Public Health Emergency Fund, a no-year fund available to the Secretary. The bill authorizes funding for the administration of the fund, together with a public education campaign on the availability of the benefit, but further funding would not be necessary until Congress appropriated funds in the event of a declared public health emergency.

Past experiences have shown that Congress will step in to help defray the costs of uncompensated care resulting from a catastrophic emergency. Determining the scope of such coverage ahead of time will help ensure the solvency of our health care system and help eliminate a disincentive for individuals to promptly seek care. PHERA would help ensure that when tragedy strikes, time and lives are not lost as Congress debates a course of action. It would create the turnkey process ahead of time, thereby allowing for timely care to individuals affected by a crisis.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing this legislation and look forward to working with you on this and other public health initiatives in the future.

Sincerely,

American Red Cross.

CENTER FOR BIOSECURITY,

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

Infectious Diseases Society of America.

National Association of Community Health Centers.

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America.

Trust for America's Health.

#### TRIBUTE TO DON BETTS

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Betts as the recipient of the 2008 Educator of the Year from the Iowa Association of Alternative Education and for his outstanding service as a teacher and director at Carrie Lane Alternative School in Charles City, Iowa.

The Educator of the Year award is presented each year to an alternative educator who makes a significant contribution to alternative education in Iowa. Don currently is the only teacher at Carrie Lane. He understands that in alternative education, relationships based on encouragement are necessary, and he continues to build upon those relationships well after graduation. His hard work and motivational skills have helped many students per-

severe and earn their high school diplomas, and the confidence he instills in his students opens doors to learning opportunities and future success.

I congratulate Don Betts on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to touch the lives of many students in his community. It is a great honor to represent Don in the United States Congress, and I wish him continued success at Carrie Lane Alternative School.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, 34 years ago, Turkish troops invaded the Island of Cyprus, resulting in the death and displacement of thousands of Greek and Turkish Cypriot citizens; leaving behind a state of conflict within a civilization that can trace its history back more than ten thousand years. A 113-mile long divide was created as the Turks began their occupation of one third of the island, which exists to present day.

Today, we recognize this tragic event, but we also look at, with hope, the future that lies ahead.

As part of a congressional delegation last November, other members of Congress and I discussed this long-standing conflict and the path toward resolution with members of the Cyprus government. I am encouraged by the recent overtures made by leaders on both sides of the Cyprus question.

I am hopeful that the meetings between President Christofias and Mr. Talat will continue, and that the work of the mutually established Working Groups and Technical Communities may ultimately lead to a unified Cypriot nation.

I am confident that through tolerance, compromise and the continuation of diplomatic efforts, lasting solutions to the remaining differences will be attained.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPTAIN SCOTT J. FERGUSON

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the significant achievements of Captain Scott J. Ferguson whose service with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo were concluded today during a change of command ceremony on 1 Fuhrmann Blvd.

As the Commander of the United States Coast Guard Sector Buffalo, Captain Scott J. Ferguson was responsible for a 570 mile coastline stretching from Massena, NY, to Vermillion, OH, including three of the five finger lakes, St. Lawrence River, Niagara River, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Erie Barge Canal. Captain Ferguson has been awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, a Navy

Achievement Medal, and the Transportation 9-11 Medal, along with many others.

Captain Ferguson has done a great deal for Sector Buffalo during his time as Commander. He always made it his mission to ensure the complete safety of those in his area of responsibility. He ensured that all personnel working in Sector Buffalo were properly trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation. Captain Ferguson continually worked on fulfilling his firm belief that Sector Buffalo was the "gatekeeper" of the Great Lakes.

Captain Ferguson truly worked on promoting safe boating practices. In doing so, Captain Ferguson hosted a Safe Boating Week in Sector Buffalo to educate citizens on safe water and boating practices. In addition, he created the Annual Eastern Great Lakes Water Safety Expo, which included safety demonstrations, free recreation vessel inspections and tours of the Sector Buffalo Coast Guard base and the Buffalo Lighthouse.

Captain Ferguson will be leaving to serve as the chief of prevention at the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Captain Scott Ferguson for all that he has done for Western New York and Sector Buffalo and wish him every success in his future.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Cyprus who have experienced an illegal occupation that has divided their nation for the last 34 years. On July 20, 1974, an unlawful Turkish invasion created a division between the northern and southern parts of the island. This division still exists today despite the best efforts of the United Nations to broker a solution. However, I am encouraged by recent events that the reunification of Cyprus is now a real possibility.

The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was followed by widespread condemnation in the international community. The invasion and occupation drove nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. Sadly, about 5,000 Cypriots were killed in the attack and 1,400 Greek Cypriots remain missing and unaccounted for. Nearly a decade after the attack, Turkey advanced a "unilateral declaration of independence" in the northern area of the island occupied by the Turkish military. In response, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 541, which denounced the claim of an independent state and called for the withdrawal of the declaration.

I am greatly encouraged by the progress currently being accomplished in Cyprus. At his inauguration this February, incoming Cypriot President Demetris Christofias announced that solving the Cyprus problem is going to be the first priority of his government. In response, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mehmet Ali Talat, said that a solution in Cyprus is possible by the end of 2008.

The current state of affairs in Cyprus presents an opportunity for the United States to show leadership by working together with the

UN and Cyprus to facilitate a peace process. It will take the cooperation of the international community to bring the stalemate to an acceptable conclusion.

I applaud the leadership of President Christofias and his determination to reunify the country of Cyprus. The people of Cyprus have waited a long 34 years for peace and justice. They deserve the help of the United States and the international community in their endeavor.

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TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BLOSSER

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Robert Blosser of Jefferson City, MO, who was recently inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

In 1932, Mr. Blosser began his lifelong career with the Jefferson City News Tribune at the age of 18. For a 30 month stretch, Mr. Blosser left for WWII as a combat photographer. Upon his homecoming in 1945, he faithfully returned to the News Tribune. With time, Mr. Blosser became the company's president and also served as president of a local television station owned by the News Tribune. Mr. Blosser's leadership was recognized by the Missouri Press Association when he was elected president of the association in 1976. After numerous years with the News Tribune, Mr. Blosser retired in 1984. He continued to serve on the News Tribune's board of directors until earlier this year when the company was sold.

In addition to these accomplishments, Mr. Blosser served on the board of Chamber of Commerce and Salvation Army in Jefferson City. He has delivered Meals on Wheels for more than 20 years. Mr. Blosser also is an active Lion's Club member and served on the board of the United Way. Still today, at the age of 93, Mr. Blosser mentors at East Grade School in Jefferson City and serves on the board of the Senior Nutrition Center where he frequently volunteers. On top of these achievements, Mr. Blosser and his wife, Marge, have three children.

Madam Speaker, Robert Blosser has distinguished himself as a valuable leader of his community and as a role model for young Americans. I know that members of the House will join me in wishing Robert Blosser all the best.

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SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a resolution to designate October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

By selecting this month as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, we can promote awareness of this tragic disease, and support the goals of a "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month."

The Heart Rhythm Society states that Sudden Cardiac Arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year and has approximately a 95 percent mortality rate according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. In order to survive the attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack.

Sean Patrick O'Hara, a 21-year-old University of Mississippi student, died of Sudden Cardiac Arrest while studying for final exams. Sean's mother, Dawn Cartwright, has started the only Sudden Cardiac Arrest Chapter in Mississippi to spread awareness, educate the public, and to help provide Automated External Defibrillators in all public venues. Through tireless dedication, Ms. Cartwright is working to raise public awareness about the devastating effects of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

Education and public awareness about sudden cardiac arrest, the warning signs and the need to seek medical attention are critical to preventing Sudden Cardiac Arrest deaths.

I hope that my colleagues will join Ms. CAPPs and myself to help save lives and inform the public about this critical disease by naming October National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

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FIGHTING AGAINST FAULTY  
MEDICAL DEVICES

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. WEINER. I rise today in support of the recently introduced Medical Device Safety Act of 2008. This much-needed legislation would restore an injured consumer's ability to hold negligent medical device manufacturers accountable for product-related deaths and injuries.

The Medical Device Safety Act addresses the problems created by the Supreme Court's February 20, 2008, decision in *Riegel v. Medtronic*. This decision stripped away essential consumer rights by supplying device manufacturers with total immunity from liability.

It's difficult to see the reasoning behind this special treatment for device manufacturers when you consider what happened to Bridget Robb. In May 2005, Ms. Robb was diagnosed with nonischemic, viral cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. To prevent her from dying from a fatal arrhythmia, she had a Medtronic cardiac defibrillator and pacemaker implanted in her chest. On December 31, 2007, a wire in Ms. Robb's defibrillator broke, causing the device to send a strong electric current to her heart. Ms. Robb suffered 31 electric shocks in 13 minutes in front of her 6-year-old daughter. Medtronic knew about this defect, but issued only a voluntary recall. Since this frightening experience, Ms. Robb has undergone two surgeries to replace her defibrillator and goes to doctor's appointments almost weekly for follow-up appointments and testing.

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Riegel*, the FDA and State courts protected consumers, like Ms. Robb, together. Since *Riegel*, consumers only have the FDA to protect them; and the FDA has insufficient re-

sources to do so effectively. The Medical Device Safety Act ensures that consumers like Bridget Robb will be able to seek legal recourse for their injuries and reiterates Congressional intent that State laws must work hand in hand with Federal regulations to protect consumers.

For these reasons, I urge support for Congressman PALLONE and Congressman WAXMAN's bill, H.R. 6381. I look forward to working towards passage of this legislation and restoring these, critical, basic consumer protections.

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34TH BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember those Cypriots who lost their lives defending the Republic of Cyprus during the 1974 military coup against the democratically elected government of Archbishop Makarios, who was then President of Cyprus.

This military coup paved the way for the Turkish invasion of Cyprus five days later that resulted in the occupation of 37 percent of the Republic's territory. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes and an estimated 5,000 were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing since the Turkish invasion, their fate still unaccounted for.

The repercussions of this terrible day are still in play today, affecting the lives of every Cypriot, European policy, and the actions of the United Nations and international community. The so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is recognized as legitimate by no nation other than Turkey. With more than 40,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

However, on this day when we pause to remember this violent act against the people of Cyprus, we also have hope that a genuine and long-lasting peace may be restored and families reunited. In 2004, Cyprus' accession to the European Union triggered a process of economic and social integration between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Since the partial lifting of restrictions along the cease-fire line by the Turkish forces in April 2003, there have been over 13 million incident-free crossings by Greek and Turkish Cypriots. More than 60,000 Turkish Cypriots have received Cypriot passports or other official documents, allowing Turkish Cypriots to travel, work or reside in any European Union country.

More importantly, however, is the commitment of the Cyprus government to achieving a solution to healing the division of Cyprus. Such a solution should be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Since his election in February 2008, the current president of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias,