

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 over-reaction . . .", 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.

## HONORING THOSE WHO PERISHED ON THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL PLATFORM

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11 workers who lost their lives on April 20, 2010 in the explosion of a deep sea oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana. I also offer my sympathy to the four workers who were critically injured.

My deepest condolences also go out to the families of the deceased. The offshore drilling industry is known for its dangers. Oil rig workers often labor in severe and uncertain working conditions, fraught with difficulty. We are indebted to these courageous workers for their contributions to our country.

This is a tragedy not only for the workers and their families but the residents of the entire Gulf Coast region, and the United States. We honor the legacy of these men and their families and affirm that their contributions to a field crucial to our society are recognized by all.

We wish a speedy recovery to the four additional workers who were critically injured during the rig explosion. We also offer a heartfelt thank you to the emergency response workers who responded to the disaster. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This incident highlights the importance of implementing and enforcing stricter offshore drilling regulations. Oil rig explosions and resulting oil spills can lead to the deaths of workers and cause irreversible damage to our environment, marine life, wildlife, food industries, and our economy. It is important that we address the lack of oversight in the offshore drilling industry and protect the lives of dedicated oil rig workers who make daily sacrifices in the interest of the United States.

## RECOGNIZING RALPH KEMP FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

### HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a patriotic American who has given much of himself in securing the future of this country. Mr. Ralph Kemp is a veteran of the Marine Corps and the Vietnam War. Mr. Kemp also served as a retired Albuquerque Police Department Lieutenant in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico a few years after his military service. Some years ago, after some arm twisting he was taken on a trip to attend the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State. After that year there was no more arm twisting involved.

This year's American Legion New Mexico Boys' State session being held at the Campus of Eastern New Mexico University will mark Ralph Kemps' 30th consecutive session of attendance.

Ralph has held many positions throughout the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State organization which has taught thousands of New Mexico High School Seniors the rights

and responsibilities of being citizens of this great country of ours. Numerous members of our society have attended an American Legion Boys State or an American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State Session held annual on campus across this nation.

The program's alumni has held positions as CEO's, Artists, Athletes, Newscasters, Justices on the Supreme Court, both chambers of the House and Senate and even held the Position of President of the United States. It is organizations such as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who after wearing the uniform of our country, return home and continue to selflessly serve the communities of which they belong such as Ralph Kemp.

Ralph Kemp currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Legion New Mexico Boys' State program. Besides the dedicated week Ralph gives to the Boys' State program he has also served on the American Legion Boys Nation Staff for the past 15 years.

This is a week-and-a-half-long program where two boys from each state are selected to come to the Nation's Capitol to learn about government at the federal level. If two and half weeks of volunteer time working with this nation's youth is not enough, Ralph Kemp volunteers and additional week of his summer serving as the Director of the American Legions Junior Shooters programs annual competition. Ralph Kemp is to be commended for his dedication of many years of service to the youth of the nation at American Legion New Mexico Boys State and American Legion Programs. I thank him for his service and am very proud to have him recognized in the House of Representatives.

## CONGRATULATING PRINCIPAL JAN KING ON BEING NAMED THE 2010 WACHOVIA NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Principal Jan King of Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Mills River, North Carolina on being named the 2010 Wachovia North Carolina Principal of the Year. The designation of Principal of the Year not only signifies her effectiveness as an administrator but also the respect she has earned among her students, their parents, and their teachers.

With this honor Mrs. King will be appointed to the State Superintendent's Principal's Advisory Committee and will serve a one-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education. Principal King will also be appointed to a one-year term on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Public School Forum and will chair the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year Selection Committee.

As a native of Jackson County and an educator in the area, Mrs. King has spent most of her life in Western North Carolina. Throughout her educational career, Jan King has set a high educational standard for herself and her peers. In 2003, Mrs. King was named Henderson County Schools' Teacher of the Year and

achieved National Board Certification. Mrs. King has also been selected to speak at various events including the North Carolina Gifted Education Conference, North Carolina Social Studies Conference and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Conference. She also served as a teacher and a consultant for the Library of Congress American Memory Fellow Program.

The children of today are the leaders of our nation tomorrow. Educators like Principal King are central in providing these children the tools they need in order to be productive citizens in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Principal Jan King and to thank her for her tremendous service to the students in Western North Carolina.

## MEDIA SHOULD DEMAND ANSWERS FROM OBAMA

### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today President Obama had his first full news conference in about 10 months.

That's longer than former President George W. Bush ever went between news conferences.

Here's what the Washington Examiner's chief political correspondent, Byron York, wrote recently about why the national media have tolerated President Obama's silence:

While Obama dodges questions, his spokesman stonewalls them.

In one sense, the press, or at least some members of the press, have only themselves to blame.

Obama treats them with contempt because he knows that when big tests come, they've always been on his side.

There's no reason for him to think they won't be there in the future.

Why does Obama do it? Because he can.

The national media should demand answers from the President, not give him a free pass on news conferences.

## UNFAIR TREATMENT OF FEDERAL POSTAL WORKERS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to your attention an amendment that I proposed to H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011, but unfortunately was not included for Floor consideration.

This proposed measure would amend the appropriate section of the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act of 2009, Subtitle B of Title XIX of Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, to allow otherwise eligible workers in American Samoa to be paid territorial cost of living adjustment (TCOLA) rates that match the now frozen TCOLA rates applying to Guam.