

The Magnuson Act regulating federal fisheries has been successful, but it needs to be revised. The last time it was reauthorized, in 2006, it required the rebuilding of overfished stocks within 10 years. That rule is too inflexible and hurts fishing communities from New England to California. A better option is to give the management councils greater discretion in setting targets and deadlines for rebuilding fish stocks.

We are caught between the desire for oceans as pristine ecosystems and the desire for sustainable seafood. Are we willing to accept some depleted species to increase long-term sustainable food production in return? After all, if fish are off the menu, we will likely eat more beef, chicken and pork. And the environmental costs of producing more livestock are much higher than accepting fewer fish in the ocean: lost habitat, the need for ever more water, pesticides, fertilizer and antibiotics, chemical runoff and "dead zones" in the world's seas.

Suddenly, that tasty, healthful and environmentally friendly fish on the plate looks a lot more appetizing.

HELEN "TADDY" SWINSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen "Taddy" Swinson of Brush, Colorado. Ms. Swinson was a mother, grandmother, volunteer and philanthropist. Her devotion to her family and work for the less fortunate left an indelible mark on the community.

Ms. Swinson was a longtime member of the Red-Cross and volunteered much of her time to the Meals and Friendship program. She also worked tirelessly for the Alter and Rosary Society at her church, St. Mary's Catholic Church. Her family was always a priority and it shows in the happiness and success that they enjoy today.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize a woman who did so much for her community and country today. There is no doubt that the values she demonstrated will live on through those who knew her and those she cared for during her life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. PETER VAGI FOR SHARING HIS STORY OF HOLOCAUST SUR- VIVAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Peter Vagi, an 83 year-old Holocaust survivor from Palm Beach County. His inspirational story was recently documented in a film about the Holocaust entitled *The Rescuers*. Mr. Vagi has shared his story with countless others. I hope that by the telling his story we never witness such atrocities as the Holocaust ever again. The world cannot forget. We must remember. We must remember every story, every victim, and every survivor.

Mr. Vagi's story begins when he was 17 years old and the Germans took control of

Hungary. He was almost immediately forced from school into a work camp to perform laborious tasks. Mr. Vagi was one of the few who was prevented from boarding the train to Auschwitz right on the platform. Soon after, he was moved to a Jewish Ghetto and stayed there until the Russians liberated Budapest. However, it wasn't long before the evils of Communism became apparent and Mr. Vagi decided to move first to Austria and then finally to the United States.

Mr. Vagi's story, along with all the other survivors serve as a reminder of the terrible period of human history that must never happen again. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Vagi's life and all that he has done to ensure that history is not forgotten.

HONORING TOMMY SMOTHERS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Tom Smothers of Kenwood, California, who is receiving the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award from the Sonoma County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Tommy Smothers is a fitting recipient for an award that has been presented for more than two decades to community members who have transformed their life-long commitment to civil liberties, human rights and social justice into action. Well known for battling censors while producing television's acclaimed Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, Tommy has long been a symbol of resistance to censorship, fighting to present matters of vital interest to a wide American audience.

Working with his brother Dick, his career as an entertainer, comedian, and musician, began in 1959 with the formation of The Smothers Brothers, a folk-singing and comedy act. In 1967, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour debuted on CBS-TV and quickly established itself as something unique during a time when variety/comedy shows were television staples. The show revolutionized prime-time by using comedy to delve into taboo subjects—drugs, racism, police brutality—and to satirize politicians and criticize the Vietnam War. Singers like Pete Seeger, who had been blacklisted since the 1950s, were frequent guests.

CBS soon realized that these topics were hotter than the network could handle. As the show's producer, Tom fought against censorship, but The Smothers Brothers were fired in April, 1969, ostensibly for failing to comply with rules for submitting tapes of the show for review before broadcasting. The brothers then won a case against CBS for breach of contract. They continued to tour and perform until 2010, becoming the longest-running comedy act in U.S. history.

Forty years later, Tom received an Emmy award for his writing on the show which he dedicated "to all of the people who feel compelled to speak out and not afraid to speak to power and won't shut up and refuse to be silenced."

This certainly describes Tom Smothers who continues to speak out to this day. Now living in Sonoma County with his wife Marcy, he is

an inspirational model for our community and people across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Smothers' receipt of the Jack Green Civil Liberties Award reminds us of his statement, "The only valid censorship of ideas is the right of people not to listen." This is a lesson we can all take to heart today as we celebrate Tom's talents and leadership in defense of our rights.

PEDIATRIC INTERIM CARE CENTER

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization that my family and I hold close to our hearts: the Pediatric Interim Care Center (PICC). PICC opened its doors in 1990 in Kent, Washington, and since that time has saved the lives of more than 2,500 drug-addicted newborns. An organization like PICC—with visionary leaders and founders like Barbara Drennen and Barbara Richards—reminds us every day just how fragile and precious life is, and how much promise it holds. For 20 years PICC and its leadership, staff, and volunteers have transformed lives, bettered communities, and served a purpose greater than self.

Simply perusing PICC's website is enough to make an individual know with heart, mind, and soul that the work being done down there is good and life-altering. Going to PICC in Kent and having the opportunity to hold the beautiful and precious babies there can change one's life. I know it did mine, in many ways. My daughter Tabitha and her husband Ken adopted two beautiful babies from PICC. There is no doubt that raising a drug-addicted baby is difficult. Tabitha and Ken endured many sleepless nights, countless frustrations, and more than a few tears. Of course, life's biggest struggles so often bring life's biggest blessings. And what a blessing those beautiful babies have been. Tabitha, Ken, my wife, Julie, and I, and the rest of my family feel incredibly blessed everyday to have received gifts from PICC in the form of Emma and Briar. Emma is now seven and Briar is nine. They've blessed our family and our friends immensely. They've grown from fragile babies into energetic and precocious kids who play and enjoy life everyday with the intensity and wonder reserved for youth. While making discoveries and investigating life with my two remarkable grandchildren, I thank PICC staff and volunteers for the life-altering and truly beautiful work they do. Over the course of 20 years, PICC has provided countless memories to thousands and continue to expand on their legacy.

The scourge of drug use and abuse afflicts families and communities in every part of our nation. Children born into drug abuse start life at a distinct disadvantage. Children exposed to illegal drugs are more likely to ingest drugs themselves, abuse alcohol, fail in their relationships, and fall short of being an asset in their community. Sometimes it's easy to give in and think the cycle of abuse and failure will never end. That's when an organization like PICC provides hope. Hope for families looking to adopt. Hope for mothers ready to turn their lives around. Hope for innocent babies who

only need love and an opportunity to grow. The heartwarming stories of hope and love at PICC can be found on their website and in homes across this country. PICC provides safety, education, and a helping hand to those who need it and don't ask for much in return. PICC succeeds on a shoestring budget and a lot of hard work and dedication. Kent is a better place because of PICC. The Eighth District is a better place because of PICC. The state of Washington is a better place because of PICC, and our nation is a better place because of PICC.

In the end, why does Barbara Drennen do it? Why do the staff and volunteers at PICC spend countless hours holding babies, working in the community, and educating? Because everyone at PICC believes in their mission: protecting and serving the least among us. They believe in a purpose bigger than themselves. I'm so happy that mission and that purpose is still alive and well 20 years after it was conceived by Barbara Drennen and Barbara Richards. PICC's mission and purpose is Emma and Briar and the thousands of other children that enrich our lives every day. We're all thankful for that.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Chair, I applaud Chairman PAUL RYAN for his bold leadership in finally addressing solutions to our debt crisis in terms of deficit reduction and entitlement reform. There is no question that our health care entitlement programs are on an unsustainable path, and bold action must be taken if we are going to improve our nation's financial stability and preserve these health safety nets for future generations. Medicare costs are growing twice the speed of our economic growth, and elected officials who choose to turn a blind eye to our nation's economic distress are doing current and future beneficiaries an enormous disservice.

Chairman RYAN's budget plan shows a clear vision of our choice between two futures. I believe he has found innovative solutions to curb the unsustainability of Medicare and Medicaid, balance the budget, and pay off the debt, without raising taxes. Our social safety net is clearly ripping at the seams and reforms must be made if we intend to protect our most vulnerable populations. Many governors have urged Congress to instate block grants for their state health programs in exchange for more flexibility and freedom to find efficient, effective ways to cut Medicaid costs without denying essential health care services for those most in need.

Health care is clearly not a one-size-fits-all issue. In my home state of New York, Gov-

ernor Cuomo has already shown leadership and found innovative ways to control Medicaid costs in his Medicaid Redesign Team. New York has an extremely diverse demographic in our Medicaid pool, and transforming the federal government's role into a solid Medicaid block program could seriously hamper efforts by state agencies that are already working hard to redesign the program and cut costs on their own. A block program in New York could result in additional cuts in Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals and physicians, and possibly cut services to institutions that serve the disabled. In the last two years, the state has cut Medicaid reimbursement by \$5.3 billion, and further cuts would only create more hurdles in their efforts to provide quality health care to New Yorkers who need it.

If a block grant is adopted, I believe states should have the ability to opt out of the program in exchange for benchmarks to cut costs. New York should have a chance to continue their efforts to fundamentally redesign the Medicaid system. If New York is forced into a block program, the state may not have time to truly fix the system for the long haul. Nearly 686,000 hospital and health system jobs fuel New York's economic activity in communities across the state. Officials must balance the need for reform, and pragmatic approaches to secure services for current Medicaid beneficiaries.

HONORING MRS. MARSHA MORRIS
FOR HER RETIREMENT AFTER 23
YEARS OF EDUCATING THE
YOUTH OF ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marsha Morris as she retires after 23 years of exemplary teaching in Illinois School District 101. Educators like Mrs. Morris are responsible for shaping America's youth, and her passion for her profession has contributed to the development of countless students into civic-minded Americans. With great pride, I honor her today for her tireless dedication to public service.

In her 23 years as a Western Springs educator, Marsha Morris has been instrumental in the growth of students in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. After earning her undergraduate degree at Benedictine University, Mrs. Morris pursued graduate studies at Aurora University, graduating with a Master of Arts in Teaching. As an educator at Forest Hills Elementary School, and later as the Library Learning Center Director for Forest Hills and Field Park Schools, Mrs. Morris encouraged students to engage their curiosities, explore their creative sides, and above all, she encouraged every student to read. As an educator, Mrs. Morris channeled her love of books into the classroom where, by sharing her favorite stories with students, she inspired them to discover favorite stories of their own.

Mrs. Morris' excellence in teaching has encouraged and inspired many young men and women of Cook County to embrace and engage with the world around them. The Western Springs community has been fortunate to have Mrs. Morris, who dedicated her career to enriching the lives of children.

On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Illinois and all those whose lives she has touched, I am proud to honor Mrs. Marsha Morris for her years of excellence in District 101. I thank her for dedicating her career to students aspiring to leadership and civic accomplishment, and I wish her a long and happy retirement. Mrs. Morris will be greatly missed by the students of District 101, but I know she will continue to be an asset to her community.

HONORING THE METROPOLITAN
FIRE SPRINKLER, LLC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, LLC, as the 2011 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year, and its founder and president, District of Columbia native Walter "Merrill" Smith.

After working in the fire protection industry for over 30 years, Merrill Smith started his own business, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, in 2005, and in only a few years, has built one of the fastest growing and most successful small businesses in the District of Columbia. Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler, a minority-owned D.C. business, installs fire protection systems in buildings throughout the Washington metropolitan region. Most recently, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler was successful in competing to install sprinkler systems in the vast Coast Guard building now under construction at the site of the future U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) headquarters, located on the old St. Elizabeths grounds. Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler had already established a stellar track record on large projects, including the National Naval Medical Center, Gaylord National Harbor, and the Washington Nationals Stadium garage.

Merrill Smith sought to establish his own business not only for entrepreneurial reasons, but also because he wanted to provide jobs for residents in his hometown. His initial sources for employees are the District's Department of Employment Services, which serves D.C. residents seeking jobs, and the Road Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 669. Merrill Smith has embraced union labor and is about to train his first female apprentice.

Merrill Smith first built his own skills, and then built a business based on his first-hand knowledge of the industry. In the process, he has become an inspiration for young people and unemployed residents, and a model for the community for what hard work, with high quality, can accomplish.

Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler is rendering outstanding service to the larger community, to the small business community, and to individuals in our community, all at the same time. Merrill Smith's company makes important contributions to the District of Columbia economy. In competing successfully for contracts, particularly high-quality federal contracts such as the DHS project, Merrill Smith has become a living example for local small businesses that aim high. In searching for minority and union laborers, Metropolitan Fire Sprinkler is both