

Diabetes Caucus to pass the important legislation we are promoting and continuing to further the goals of National Diabetes Month.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LEWIS
MILLETT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual from my Congressional District whose dedication to defending the people of this country and preserving the basic freedoms and liberties that we hold so dear earned him the highest military award our country has to offer. Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Lewis Millett passed away on November 14, 2009. He was a true American hero and today I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to honor and remember him and his 31 years of service.

Colonel Millett was born in Mechanic Falls, ME, on December 15, 1920. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940 and served as an air gunner, then joined the Canadian Army when it appeared the United States would not enter World War II.

Millett returned to the U.S. Army in 1942 upon the United States' entrance into World War II and served in the 1st Armored Division. After making sergeant, he was awarded a battlefield commission.

According to his Medal of Honor Citation, then-Captain Millett distinguished himself "above and beyond the call of duty in action" in Korea, after he and his men came under heavy enemy fire on February 7, 1951.

Captain Millett ordered and led a bayonet counterattack up the hill, killing enemy soldiers in hand-to-hand assault during which he was wounded by a grenade blast. Despite the adverse conditions Captain Millett's company had taken the hill by early afternoon.

Captain Millett was presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman in July 1951. He retired as a colonel in 1973 after a 31-year career in which he served in World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict.

Other notable military decorations awarded to Colonel Millett include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts and three Air Medals.

Colonel Millett's dedication to his country is a testament to a life of service and a legacy that lives on through his sacrifices. Today let us pledge to always remember Colonel Lewis Millett—the goodness he brought to our world and the sacrifices he made will never be forgotten.

IN MEMORY OF SGT. EDUVIGES
WOLF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sgt. Eduviges Preciado Wolf of Hawthorne, CA. Sgt. Wolf

was an army sergeant assigned to the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Sgt. Wolf was a hero who gave her life in service to her country.

Sgt. Wolf, also known as "Duvi," dreamed of serving in the U.S. military as a child who emigrated to the United States from Mexico with her family. As soon as Duvi was able, she joined the United States military so that she could fulfill her lifelong dream to serve and protect her country. She met her husband Josh at Fort Bragg. Together they had 2 daughters: 3-year-old Isabel and 1-year-old Valerie. Both Duvi and Josh were deployed to Afghanistan, where they served in separate units. Tragically, Duvi recently died in an insurgent attack while in Afghanistan. She was 24 years old.

Earlier this month on Veterans Day, I had the honor and privilege of participating in events with veterans and their families in my congressional district—in Hawthorne and Inglewood, California. I was deeply moved by the families of our servicemembers. Not only do servicemembers make major sacrifices, but so do their families. They live with the harsh realities of war and its implications on them. Spouses must sacrifice long-term career planning, and children are oftentimes forced to transfer to different schools throughout the country. Tragically, as is the reality of combat theater, some of our troops do not make it home.

Today, I salute and thank Sgt. Wolf, along with all of our Nation's past and present heroes who sacrificed a great deal in service to their country.

I expressed my condolences to Duvi's sister Cecilia in Hawthorne on Veterans Day, and I know that her friends and family are still mourning. It is my hope that they will find comfort and peace in the loving memories and the distinguished legacy of service that Duvi leaves behind.

IN HONOR OF JOHN GAFFANEY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who dedicated his life to helping others, Mr. John Gaffaney of San Diego, California. Tragically, John was killed on November 5, 2009, a victim of the horrible events at Fort Hood.

John was a man of sacrifice and devotion who spent his life counseling others. After 15 years in the Army National Guard, he went on to work for the San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services. After spending the last 22 years investigating cases of elderly abuse and neglect for San Diego County, John once again answered the call of duty and re-enlisted in the Army Reserves. He arrived at Fort Hood only a few short weeks ago to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan to help other soldiers cope with the trauma of war.

Madam Speaker, John Gaffaney was a man of integrity and will be greatly missed by all of San Diego, especially his wife Christine and son Matthew. I ask that this body honor John and the rest of the fallen at Fort Hood for their dedication and sacrifice to this country.

RECOGNITION OF BILL LANE'S
LEGACY AS AN EDUCATOR

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Lane for a lifetime of service to the Worthington community. Bill Lane built a legacy as a dedicated and innovative educator for three decades. He passed away in 2008, but he will be remembered for his extensive service to our community.

Bill Lane began teaching at Thomas Worthington High School in the 1950's. He went on to become the high school principal, the assistant superintendent, and the interim superintendent of the Worthington Schools. He was a creative and farsighted educator who contributed greatly to the school's development until his retirement in 1981. As well as overseeing the creation of a large, complex, and modern high school, Bill Lane helped to form the Linworth Campus. This alternative school allows students to make choices about their education, take responsibility, and learn through experiential education.

In addition to his loyal service to our schools, Bill Lane was active in several local organizations. As a member of the Worthington Historical Society, he helped organize its semi-annual Antiques Sale. He was also involved in the St. John's Episcopal Church, Kiwanis, and a men's prayer group.

To honor the service of this visionary educator, those who knew him have formed the Friends of Bill Lane to raise money for a plaque honoring Bill's career at Thomas Worthington High School. They also are planning to establish a teaching grant in his name through the Worthington Educational Association. They have received donations and support from people throughout the community who remember Bill Lane's devotion and character. His contributions to our school system will not be forgotten, and I am proud to recognize and honor this highly-esteemed and dedicated educator for a lifetime of service.

RICHARD SALINARDI

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Salinardi. Mr. Salinardi has done extensive work with the developmentally disabled population for the past 40 years. He has ensured that disabled individuals in my district have had their voices heard.

Mr. Salinardi has spent much of his career improving the treatment of developmentally disabled individuals. From his 30 years of teaching developmentally disabled adults through his decades volunteering his time and knowledge, he has helped these individuals become productive members of our community.

Richard serves as the Executive Director of Lifestyles for the Disabled Inc., overseeing all aspects of the agency. Richard has taken an aggressive and innovative approach, yielding remarkable results.

While the Lifestyles for the Disabled family continues to grow, Richard has maintained a solid connection to his roots. As an alumnus of Wagner College, Mr. Salinardi started a program to have students from his alma mater volunteer their time at Lifestyles, maximizing their college experiences.

Mr. Salinardi continues to volunteer his time with Special Olympics at Wagner College. The Special Olympics program at Wagner started 35 years ago with 10 athletes and has grown to over 500 athletes, training year-round. Since 1975, Richard has served as the Staten Island Area Coordinator and currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics of New York.

Mr. Salinardi is a truly great American and a dedicated community leader. Because of the devotion of Richard Salinardi, I know that disabled individuals on Staten Island and around New York City are in good hands.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Richard Salinardi for his dynamic leadership and acknowledging the impact he has made on the developmentally disabled of Staten Island.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Health Care for America Act will strengthen America and offer greater security to our workers, families, seniors and businesses. It will enhance our Nation's health care system, placing American healthcare consumers where they belong: at the heart of it. H.R. 3962 will improve quality, choice and competition, while cutting down fraud, waste and abuse, and lowering costs over the long term. It will strengthen Medicare, eliminate the Part D "donut hole," improve access for lower income citizens so that Medicare is affordable for ALL seniors, and create new consumer protections for Medicare Advantage Plans. Discrimination for pre-existing conditions, dropped coverage, and yearly or lifetime caps will no longer be tolerated. Co-pays and other cost-sharing for preventative services will be eliminated and annual caps on what an individual or a family pays out-of-pocket will be established.

Since 1987, the cost of the average family health insurance policy has risen from 7 percent of median family income to 17 percent. Family premiums are projected to increase an average of \$1,800 each year and in 2007, 60 percent of bankruptcies were reported to be related to medical costs. With this bill, no American family will go bankrupt because they get sick.

Sixty percent of our Nation's entire uninsured population are small business owners and their employees and families. This equals at least 28 million uninsured Americans. Small business premiums have risen 129 percent since 2000. In 2008, 38 percent of small companies offered health coverage, compared with 41 percent in 2007 and 61 percent in 1993.

For too long, the health of our Nation has dwindled while the pockets of the insurance

giants have thickened. Our seniors have compromised prescription drugs for necessary groceries, while the pharmaceutical industry has made record profits. Hard working families have watched their savings plummet and their homes foreclosed after unexpected illnesses. Women with breast cancer, men with heart disease and children with leukemia or childhood diabetes have been flat-out denied health insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions or reaching insurance policy caps.

Under the House Plan, the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, the region I represent, will benefit immensely and in very specific ways:

386,000 residents will see improved employer-based coverage

167,000 households would be eligible for credits to help pay for coverage

38,000 uninsured citizens just in our region would be eligible for insurance under a reformed system

14,500 small businesses will be allowed to obtain affordable health care coverage and 12,400 among them will receive tax credits to help reduce the costs of health insurance

102,000 beneficiaries will benefit from an improved Medicare program

7,600 seniors will benefit from closing the prescription drug donut hole, starting with \$500 of cost forgiveness in 2010

1,700 families will be protected from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs

\$120 million in savings will be seen by hospitals and health care providers as a result of reductions in uncompensated care.

Under this bill, immediately, the uninsured and seniors will receive relief through a temporary insurance program. Individuals receiving COBRA will be allowed to keep their coverage until a more customer friendly, one-stop marketplace for health insurance, known as the Exchange, is created. The Exchange will offer affordability credits and tax credits for individuals and businesses that need them. Health plans will be required to allow young people until their 27th birthday to remain on their parents' health insurance policy. Moreover, insurance companies will be subject to public review and disclosure of insurance excessive rate increases.

Much needed investments will be made right away in training programs designed to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals. Not-for-Profit purchasing collaboratives, such as the FrontPath Health Coalition from Northwest Ohio, will be strengthened to achieve careful plan management and cost-savings, and encouraged as a central provision of Title I. Community Health Centers will see an increase in funding to allow for a doubling of patients over the next 5 years. A \$10 billion fund will be created to finance a temporary reinsurance program to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees age 55-64.

The well being of individuals and our nation will benefit from these reforms. From an economic standpoint, healthcare costs have stifled the vitality of American businesses and their ability to compete in the global marketplace. The 129 percent increase since 2000 in small business premiums alone have smothered their potential and destroyed their ability to cover employees, resulting in an astounding 60 percent of our Nation's entire uninsured population.

Affordable health insurance reform is necessary to cut the costs of doing business, reduce the share of government expenditures spent on health care, help our companies to be more competitive in the world market, unleash the entrepreneurial talents of the American people, and give peace of mind to the middle class and our seniors and others that everything they have worked for will not be taken away if they get sick.

As someone who grew up in a small business family, I watched our father forced to sell our small family grocery when he became ill. He needed health insurance for our family and took a job at a local auto assembly plant to obtain it for his wife and children. I promised myself when I was elected to Congress that passing legislation to cover small business would be one of my top priorities. Finally, it has become possible to vote on a bill that will do this for millions of our fellow citizens.

With the mounting economic strain on American families and the rising costs of health insurance to workers, businesses and federal budget, the status quo has proven itself unsustainable, fiscally irresponsible and morally unacceptable. The time has come for this historical change. I stand in support of its promise to the American people.

THANKING RICK KESSLER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE RIPON SOCIETY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Bill Gates once said, "Great organizations demand a high level of commitment by the people involved."

I rise today to recognize Rick Kessler, whose commitment to one particular organization—the Ripon Society—has not only spanned three decades, but has left a lasting impact on public policy debate in the United States.

In 1962, as a student attending Harvard University, I helped found the Ripon Society. The intent was to provide Republicans with a place where they could debate the issues and discuss the challenges of the day.

Rick's involvement with Ripon dates back to the early 1980s. He had been involved with John Anderson's presidential campaign, where he served as National Finance Director before going on to serve on the Inaugural Committee for President Reagan.

Rick joined the Ripon Society as Executive Director in 1981 and immediately set out to revitalize the organization. Among his accomplishments, Rick created the Congressional Advisory Board; the nonpartisan Ripon Educational Fund Transatlantic Conference; the Congressional Liaison Board; the Rough Rider Awards Dinner; and he oversaw the rejuvenation of The Ripon Forum, the Society's journal of thought and opinion. More than anything, though, Rick carried the organization on his shoulders through good times and bad.

In 2004, Rick was invited to follow in the footsteps of the Honorable Bill Frenzel and become the President of the Ripon Society. He has served in this role with great distinction.

Rick also was busy raising a family. He and his wife Daphne have been married for 21