

forget those who were wrongly imprisoned, those who suffered and died, or those who lost their families and loved ones. And, most importantly, we must never forget that we must never let such atrocities occur again.

Madam Speaker, today, as we commemorate the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I urge the House to prevent history from repeating itself by finally recognizing the past.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as a proud co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 322, which recently passed the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel, I wish to take an opportunity to reflect on this truly monumental event. Since the time of its creation 60 years ago, Israel has served as an example of democracy and equal rights for her neighbors. Israel has also proved to be steadfast ally to the United States in a variety of ways, particularly within our country's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

Since its founding in 1948, the modern State of Israel has served as a democratic anchor in the Middle East. Like the United States, the Israeli Declaration of Independence protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, a free press, free elections, and many other tenets of a free society. Israel established a democracy in the midst of a politically tumultuous region and by guaranteeing the basic rights of her citizens, sets herself apart from her authoritarian neighbors.

Israel prides herself on women's rights and equal pay for women in the workforce. The first female Prime Minister, Golda Meir, was elected in 1969, just 21 years after the formation of modern Israel. Women now serve as the foreign minister, speaker of the Knesset, and chief justice of the Israeli Supreme Court. Furthermore, Israel has recognized the necessity of providing equal rights regardless of gender or race and deserves to be commended.

Not only is Israel an example for her neighbors as a thriving democracy, where citizens' rights are protected through the rule of law, she has also been an avid supporter in the global war on terror. The U.S. and Israel are continually working together to develop sophisticated military technology and improve Israel's defense systems and soldier protection. In the interest of global freedom I hope, and am confident that, this friendship will continue in the future.

It is with great joy that I extend my best wishes for the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and wish them a prosperous future.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering H.R. 5613, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This legislation would place a moratorium on certain rules promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS. While I applaud CMS for looking for ways to reduce the burden on taxpayers and to root out fraud which is regrettably rampant in the Medicaid program, some of these proposed rules simply go too far. They shift too great a cost to the States and leave many vulnerable Americans more vulnerable still. And so I will support this temporary stay to give the administration time to consider ways to meet its goals in a less draconian manner.

To be sure, the Medicaid program has been abused. For instance, a CMS Inspector General report found \$3.8 million in undocumented services in the targeted case management program, one which is impacted by these very rules. And CMS's regulations would certainly combat instances of waste and fraud. However, implementing a 1-year moratorium will give CMS an opportunity to review the regulations and give States and local providers an opportunity to prepare for pending implementation, each knowing that real reform is on the horizon. While I believe it is important to rein in entitlement spending, these rules, as currently formulated and immediately imposed, would jeopardize needed care for some of the most vulnerable populations of Americans.

That being said, I am pleased that to address abuses of the Medicaid program, H.R. 5613 provides for anti-fraud enforcement activity in the interim. The bill also provides for the Department of Health and Human Services to hire an independent contractor to produce a report by March 1, 2009, on the proposed regulations and their impact on States. Moreover, all of these costs, as well as the foregone savings resulting from this moratorium are fully offset, meaning H.R. 5613 will not increase the national debt.

The Medicaid program has helped millions of America's neediest individuals, including seniors, foster kids and the disabled, gain access to quality care, and while there have indeed been instances of misallocated funds, H.R. 5613 finds balance between regulatory restraint and financial flexibility, and it maintains a strong partnership with the States.

COMMENDING CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great artist whose love of liberty inspired him to adorn the United States Capitol with beautiful frescoes. That man, of course, is Constantino Brumidi.

Brumidi's work adorns one House committee room and five Senate committee rooms

in the Capitol. His work also decorates the Senate Reception room, the Office of the Vice President and most notably, the President's room which for many represents Brumidi's supreme effort.

Constantino Brumidi emigrated to the United States in 1849 and took up residence in New York City where he plied his trade as a portrait painter. That was soon followed by more important commissions in St. Stephen's Church. Those works include a fresco of the Crucifixion as well as works depicting the Martyrdom of St. Stephen and the Assumption of St. Mary. But it was on a return trip from Mexico that Brumidi stopped in Washington, DC and toured the Capitol building. He found in it a canvass that inspired him for the remainder of his life. Brumidi suggested to Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs that the walls of the Capitol be decorated and Meigs agreed giving Brumidi the commission as well as making him a captain in the cavalry.

Brumidi's first work was in the meeting room of the House Agriculture Committee. He received \$8 a day, but was soon given a raise to \$10 a day by then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis since his work was receiving such favorable mention. Along with the raise came further commissions in the Capitol which include the Apotheosis of George Washington in the dome as well as other allegories and scenes from American history.

Brumidi died in 1880 but we have the benefit of seeing his work everyday we are here. And Americans who travel to our Nation's Capitol can also enjoy Brumidi's work, yet few know him or his story. That's why I believe all members should support two important bills pending before the House that will honor Constantino Brumidi and his work here in the Capitol. The first is H.R. 1609 introduced by Representative BILL PASCRELL. H.R. 1609 would posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Constantino Brumidi and authorize the striking of duplicate medals for sale to the public. The second is H.R. 1313, introduced by Representative GUS BILIRAKIS to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Constantino Brumidi for display in the Capitol Visitors Center. Both of these bills will honor the memory of a great artist and so I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting them both.

LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the city of Livingston and the Livingston Independent School District, as they celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Livingston High School. Since graduating its first class of three students in 1908, Livingston High School has been a place devoted to the single purpose of educating young people.

Since the city was established in the 1840s, education of youths has been of great public importance. In fact, the earliest recorded free school system in Livingston was established in 1849 and funded by the Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 14. Classes were held on the first floor of

the Lodge building until the late 1880s. A school term during that time only lasted 3 months so as to enable the students to assist their families with farming activities.

The first structure solely devoted to public education was built in 1888 and was located on Jackson Avenue. The high school, which at that time allowed students to attend grades 9 and 10, was not initiated until 1906. Even though the size of that first graduating class was small in number, their accomplishments were far and reaching. The first female to graduate, Mrs. Myra Lewis (Green), became a schoolteacher and taught in Livingston and Raymondville. Mr. Brown L. Meece went on to attend Texas A&M University and later became Vice-President for both Global and Sinclair Oil Companies. After graduating from Livingston High School, Mr. Ralph Feagin attended the University of Texas and later served as Executive Vice President of Electric Bond and Share Company in New York City and later in his life he became a partner at the law firm of Baker, Botts, Andrew, and Wharton.

Today, Livingston High School is home to approximately 1200 students that attend the ninth through the twelfth grade. Students at the school have the ability to enrich themselves academically, culturally, and athletically by participating in many different clubs and extracurricular activities.

Livingston High School has worked hard to prepare its students for the rigors of a college education. Additionally, Livingston High School serves as an off-campus center for Angelina College which enables the students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Looking back at the 100-year history of Livingston High School there is much to be proud of. Graduates of Livingston High School have excelled in all areas of life and made many positive contributions to our country. We can rejoice, however, because with great teachers and administrators there are many more positive years ahead for Livingston High School.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's high schools are places that prepare the youth of our great country to lead prosperous lives, and it is an honor to represent a high school that has such a distinguished record on doing just that in the U.S. House of Representatives. I urge you to join in congratulating Livingston High School on 100 years of excellence in educating the youth of Polk County.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and honor the 10 year anniversary of Equal Pay Day, a national day of recognition instituted by President Clinton in 1998 to raise awareness about the wage disparity and discrimination between men and women.

America has made some strides in narrowing this disparity in the workplace, but the fight for equal pay for equal work still remains prevalent and pertinent today. Thirty-five years

ago, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men; the figures are even more unsettling for women of color. This data demonstrates that the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. An 18 cent increase over 35 years indicates a significant wage disparity between working men and women that leaves a great deal of work for the employers and decision makers of today.

In the state of Texas, between 2004 and 2006, the average annual salary of men with a college degree or more was \$63,000, while their female counterparts only received an average annual salary of \$45,000 with the same credentials. In comparison, during that same time frame, the national average annual salary for men with a college degree or more was \$66,000, while their female counterparts received only \$50,000. Therefore, the state of Texas is about 5 percent below the national average in narrowing the wage disparity between men and women.

A great woman and former congresswoman from Texas, Barbara Jordan once said that, "If the society of today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." To take the late Ms. Jordan's advice: we who live in today's society must not allow the wrongs created by wage discrimination continue to discount minorities and women.

I ask my colleagues and employers nationwide to take up the fight of eliminating the wage disparity between men and women as we all honor the 10 year anniversary of Equal Pay Day.

YORK-ADAMS COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL 19TH ANNUAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York-Adams County Central Labor Council, for helping to bring safety awareness to the issue of worker safety.

Every April for the past nineteen years, the York-Adams Central Labor Council has celebrated Workers Memorial Day by sponsoring public events to recognize workers who have been killed or injured on their job.

While the workplace fatality rate has decreased significantly since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA, in 1970, we must remain vigilant in working to ensure that workers are employed in safe environments. As a Member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I believe that ensuring worker safety should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Congress must appropriate adequate funding for OSHA so that representatives can carry out safety inspections and enforce safety regulations within workplaces across the Nation. It is imperative that employers understand OSHA regulations and comply accord-

ingly to maintain the safest work environments possible.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the York-Adams County Central Labor Council for its strong commitment to promoting safety in the workplace and look forward to joining them in honoring injured and deceased workers everywhere.

RECOGNIZING GERALDINE "JERRE" MCPARTLIN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Geraldine "Jerre" McPartlin for receiving "The 2008 Sister Huberta McCarthy, R.S.M. Woman of Mercy" award. Mrs. McPartlin is the fifth woman to have the honor of receiving the "Woman of Mercy" award, and I congratulate her on this achievement.

This award has been presented by Mercy Hospital and Medical Center's Women's Board in honor of Mrs. McPartlin's work carrying forth the mission of Mercy Hospital throughout her professional and private life.

In 1852 Mercy Hospital and Medical Center was founded as the State of Illinois' first hospital and Chicago's first chartered hospital. For the last 155 years, Mercy has helped treat countless Chicagoans from all backgrounds, income levels, and educations seeking medical care.

Jerre, as she is known to her friends and family, was raised on the West side of Chicago and educated at Resurrection Grammar School and Siena High School by the Sisters of Mercy. She began her career working with the local labor movement as a business agent for the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union. This union serves thousands of workers in the hospitality and food service industries in the Chicagoland area. In 1985 she became the First Vice-President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and in 1995 was named "Labor Woman of the Year" by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Jerre has given her time to a long list of worthwhile charities, including Concern Worldwide USA, Misericordia, and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. She has been a member of the Mercy Women's Board for several years, as well as Vice President of the Women's Board from 2003–2005.

Amazingly, she has managed to give so much of her time and energy to others while also being devoted to another sizable organization—her family. Jerre has 12 children, 23 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren, and I am as impressed with the size of her family as her commitment to service.

Madam Speaker, because of Jerre McPartlin's tireless commitment to our community, she has touched the hearts and lives of thousands of Chicagoans. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I thank her for her service to the people of Chicago and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.