

DR. ALLAN B. PEREL

**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 Dr. Allan B. Perel, a dedicated physician, leader in the MS community and a true humanitarian. He is one of Staten Island's "everyday heroes."

Dr. Perel was educated in New York City schools, attending Brooklyn College, and obtaining his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center. He completed his residency at Columbia University—Presbyterian Hospital and interned at Staten Island University Hospital.

Dr. Perel is a great physician, and he gives back to his community. His has gone above and beyond by providing unprecedented care to those affected by Multiple Sclerosis and other life altering conditions. He has served as the Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Staten Island/ Chapter Site NYCMS Society for the past 15 years.

He is also the Chairman of the Board of the Staten Island Heart Society for the past 5 years and was the only Neurologist to have served as President of the American Heart Association. Dr. Perel also founded and served as the director of the Staten Island University Hospital—NYS Department of Health Certified Stroke Center.

Throughout his career, Dr. Perel provided educational materials to the community and supported legislation that benefited both doctors and patients. He helps coordinate the Island-wide September 11 Memorial blood drive, and continuously supports charity walks for many causes.

Dr. Perel has been an active participant of the Richmond County Medical Society since 1989. In July of 2008, Dr. Perel was selected to be the organization's president. On Saturday, November 14th, the Richmond County Medical Society honored Dr. Allan Perel for his tireless dedication to his profession and the people of his community. I wish to join this organization in praising the accomplishments of one of Staten Island's finest physicians.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Dr. Allan B. Perel on his dedication to the citizens of Staten Island.

## SUPPORTING S. 4073, THE RURAL VETERANS REIMBURSEMENT ACT

**HON. WALT MINNICK**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of our Nation's armed forces. As a U.S. Army veteran, I understand how important it is that we keep our promises and thank them for their commitment to freedom.

I'm pleased to announce the introduction of the Rural Veterans Reimbursement Act. This bill enjoys bipartisan support and has been endorsed by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and the American Legion.

This legislation will allow rural veterans to receive reimbursement for their food and lodg-

ing any time they must travel to a VA medical facility to seek treatment for a service-connected injury. Many veterans living in backcountry Idaho and in other rural areas around the country must travel on narrow, winding roads for the better part of a day to reach the nearest Veterans Hospital or clinic. They deserve to be reimbursed for their travel expenses.

## AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 7, 2009*

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act because it eliminates the discriminatory insurance industry practice of charging women higher premium rates than male customers for the same insurance benefits. This practice, known as "gender rating," leaves women burdened by higher insurance costs. In fact, women are charged 25–50 percent more than men for comparable insurance benefits. For decades, insurance underwriters have tried to justify this disparity by asserting that women use more health care, especially during child-bearing years. This claim is contradicted by the reality that many women are denied insurance coverage for maternity care and even denied coverage based on a history of prior pregnancies. Further, female nonsmokers pay more for health insurance than men who smoke. In a recent study, more than half of women (compared to 39 percent of men) reported delaying needed medical care due to cost. Gender rating is prohibited in the individual market in 10 States (Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington). Two States have "rate bands" that allow 20 percent variation in charges (Vermont and New Mexico). Twelve States ban gender rating in the small group market, including my home State of Maryland (as well as California, Colorado, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Washington). H.R. 3962 ends the discriminatory practice of gender rating in all States and ensures that women and men are charged equitable prices for premiums.

As a life-long advocate of women's rights and a domestic violence prevention advocate, I support this ban on gender rating and support equal access to the insurance market for women.

## PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) TAX BENEFITS ACT

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, Tax Benefits Act. This legislation supports efforts by state and local

governments to help homeowners and businesses install energy efficiency upgrades.

PACE projects are an innovative way to finance energy efficiency investments like insulation and home sealing projects, energy efficient appliances or renewable energy generation systems. These programs provide homeowners or businesses the upfront capital to pay for the improvements and allow them to finance repayment through the property assessment taxes they pay to state or local government. Because PACE financing offers real savings immediately and in the long term, homeowners and business owners are much more likely to pursue energy efficiency improvements.

The legislation I am introducing will make it easier for state and local governments to raise capital for PACE programs by making the interest earned on PACE-related bonds tax free. For example, under current law, when government bodies issue bonds for the construction of roads, schools, or other infrastructure, their investors receive tax free interest payments. The PACE Tax Benefits Act will ensure that energy efficiency projects are treated in the same manner—allowing state and local governments to raise adequate capital and providing the low cost financing to property owners that will make PACE programs more widespread.

This is an innovative and cost-free mechanism to encourage energy efficiency. The potential for economic growth and energy savings is vast if we establish a framework that allows for them to expand more broadly. By doing so, we will create thousands of new jobs; save billions of dollars in energy costs for consumers; and make significant progress in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## HONORING JAMES POPPELREITER

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James Poppelreiter, Fire Chief of West Bloomfield Township, for his 44 years of dedicated service to the safety and well-being of his community and its citizens.

Since beginning his career as a sergeant with the department in November 1965, Chief Poppelreiter has served West Bloomfield Township with the distinction, valor, and tenacity that have been essential in creating this vibrant and diverse suburban metropolis. In recognition of his 35 years of outstanding work and leadership with the West Bloomfield Fire Department and the greater community, Chief Poppelreiter was bestowed his current responsibilities as Chief in April 2000. Chief Poppelreiter's ascent to one of the top public safety offices in the township was a product of decades of perseverance and strong work ethic.

Chief Poppelreiter's career spans a transcendent period for the West Bloomfield community. At the start of Chief Poppelreiter's career the West Bloomfield Fire Department was a small volunteer force serving a mere 14,000 residents in a rural hamlet of Oakland County. The township has since grown to over 66,000 residents and is one of southeast Michigan's

most economically and ethnically diverse communities. During the years spanning Chief Poppelreiter's career, the Fire Department grew to a full-time professional staff of over 100 that serve West Bloomfield and several of the surrounding communities. During his tenure, Chief Poppelreiter's commitment to excellence has ensured that the residents of West Bloomfield have received outstanding fire safety protection.

Chief Poppelreiter's career illustrates exemplary public service in its truest spirit and finest tradition. His absence in retirement will surely be felt by his colleagues and the residents of West Bloomfield. Madam Speaker I ask all of my colleagues to join me today in honoring the courageous work and unwavering commitment of Chief Poppelreiter to the community and citizens of West Bloomfield.

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#### HONORING JOSYF SLIPYJ

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong service and dedication of the Servant of God, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj to the Ukrainian Church and community. He died on September 7, 1984, and on November 22nd, 2009, a monument will be raised in his memory at the Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish.

Josyf Slipyj was born on February 17, 1892 in the village of Zazdrist, Ternopil region, Ukraine, into the Kobernytskyj-Slipyj and Anastasia Dychkovska families. He completed grammar school in his village and secondary school in Ternopil. He studied theology in Lviv, and completed his philosophical and theological studies in Innsbruck, Austria.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky on September 30, 1917.

He returned to Innsbruck to continue his post-graduate studies, attaining a doctorate in sacred theology. From there he traveled to Rome where he was bestowed with the title Magister Agregatus.

He began lecturing in 1922 on dogmatic theology at Lviv Theological Seminary. Toward the end of 1925 he was appointed rector of this institution, and in 1929 he was appointed rector of the newly created Theological Academy. In 1939 metropolitan Andrej consecrated him bishop with the right of succession. On November 1, 1944, he became head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

On April 11, 1945 he was arrested by the Bolsheviks and given an eight year sentence of hard labor in Siberia. After this ended and without any cause, he was imprisoned a second time for an unspecified term. In 1957 he

was given a third term—seven years of hard labor. Due to the efforts of Pope John XXIII and U.S. President John F. Kennedy he was freed in 1963 to take part in the sessions of the Second Vatican Council.

Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Chicago, Illinois was founded in 1968 by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj. Among the reasons for establishing this distinct parish was the desire to preserve and more intensely nurture the traditions of the Ukrainian Church. The elements contributing to the Ukrainian Church's distinctiveness within the Universal Catholic Church are the Julian Calendar, a traditional liturgy, as well as a unique spiritual heritage.

Members of the parish are proud of the fact that Patriarch Josyf Slipyj was involved in all significant events of the parish's development. Besides establishing the parish, Patriarch Josyf blessed the cornerstone of the church and subsequently, in 1973, blessed the church itself. The reason for the parishioners' pride had to do with the Patriarch's position in the Catholic Church as a Confessor for the Faith.

Taking the lead from his predecessor Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky (+1944), as well as the decisions of the Second Vatican Council, Josyf Slipyj worked to restore self-government to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the form of a Patriarchate. In 1965, he was made a cardinal by Pope Paul VI.

He died on September 7, 1984. In 1992 his remains were brought to Lviv, where they, in the presence of more than one million faithful, were re-interred in the crypt of St. George's Cathedral. Patriarch Josyf Slipyj has been proclaimed a Servant of God and the Ukrainian faithful pray for his beatification.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great sacrifices and contributions Patriarch Josyf Slipyj made in his lifetime. His monument will stand as a reminder to all of his great achievements to future generations.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE GRADUATION FOR ALL ACT OF 2009

### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 19, 2009*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4122, the Graduation for All Act of 2009 (GFA). I would like to thank Chairman GEORGE MILLER for introducing this comprehensive bill that creates a three-year grant to help turn around our nation's lowest performing schools. This bill will help address some of the problems facing our schools and ensure that they are moving toward a goal of graduating all of our children.

For far too long, schools have not been held accountable for ensuring that students grad-

uate on time with a high school diploma. As a result, some students leave high school without a meaningful education that provides quality academic experiences sufficient for success in college or the workplace. Additionally, high school students are dropping out at an alarming rate. A recent study found that only 53 percent of all young people in the nation's 50 largest cities are graduating from high school on time. Regrettably, roughly 12 percent of all secondary schools in the United States produce approximately half of the nation's secondary school dropouts. In these secondary schools, known as "dropout factories," African American, Native American and Hispanic students have graduation rates that are 50 percent or below.

Recently, strong reform efforts have targeted dropout factories and other low performing high schools, but it is obvious we have to do more and start our efforts earlier. More of an emphasis must be placed on the lowest performing middle schools. Too many students leave middle school with significant deficiencies such as being behind on English and Math proficiency; this leaves them ill prepared for the rigors of high school.

Increasing graduation rates and improving academic achievement will enrich the lives of our children as well as strengthen our workforce and nation as a whole. A nation enjoys a competitive advantage in the global marketplace when it has a well educated and well trained workforce. If we expect to compete, we must ensure that all of our children receive a quality education.

The Graduation for All Act will make education a priority and invests significant funding to accomplish several goals. First, it provides funding for schools to increase teacher and leadership effectiveness, hire highly qualified teachers, restructure schools, and transition students out of low performing schools into higher achieving schools. Second, the bill will fund initiatives that increase college access and completion such as dual enrollment and early college programs. Finally, the legislation includes provisions from the Every Student Counts Act (ESCA, H.R. 1569), which I introduced on March 17, 2009, that will require consistent and accurate counting of high school dropouts, require the establishment of aggressive and attainable graduation rate goals, and provide incentives to meet these goals.

This bill will make significant strides toward improving student achievement, postsecondary readiness and graduation rates. It is my hope that Congress will move this legislation quickly and it will be signed into law. This will ensure that all of our nation's students will receive the kind of help and support required for them to obtain a quality education. Thank you.