

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative ELIOT ENGEL of New York, in congratulating the great people of Argentina in celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of their independence from Spain, which occurred on the 25th of May of 1810.

Born in 1810 out of a newfound sense of national identity, the trajectory of Argentinean independence is inspired by the same enlightenment ideas of self-determination and representative government that inspired America's independence movement. Like George Washington, Jose de San Martin, the liberator of Argentina, led the fight for freedom in armed struggle against the shackles of Spanish rule. At the heart of the U.S. example was the creation a constitution free from monarchy, building an infant democracy surrounded by European power in the new world. Capitalizing on Napoleonic control, Argentina's cry set in motion the wars of independence across South America and the creation of new republics by the decade's end.

America's 200-year relationship with Argentina commenced officially when President James Monroe promulgated a foreign policy based on the preservation of our republics from imperial intervention, thus securing a shared destiny of independence. In an unprecedented gesture of aid to an unrecognized country, President Monroe sent a representative whose primary objective was to assure the Argentinean people that "U.S. has the most sincere disposition towards its neighbors from Latin America and considers friendly exchanges as mutually beneficial." In 1822, the U.S. became the first non-Latin nation to establish formal diplomatic relations with Argentina. Our countries' friendship has been strong ever since.

An entire week of May leading up to the 25th is devoted to celebrating several events that sparked Argentina's movement towards independence, with expatriates and Argentinean-Americans in cities across the United States also partaking in celebrations. Argentines have a proud history of enriching the world's literary, art and musical, and sports arenas. Tango performers like Carlos Gardel, and writing artists like Jorge Luis Borges, have injected masterpieces into our global tapestry, while one of the most famous soccer magicians Diego Armando Maradona amazed fans during the 1986 World Cup.

It is with great joy, Madam Speaker, that I ask the rest of my colleagues to congratulate our great neighbor on this historic achievement for their people. I wish the President of Argentina and Argentineans across the world a festive week.

HONORING JEFFREY SIEGEL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Jeffrey Siegel of

Berrien Regional Educational Service Agency. After over three decades of service to the education community of southwest Michigan, Mr. Siegel will be retiring as the Superintendent of Berrien RESA.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology from Adelphi University in New York, Jeff made his way to Mount Pleasant, Michigan where he attended Central Michigan University and earned both his master and specialist degrees.

Mr. Siegel has served as Berrien RESA's superintendent for over seven years and has accomplished many great milestones during his distinguished tenure. Jeff created a Medicaid billing site in southwest Michigan and has worked with local school districts to reduce the number of children referred to special education across the county by nearly 15 percent. He redefined his organization's service scope to include programs and services specifically related to supporting classroom technology, student data management, business office support, career training and school safety.

In addition to his professional responsibilities at Berrien RESA, Mr. Siegel, serves his community as a leader of the Berrien Community Foundation, Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary, Temple B'Nai Shalom, Consortium for Community Development, Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning, and the Great Start Collaborative Early Childhood Investment Corporation. He also serves as a member of a variety of state and local professional organizations and has been appointed by the Michigan Department of Education to provide leadership and oversight to committees related to Medicaid and intermediate school districts.

For over three decades in the Berrien County education community, Jeffrey Siegel's leadership, skills, compassion, and commitment to education have made him an indispensable asset to the citizens of Berrien County. As Mr. Siegel prepares for his retirement, he leaves a legacy that will benefit the community for years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.
STEPHEN L. PAGE, ED. D. AS SUPERINTENDENT,
HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
NORTH CAROLINA**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Stephen L. Page, Ed. D. on his June 30th retirement from his position as the Superintendent of Henderson County Schools. Dr. Page's efforts have been central to the development and success of the public school system of Western North Carolina where he has served faithfully and effectively for the past 37 years.

Before beginning his career in the public school system, Dr. Page served honorably as a First Lieutenant, Combat Executive Officer, in the United States Army. For his bravery and meritorious service during the Vietnam War, Dr. Page was awarded the Bronze Star.

Dr. Page is also actively involved in the Henderson County Community. He is a member of the Civitan Club of Hendersonville and

serves as Chairman of the Civitan Foundation Board of Directors. He serves on the United Way of Henderson County Board of Directors and on the Daniel Boone Council of Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Page also served as the Honorary Chairman of the 2007 March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign in Henderson County.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Stephen Page today, to thank him for his tremendous service to the community, and to wish him well in his retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS
P. BELKOFR FOR HIS SERVICE
TO THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN THE THEATER OF
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM**HON. ROBERT E. LATTI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay special tribute to a military hero from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. United States Army LTC Thomas P. Belkofer, 44, of Perrysburg, Ohio, lost his life in combat on May 18, 2010 as a result of wounds sustained in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer was assigned to the headquarters of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He is survived by his dear wife Margaret, and their daughters Alyssa and Ashley.

An individual dedicated to giving his all in everything, Thomas Belkofer was a determined athlete at his alma mater, Rossford High School, where he graduated in 1983. Thomas served in the Ohio Army National Guard, and in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, in college. In 1992, Thomas received his Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University in Architecture and Environmental Design. It was this same year he married his college sweetheart, Margaret Maness, and both were commissioned in the United States Army. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer earned his Masters in Business Administration degree from Syracuse University during his active duty service.

A committed Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer served 18 years at various military assignments, including the bases in Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort George G. Meade in Maryland; The Pentagon; a 13-month deployment to Afghanistan; Vincenza, Italy; and Fort Drum, New York. During his first deployment in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer assisted with the establishment of a financial infrastructure for Afghan government employees, many of them soldiers. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer's life and accomplishments reflect his commitment to his country and the protection of its freedoms.

In addition to his various assignments that have taken Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer all over the world, he received many badges, medals, and ribbons. These include the Overseas Service Bar, Army Staff Identification Badge, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Combat Action Badge, Army Joint Meritorious Award, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with

the Bronze Service Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Legion of Merit Medal.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and selfless service of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas P. Belkofer. We stand with his family and loved ones in mourning the loss of America's finest, and remain forever grateful for his sacrifice toward the peace and security of our nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JACKSON STATE COLLEGE SHOOTING THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF PHILLIP LAFAYETTE GIBBS AND JAMES EARL GREEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Jackson State College shooting that claimed the lives of Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green.

Gibbs was a college student exercising his first amendment right to freedom of speech. Green was a prospective college student looking forward to the opportunity to make his mark during the Civil Rights Movement and define his place in society. Both young men lived in a time and place plagued by racial prejudice and discrimination.

Four decades ago, four students were killed at Kent State University (Ohio) when National Guardsmen opened fire on hundreds of unarmed students during an on campus antiwar rally. The killings received national media and public attention and have annually been remembered in the 40 years that followed.

Just 10 days after the Kent State fatal shooting, on May 14, 1970, around 9:30 p.m., rumors began to circulate that Fayette, Mississippi's Mayor Charles Evers (brother of slain civil rights activist Medgar Evers) and his wife had been shot and killed. Protesters, both students and non-students who were still tense from demonstrations held the day before, gathered throughout the campus grounds of Jackson State College, in Jackson, Mississippi to protest. Some protestors damaged property and set a construction truck on fire. About 75 law enforcement officers from both the Jackson Police Department and the Mississippi Highway Patrol arrived on the scene armed with carbines, rifles, submachine guns, shot guns, service revolvers and other undocumented, non-service weapons and began to open fire on the student protesters.

It was not until after nearly 30 seconds of continuous, relentless shooting that officers yelled commands to cease fire. An investigation filed later by the Federal Bureau of Investigations reported that Alexander Hall dormitory had been struck over 450 times by bullets or bullet fragments. In that same report the FBI said no evidence was found to support

that any officers had come under fire before the shooting started or that anyone in the immediate crowd of protesters had displayed a weapon. Miraculously, many lives were spared during the ordeal, but sadly two were not.

Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, a 21-year-old junior pre-law student, was shot three times in the head and once under his left armpit. Gibbs, who was married and the father of an 18-month old son was pronounced dead at the scene. James Earl Green, a 17-year-old Jim Hill High School student and track standout, was shot once in the side of the chest. Green, just weeks away from graduation, planned to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, collapsed and died just blocks away from his home. In the early morning hours of May 14, 1970, this country lost two potentially prominent and profound components of the legal and sports world.

Unfortunately, this tragic incident, similar to the Kent State shooting, received no national media coverage.

The FBI investigated the incident as well as President Nixon's Commission on Campus Unrest. Both bodies agreed that the shooting was an, "... unreasonable, unjustified overreaction . . .", and that a law enforcement response of this nature is, "... never warranted." However, no charges or arrest were ever made in the killing of these two young men and justice never prevailed.

In the spirit of remembrance and appreciation I stand before you to bring attention to the loss of two precious lives which sparked the ignition for change for a campus, a community, a state and a nation.

Please join me today in honoring the lives of Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRIVATE OPTION HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Private Option Health Care Act. This bill places individuals back in control of health care by replacing the tax-spend-and-regulate health care law Congress passed last month with reforms designed to restore a free market health care system.

The major problems with American health care are rooted in government policies that encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes incentives for individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations, HMOs, resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from patients and physicians. Furthermore, the third-party payer system creates a two-tier health care system where people whose employers can afford to offer "Cadillac" plans have access to top quality health care, while people unable to obtain health insurance from their employers face obstacles in obtaining quality health care.

The Private Option Health Care Act gives control of health care back into the hands of individuals through tax credits and tax deductions, improving Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Savings Accounts. Specifically, the bill:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100 percent of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes;

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA);

C. Provides a tax credit for premiums for high-deductible insurance policies connected with a Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and allows seniors to use funds in HSAs to pay for medigap policies;

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

This bill also creates a competitive market in health insurance. It achieves this goal by exercising Congress's authority under the Commerce Clause to allow individuals to purchase health insurance across state lines. The near-monopoly position many health insurers have in many states and the high prices and inefficiencies that result, is a direct result of state laws limiting people's ability to buy health insurance that meets their needs, instead of a health insurance plan that meets what state legislators, special interests, and health insurance lobbyists think they should have. Ending this ban will create a truly competitive marketplace in health insurance and give insurance companies more incentive to offer quality insurance at affordable prices.

The Private Option Health Care Act also provides an effective means of ensuring that people harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. The bill achieves this goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their awards to trial lawyers.

Finally, the Private Option Health Care Act also lowers the prices of prescription drugs by reducing barriers to the importation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved pharmaceuticals. Under my bill, anyone wishing to import a drug simply submits an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the United States or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and available imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

Madam Speaker, the Private Option Health Care Act allows Congress to correct the mistake it made last month by replacing the new health care law with health care measures that give control to health care to individuals, instead of the federal government and politically-influential corporations. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.