

take responsibility for shaping Medicare, allowing Americans a voice through their elected representatives in determining the benefits they receive on a daily basis.

H.R. 3950 wisely prevents IMAB from recommending measures that would ration health care, increase Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing, or otherwise restrict benefits. However, we must remain vigilant in our oversight of IMAB to ensure that the board serves our constituents' best interests.

HONORING KATHRYN GALLANIS
MATERN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kathryn Gallanis Matern, an accomplished attorney and the next president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

After receiving her Juris Doctorate from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Ms. Gallanis Matern made a name for herself as the lead prosecutor while working for the Assistant State's Attorney's Felony Trial Division. Many of her cases, most notably the Keystone Case, received substantial attention from the national media.

Outside of her professional duties, Ms. Gallanis Matern remains very busy. Her involvement in the community includes volunteering for the Junior League of Chicago and the New Trier Citizen's League, as well as being the acting Vice President of the Chicago Republican Women's Network. These achievements have culminated in her becoming the next president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

It is my honor to recognize Kathryn Gallanis Matern, an accomplished attorney, volunteer, and member of Chicagoland women's associations.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS FROM AMERICAN LE-
GION POST 960

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II Veterans of American Legion Post 960.

As we mark the 65th anniversary to the end of World War II, it is important that we continue to recognize the remarkable courage and sacrifice these members of the greatest generation of Americans gave for our country. We must never forget their struggle to maintain an enduring freedom throughout the world, and we all owe a debt to those who defended our liberty under circumstances most of us can only imagine.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to American Legion Post 960 for providing such an invaluable service to our community and our veterans. Established April 26, 1956, the 478 member post has been a place for veterans to gather together and their food holi-

day drives have helped feed many needy families in our community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the World War II Veterans of American Legion Post 960 for their extraordinary heroics and sacrifices for our country, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of these brave Americans.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH AD-
VISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF
SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Retired Staff Sergeant Bernard J. Grant served a year in Vietnam as a convoy escort and over eight more years in Europe in counter-intelligence. He was the winner of several awards including: Army Commendation, five Awards of Good Conduct, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, a Unit Citation, and more. He truly understood his duty and he carried it out no questions asked, without regard for his personal opinion. Grant understood that to serve in the military meant to be a weapon of the American government and a part of the greatest military on Earth. In this military, unity and personal sacrifice is key;

there is little room for individualism, for the military must be one in action and goal. One's duty to their country comes before all personal desires. My discussion with Mr. Grant taught me these important lessons, which I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I will always remember them, and I will always respect those who serve our country, and those that have served our country, for their duty, honor, and sacrifice.—Josh Eldridge.

CAREGIVERS AND VETERANS
OMNIBUS HEALTH SERVICES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly support the House Amendments to S. 1963, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act; legislation that recognizes and aims to meet the needs of our veterans who have bravely served in Iraq and Afghanistan after 9/11. My colleagues will remember that this legislation was held up in the Senate due to one senator's objection that the bill was not paid for. However, our warriors have already paid a very high price through their sacrifices and selfless devotion to our national security, and they should be repaid with excellent care when they return to civilian life. Fortunately, this legislation builds on the Democratic Congress' record of supporting our veterans through new and innovative programs, fixing some of the existing problems in the VA, and increasing funding for the VA budget.

The legislation we are voting on today is a comprehensive approach to caring for our veterans. Specifically, it provides robust support for those who care for our wounded warriors, addresses the needs women veterans, expands services to rural veterans and for mental health care, and closes a loophole for disabled veterans health care.

Specifically, the House amendments to S. 1963 provides services, training, and reimbursements for the caregivers of veterans who return from war with serious injuries. It will strengthen support for caregivers of all veterans and will provide reimbursements for lodging and healthcare to caregivers of Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition, the legislation expands health care services for our 1.8 million women veterans including provisions mandating a study of the barriers to women veterans seeking health care, education and training for mental health professionals caring for veterans with sexual trauma, a reintegration and readjustment pilot program, establishment of a child care pilot program for women receiving regular and intensive mental health care and intensive health care services, and post-delivery health care for new born children.

This comprehensive bill also improves health care for our veterans living in rural areas, including by expanding transportation for veterans to local VA hospitals and clinics through VA grants to local Veterans Service Organizations and provides increased access to counseling and other mental health centers to any member of the Armed Forces.

Other provisions in this legislation include prohibiting the VA from collecting copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled; creating a pilot program to provide specified dental services to veterans, survivors, and dependents of veterans through a dental insurer; providing hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability; and expanding the organizations offering transitional housing and other support for homeless veterans that can receive grants or per diems from the VA, which is particularly important to veterans in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and for the Senate to swiftly act so that this legislation can become law and our veterans can begin to benefit from the important programs this comprehensive bill implements.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS S. HIGGINS'
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday of Thomas S. Higgins. Mr. Higgins has lived a life of compassion and dedication towards his family and his community and for this he deserves great praise.

Mr. Higgins was born in Camden, New Jersey on April 23, 1935. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in political science from St. Joseph's University before earning his Juris Doctorate at Villanova Law School. After graduating, Mr. Higgins and his partners founded a successful practice in Laurel Springs, New Jersey. During his forty-year tenure as an attorney, he specialized in environmental law, serving as counsel to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority and the Cape May Municipal Utilities Authority. Mr. Higgins represented both governmental and personal clients with the utmost vigor and integrity.

Mr. Higgins has also served as chairman of the Health Care Facilities Finance Authority. In this role, he helped obtain financing for the construction, expansion and renovation of hospitals and other health care facilities throughout the state of New Jersey. Additionally, he has served as a Camden County Freeholder, as a chief fundraiser for the Camden County Democratic Committee and as a member of the Finance team for the campaigns of New Jersey Governor Jim Florio in 1989 and 1993. Among his most rewarding moments was preparing the background information for the successful nomination of Governor Florio for the 1993 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award.

All who know Mr. Higgins know his love of law and politics is exceeded only by his love for his wife, Kathy, his partner and teammate for 27 years. Until her passing in 2006, the two were inseparable and together were an inspirational story of love and dedication. A devoted family man, Mr. Higgins' takes great pride in the successes and achievements of his seven children, and in the blissful faces of his twelve grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Thomas S. Higgins's contributions to his field and the state of New Jersey, and his commitment to his family should not go unrecognized. I am honored to be a part of his special day, and I would like to personally wish him a Happy 75th Birthday.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR GAMES AND EXPO

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo on the occasion of this organization's milestone 25th Anniversary. The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo will be held at Montgomery County Community College from May 10 through 14, 2010.

The Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo originated in 1985 through the efforts of Montgomery County's state legislative delegation. Through the continued support and tireless work of talented volunteers, the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo has been successful in ensuring that this annual event combining healthy exercise and community spirit has continued. The Games & Expo is comprised of weeklong competitive events for Montgomery County senior adults and culminates with an Expo featuring health screenings and various exhibits with services and products to benefit the lifestyles of senior citizens. This event gives seniors the opportunity to not only gain information about their health resources, but to come together in the spirit of community to engage in sports and recreation. I am proud to represent the volunteers who work so hard to organize this outstanding event, as well as the participants who take advantage of such a wonderful experience.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Montgomery County Senior Games & Expo's 25th anniversary and in wishing the volunteers, participants, and community many more years of health and fellowship.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the State of Israel on the occasion of its 62nd anniversary. For 62 years, the United States and the modern State of Israel have shared a deep friendship and strong bonds of cooperation. Since the establishment of our ally in May 1948, the United States and Israel have been united by their strong ties and mutual democratic values.

This week, we pay tribute to the tremendous accomplishments of the State of Israel, which has developed a prosperous, educated, and

vibrant nation since its establishment 62 years ago. During that time, the United States has stood in vigorous support of Israel's right to exist and will continue to do so in the future. As a democracy, Israel's people enjoy freedom of speech and religion, an open political system, an independent judiciary and many other practices. Israel's colleges and universities are highly respected, which strengthens the Israeli economy and allows the country to be a leader in research and innovation.

I am also pleased to celebrate the ties between the American and Israeli people and the rich history of the American Jewish community. For hundreds of years, the United States has benefited from Jewish contributions to American culture. As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens. When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty. American Jews have strengthened our country and helped shape our way of life. By recognizing those contributions to the fabric of American life, we promote awareness and understanding.

Israel is an integral and essential partner and I look forward to opportunities to continue and enhance the strong bonds between our nations. As a defender of the inherent rights of all people and nations, I am proud to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I regret that due to other legislative business, I missed the last vote on April 22, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 220, H. Res. 1270, Expressing support for Mathematics Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING WORLD MALARIA
DAY 2010

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of 2010 World Malaria Day, an issue of great importance to me. I witnessed the widespread devastation malaria can cause both times I lived in Africa, first in Ghana with a program called Operation Crossroads and then when I worked in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) as a Foreign Service Medical Officer. While the disease affects people in every corner of the globe, it is particularly destructive to sub-Saharan Africa. There are 250 million malaria cases worldwide and nearly one million deaths are caused by malaria every year, ninety percent of which occur in sub-Saharan Africa. About 3.3 billion people—about one-half of the world's population—are at risk of contracting the disease. It is important to recognize the