

(1) Extension of Dependent Coverage to Age 26

In recognition of young adults' need for health care coverage, CalPERS launched a massive communication effort to educate and inform employers and members of the extended dependent coverage benefit. We developed special enrollment teams, published communication materials, posted information on our website, and issued press releases highlighting this new health care reform provision.

Our efforts successfully resulted in more than 27,000 young adults being added to their parents' health plans effective January 1, 2011. Best of all, adding them to our program resulted in a 2011 health insurance premium increase of less than 1 percent. Families can now rest easier in these uncertain economic times knowing their dependents, regardless of marital status, can be covered up to age 26.

(2) Removal of Lifetime Limits

Most CalPERS health insurance plans have never included lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits. Further, we proactively monitored our members who were enrolled in the few health plans that did include lifetime limits, so we could work with them to change plans when they approached these limits.

As a result of health care reform, CalPERS has removed lifetime limits from all our plans that had included them, and now our members enjoy more health plan options and less financial risk.

(3) Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP)

For years, CalPERS health plans have included wellness and disease management programs that promote prevention and manage chronic conditions. These programs, now required of ERRP participants, mitigate the on-going fiscal impact of caring for an older population. It's encouraging that these programs can reduce costs.

Notwithstanding this success, approximately 24 percent of our non-Medicare medical and pharmaceutical costs are associated with early retiree health liability. Recognizing this, the Affordable Care Act included much needed provisions for relief from these costs. CalPERS 2010 health premium rates reflected the lowest increase in 14 years.

In anticipation of the Department of Health and Human Services certifying our ERRP application, CalPERS proactively negotiated 2011 health plan contracts that reduced premium increases by more than 3 percent for our non-Medicare plans. We estimate ERRP will provide premium savings of approximately \$200 million based on reimbursement related to more than 115,000 early retirees and their spouses, surviving spouses, and dependents.

We thank you for expeditiously implementing important health care reform provisions and we are committed to being a collaborative partner in ensuring the smooth and successful implementation in the months and years ahead.

If you have any questions regarding our program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

ANNE STAUSBOLL,
Chief Executive Officer.

REQUIRING REPORTS ON MANAGEMENT OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3860, important legislation to ensure proper oversight of Arlington National Cemetery. I'm proud to have sponsored companion legislation to this bill in the House to see that we fulfill our oversight duties and properly honor our fallen heroes.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, Generals, Admirals and the countless soldiers, known and unknown, who've died in defense of freedom. It is home to memorials for Iowa heroes like the five Sullivan brothers who were lost at sea in 1942 with the sinking of the USS *Juneau*, but who are honored with tombstones among all of their fallen brothers. Arlington National Cemetery is a national institution that symbolizes the service and sacrifice by our citizens that makes the United States great, but most recently, it's been a sign of government incompetence.

The recent scandal of unmarked and inappropriately marked gravesites is an indignity to the Americans memorialized there, but it is also a stain on America. To date, Arlington Cemetery has spent over \$5 million to computerize records to determine who is buried where, with nothing to show for it but continued problems in gravesite identification. The misuse of these funds disrespects our honored dead and is a breach in the trust of the American people.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I have the deepest respect for our Nation's veterans and I want nothing but the best treatment for them in life and in death. We owe them more than they've been given. I had the honor of attending the burial service of Specialist Ross McGinnis of Knox, PA at Arlington Cemetery as one of my first acts in Congress. Specialist McGinnis was killed in action near Adhamiyah, Iraq on December 4, 2006 when he threw himself on top of a grenade thrown into his HMMWV, saving the lives of at least four other soldiers, including one of my constituents. For his actions that day, Spc. McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

My bill, and the bill we passed, asks for nothing more than the respect that our distinguished veterans like Spc. McGinnis deserve. I commend my colleagues for their support on this matter.

HONORING VETERAN NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST TYLER WHITLEY FOR 50 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL WORK AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA-AREA NEWSPAPERS

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Richmond Times-

Dispatch journalist Tyler Whitley. Mr. Whitley has been a newspaper reporter in Richmond, Virginia, for the last 50 years. He has spent 40 of those years covering the Virginia General Assembly, including the 15 years that I served there.

Mr. Whitley, a Virginia native, is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia. He started his career in 1960 as an obituary writer at the Richmond News Leader. He later became business editor at the News Leader. In 1992, he joined the Times-Dispatch when the News Leader and the Times-Dispatch merged into a single morning newspaper. He has covered nine governors, fourteen national political conventions, and four redistrictings. He has also traveled to ten countries on assignment.

Mr. Whitley is well-respected by journalists and politicians in Virginia. He is affectionately referred to as the dean of the Virginia capitol press corps. Last week, several journalists and editors, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and former Virginia Governors James Gilmore, L. Douglas Wilder, Gerald Baliles and Linwood Hilton gathered to honor Mr. Whitley. The presence of these Governors at Mr. Whitley's 50th anniversary celebration is a testament to the admirable professional legacy he has built in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"If it's true that reporters write the first draft of history, then Tyler has written a lot of history," former Governor Baliles told the Washington Post.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Tyler Whitley for 50 years of exceptional journalism.

HONORING MARY WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Williams upon her retirement as the Mariposa County Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams began her career with Mariposa County on September 1, 1988 as Extra-Help Senior Services Information and Referral Specialist. She was hired full-time on September 1, 1989, as Assistant Veterans' Services Officer. Over the years, Mrs. Williams was reclassified a number of times, first as a Veteran/Senior Services Assistant in 1990, then as Community Services Deputy Director on October 1, 1993. On August 3, 1998, Mrs. Williams was appointed Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams worked tirelessly for the citizens of Mariposa County. Among the many projects she was involved in, Mrs. Williams provided senior services, senior nutrition, transit, outreach and support for seniors, education seminars and special events of help and interest to seniors; arranged for the first restaurant meal program for seniors; was responsible for overseeing the scheduling and implementing of activities and programs for seniors such as the annual Senior Exposition, the Senior Prom and Thanksgiving dinner; organized a wide variety of fundraisers; and overseeing the Veterans' Services which provides assistance to Veterans, their dependents, survivors and the general public in obtaining benefits from Federal, State, and local

agencies administering programs for Veterans, to name only a few.

Besides her commitments to Mariposa County Community Services, Mrs. Williams also served as a member of a number of groups, including the Future Farmers of America/Western Days and the Farm Bureau, was appointed a member of the Fair Board by the Governor and has worked actively with the Junior Livestock Auction Committee since its formation. Mrs. Williams recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Kenny and they both look forward to spending more time with their family upon her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Williams for her dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Williams many years of continued success.

A SALUTE TO WOMEN IN DEFENSE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Women In Defense, A National Security Organization that will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this Sunday, December 19, 2010.

Women In Defense began in the fall of 1979 as the brainchild of seven dynamic women, Margo Giordano Anderson, Karen Hopkins, Betty Kimmel, JoHanna Kinley, Diane Lafferman, Lillian Morris, and Rebekah Nottingham. They met and discussed the idea of starting an informal network to assist participants, especially women, in expanding their knowledge of national security issues and of the national defense community in which they participated. The association was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(6) on December 19, 1985.

For 25 years, Women In Defense has provided women a formal environment for professional growth through networking, education, and career development. Its 3,000 members, and 16 chapters throughout the United States, cultivates and supports the advancement and recognition of women in all aspects of national security. Women In Defense also offers the HORIZONS Scholarship, which was established in 1988 to encourage women to pursue careers related to the national security and defense interests, and to provide development opportunities to women already working in these fields.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Women In Defense for the dramatic impact it has had on professionals who serve the national defense and national security of our nation. Its numerous successes have elevated the presence and stature of women in industry and military leadership. Because of their efforts, the United States benefits from a workforce that is better equipped to serve our great nation.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the National Alzheimer's Project Act—a bill whose passage will mark the first coordinated and concentrated effort by the Federal Government to meet the challenges posed by Alzheimer's disease.

And, those challenges are many. There's the toll it takes on the physical health of the 5.3 million Americans living with the disease, the toll it takes on the emotional well-being of the 11 million people caring for those with the disease, and the increasingly great toll it takes on the finances of the federal budget. The disease takes and takes. But, with the National Alzheimer's Project Act, we can finally fight back.

The need to do so could not be any clearer.

In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid spent \$122 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Without action, the annual cost to those two programs alone from Alzheimer's disease will reach \$805 billion in 2050. But, we are not destined to increase the Medicare and Medicaid costs of this disease almost sevenfold.

In fact, we know that a therapeutic intervention that delays the onset of Alzheimer's by five years would cut nearly in half the projected Medicare cost of the disease over the same time period.

To reach that future where the number of Americans with the disease does not rise unabated and the costs spiral out of control we will need to marshal all of our resources. With this bill, we assign a field general.

The bill establishes the National Alzheimer's Project within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, to coordinate research across all Federal agencies, and to accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the advancement of the disease.

The creation of a strategic plan not only provides a vision for fighting Alzheimer's, but also mandates the creation of benchmarks to measure our progress in that fight. Today, we have no way of evaluating outcomes, let alone a way to improve them.

I am pleased to support such a critical piece of legislation which will improve the lives of the millions of Americans living with the disease and the millions of Americans caring for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor on the legislative day of December 14, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628 and 630, and "no" on rollcall vote 629.

CALLING ON STATE DEPARTMENT TO LIST VIETNAM AS A RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATOR

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Res. 20, calling on the State Department to list the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a "Country of Particular Concern" with respect to religious freedom.

The State Department removed Vietnam from the CPC list in 2006, and since then, the human rights situation in that country has deteriorated significantly. After a brief improvement while Vietnam was seeking membership in the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese government returned to its former ways—intimidation and repression of basic human freedoms. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) recently released annual report, "The government of Vietnam continues to control government-approved religious communities, severely restrict independent religious practice, and repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging political authority."

Vietnam remains a severe violator of religious freedoms, and the CPC designation is a potentially powerful tool that should be used to highlight this shortcoming and encourage action. USCIRF has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001, and continues to do so this year, advising that "[g]iven these ongoing and serious violations, the uneven pace of religious freedom progress after the CPC designation was lifted, the continued detention of prisoners of concern, and new evidence of severe religious freedom abuses, USCIRF again recommends that Vietnam be designated as a CPC in 2010."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I strongly urge the State Department to follow the advice of the Commission and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

THE HALL OF FAME IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO SPC TIM HALL 173 AIRBORNE BRIGADE, THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic sacrifice and service of SPC Tim Hall of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the United States Army. On June 10, 2010, SPC Hall of Reno, Nevada, was severely wounded by a mortar attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. Although he was severely injured and lost both of his legs, SPC Hall continues his courageous effort on the road to recovery. My sincere gratitude, appreciation, and thoughts are with SPC Hall and all of our service members as they continue to heroically and selflessly sacrifice for our Nation. I am honored to represent SPC Hall and his family in Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. I am proud to submit a poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell for the RECORD.