

and referral centers which serve the needs of those with the disease and their caretakers, and over 1,000 support groups throughout the United States. The APDA has worked tirelessly over the past 50 years in fulfilling their mission to "Ease the Burden—Find the Cure" through research, patient and family services and education.

In conjunction with Geisinger HealthSouth, the Central Susquehanna Valley Chapter has hosted this Walk-A-Thon on Sunday May 1, 2011, to increase awareness across the state of Pennsylvania, and I am honored to be included in such a noble and selfless cause.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor those who work with the American Parkinson Disease Association. I commend the efforts of the Central Susquehanna Valley Chapter and Geisinger HealthSouth in hosting this Walk-A-Thon and advancing Parkinson's disease research across the country.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LIONEL WAYNE MAGEE III FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man who was selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. Lionel Wayne Magee III will follow in his parents' footsteps by serving our country in uniform.

Magee, an 18-year-old senior at Seoul American High School on Yongsan Garrison, the Republic of Korea, is poised to attend the prestigious academy this fall. With him he brings an enormous amount of leadership and passion to the incoming class of cadets. While attending high school, Magee was committed to a range of extracurricular activities including varsity football, Taekwondo, National Honor Society, Boys State, Eagle Scout as well as numerous volunteer hours in support of the community.

Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a first-rate education while providing those who undertake it some of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lionel Magee on his acceptance into the U.S. Air Force Academy and in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Our first priorities in the House of Representatives must be helping to foster job cre-

ation and supporting middle class families. More than four months into the 112th Congress, we have not considered one bill that would achieve these goals.

This deceptively named bill claims that it would enact a government-wide prohibition on federal subsidies for abortion and health insurance plans that cover it. In truth it is an unprecedented and extreme attempt to limit health insurance coverage for American women, raise taxes on small businesses, infringe on the legally protected rights of American Servicewomen, and make this legal, constitutionally protected medical procedure inaccessible to women.

This bill would eliminate tax credits for families and small businesses to purchase comprehensive health insurance plans. This would result in substandard health care for millions of Americans.

Unprecedented, H.R. 3 would change the tax code to promote an anti-choice agenda. This bill would allow women to use tax preferred saving accounts for abortion care only in cases of rape, incest, or when their life is in danger. Under this extreme bill, women would have to prove to the IRS that they have been victim of sexual assault to use their own money for their medical care.

This bill triumphs on states' rights by preventing the District of Columbia from using its own funds to pay for abortion services for low-income women. Further, it would permanently deny low-income women, federal employees, and military women access to abortion care, even when their health is at risk.

It is important to remember why comprehensive health care is needed. I recently heard a heartbreaking story from one of my constituents who was desperate to have a baby with her husband. Unfortunately after getting pregnant, they discovered that the fetus had a deadly condition and was not going to survive. They were left with only one choice—to terminate the pregnancy. This couple never thought they would be in that position. This bill would deny private health insurance companies from providing this kind of medical care to women.

The question of whether or not to have an abortion is one of the most difficult decisions any woman can face. Reproductive health care is a personal matter that should be left to individuals, their doctors, and their families without interference from the government. Rather than making abortion more dangerous for young women, I believe that Congress should do more to create the conditions that enable women to make true choices by providing comprehensive sexuality education and ensuring that women have access to a range of effective contraceptives.

I oppose H.R. 3 and urge my colleagues to vote no on this dangerous piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD FEINMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ronald Feinman, a constituent of mine from Boca Raton who will retire from teaching at the end of June after 39 years.

Dr. Feinman, a Senior Professor of History and Political Science at Broward College in

Pembroke Pines, and an Adjunct Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, moved to South Florida in 1989 after teaching for 17 years in New York at Queens College, New York Institute of Technology, and Pace University. A graduate of Queens College, Dr. Feinman earned his PhD from the City University of New York Graduate Center in 1975.

A student of history from an early age, Dr. Feinman has dedicated his life and professional career to ensuring future generations grow up with an appreciation of American history, politics and government. This dedication is evident in the pure enthusiasm he shows for his students and the topics he professes, and the strong reputation he has established amongst his peers and his students is a direct result. He has developed strong friendships with many of his students throughout his teaching career, and some of them have taken him for as many as eight classes along their way to completing their degree.

The author of *Twilight of Progressivism: The Western Republican Senators and the New Deal, 1933–1945*, Dr. Feinman regularly contributes articles and book reviews in a wide range of academic journals, lectures on modern American topics throughout South Florida, and maintains a blog discussing daily political topics. While he is looking forward to retirement and having the opportunity to spend more time with his family and travel, after taking a year off, he intends to return to teaching part-time to continue doing what he loves.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ronald Feinman embodies the true essence of an educator and a role model for our younger generations. I know I speak not only for myself, but for the thousands of students whose lives he has positively impacted throughout the four decades of his career in congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him the best going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 4th, I missed rollcall votes 286–292 for unavoidable reasons.

Specifically, I was in Tarpon Springs, Florida, in my congressional district, to attend the funeral of a close family member, who passed away earlier in the week.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 286: "yea" (Adoption of H. Res. 237, the rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3—No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act); rollcall vote No. 287: "yea" (Jackson-Lee Amendment No. 1); rollcall vote No. 288: "yea" (Capps Amendment No. 2); rollcall vote No. 289: "nay" (McCarthy Motion to recommit H.R. 1214); rollcall vote No. 290: "yea" (Passage of H.R. 1214, To Repeal Mandatory Funding for School-based Health Center Construction); rollcall vote No. 291: "nay" (Speier Motion to recommit H.R. 3); rollcall vote No. 292: "yea" (Passage of H.R. 3, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act).

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce three bills to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising ability, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Smithsonian Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding and changing the composition of its Board of Regents, from 17 members, which includes six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. This change will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it is the first significant change in this old and revered institution since it was established in 1846. The second bill, the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2010, seeks to preserve the long-standing free admission policy for permanent exhibits at an institution that is largely funded by the federal government, as envisioned by James Smithson, its founder. Finally, the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2011 will apply the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to the Smithsonian in the same manner they apply to federal agencies.

The Smithsonian Institution is a unique and irreplaceable cultural, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and the forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture, which has been approved by Congress and is now seeking funding from the private sector for construction. The Smithsonian has grown with donations from American culture and life, and financial contributions, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its funding from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious infrastructure and other needs.

Congress must help the Smithsonian strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from its 19th century governance structure, which keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical oversight. The Smithsonian Modernization Act bill provides a governance structure befitting the Smithsonian's unique complexity. In no small part, the difficulty the Smithsonian has faced results from limitations inherent in its antiquated governance structure. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years ago, but today the structure has

proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian. The present governance structure places immense responsibility on dedicated but overextended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of the former Secretary of the Smithsonian, Lawrence Small, allowing him to create an "insular culture." The Committee's report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Further, the Smithsonian's then-Business Ventures chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This unprecedented crisis, caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks, put into sharp focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing media coverage, damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel during that period requires new and concentrated oversight by citizens for whom the Smithsonian would command priority attention.

The Board of Regents, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a governance committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its oversight of the institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher, to review the issues arising from an Inspector General's report and the Board's response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The IRC was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly that the root cause of the problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure, which led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board must assume a fiduciary duty that carries a "major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk, and potentially, financial liability." The IRC further argued that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over \$1 billion a year, must have a Board who "act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight." The IRC cited a lack of clarity of the roles of the U.S. Vice President and Chief Justice of the

U.S. Supreme Court on the Board, and said that "it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent." The same observation could be made of the Members of the House and Senate who serve on the Board. The IRC recommended that the Board increase the level of expertise and the number of members to ensure that the Regents have sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's own governance committee identified several Board weaknesses, concluding that the Board did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision-making, that the staff whom the Board depended upon for oversight inquiries did not have direct access to information, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flags "crippled" internal compliance and oversight.

Only Congress, with the concurrence of the president, can amend the Smithsonian Charter. The last change to the Board's structure occurred over 30 years ago, but only to increase the number of private citizens on the Board from six to nine.

The number of Regents, however, is not the root problem. Although the bill expands the Board from 17 to 21 members, it, most importantly, brings the Board into alignment with modern public and private boards by requiring all Regents to be private citizens. The search for private funds by Smithsonian management was a major cause of the recent controversy. Faced with crippling budget problems, the Regents must be free to give new and unprecedented attention and energy to finding and helping to raise substantially more funds from private sources. The new structure envisioned by the bill will improve oversight and the capacity for fundraising from private sources. Unlike federal officials, private citizens are entirely free to assist in private fundraising. Most importantly, private citizens will have sufficient expertise to serve on the Board, and will be able to devote the personal time and attention necessary to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility that comes with serving such a venerable and complex institution.

The bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting Board members, while eliminating the self-perpetuating role of the Board in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board of Regents.

Considering the seriousness of the findings of the Board's own governance committee and of the IRC, the changes prescribed by the bill are nothing short of necessary. The reform of the fiduciary and governance issues that have brought public criticism to this iconic American institution must begin with the indispensable step of making the Smithsonian's governance consistent with that of similar institutions today. Only congressional attention can reassure the public that the controversies that recently besieged the Smithsonian will not recur. In the face of an unprecedented public controversy, Congress would be remiss if it left the Smithsonian to its own oversight and devices alone for improvement.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.