

As we look to improve the quality of care while addressing high costs, we can learn from effective programs like USFHP, which provides managed care and includes a focus on preventative care and managing chronic illnesses to improve the lives of our service members and potentially creating savings in the long run. Transferring beneficiaries to Medicare will only shift costs, rather than improve the quality of care for those who have served our country.

In light of this, and the success this program has had in providing for those who have served in uniform, I wish to reiterate my support for USFHP. I hope we can avoid major alterations to the US Family Health Plan and continue to offer this service to all eligible beneficiaries, including those over the age of 65, who I believe have earned a right to this high quality program through service to our country.

#### SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY MCCREERY

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeansville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition's history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joining Barrino, Daughtry and McCreery as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albermarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery's grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she

used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, "That's my Scotty."

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, "That's our Scotty."

#### IN HONOR OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT (RET) LEWIS JAY STACK

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, MGy Sgt (Ret) Lewis Jay Stack. Mr. Stack is being honored by his church, the Avalon United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia this Sunday. Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack was born on April 21, 1914, and recently celebrated his 97th birthday.

Spurred by a love of country and selfless sacrifice, Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack joined the United States Marine Corps on February 28, 1937 at the age of 23. He served admirably with the 1st Marine Division for several campaigns in World War II, which included Guadalcanal, Cape Gloster, Plillieu and Okinawa. Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack also served one tour with 1st Marine Air Wing in Japan.

He was stationed at Intin during the Korean War and later served a tour in Vietnam. His final station in the military was at Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia on March 1, 1971. For his service to our country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Navy Achievement Medal, Nine Good Conduct medals, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

He has been married to the lovely Ruth Stack for 65 years. They have four children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He has been a member of the Avalon United Methodist Church for almost 47 years.

GEN Douglas MacArthur once said that: "Duty, Honor, Country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be." Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack did his duty by serving his country, and he did it with honor and dignity because of his deep and unwavering love of his country.

Because of him and thousands of brave men and women like him, millions of Americans and billions more around the world are able to taste the fruits of freedom. God Bless Master Gunnery Sergeant Stack and God Bless the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 21ST ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me

in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, to be held in Washington, DC on May 26–30, 2011.

The DC Black Pride celebration is a multi-day festival featuring music, dance, films, a poetry slam, a church service, community town hall meetings, and a health and wellness expo, among other things. The DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation's capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The DC Black Pride celebration has deep roots in the DC community, dating back to 1975. It grew out of the Club House's annual Memorial Day weekend celebration, called the Children's Hour. After the Club House closed in 1990, local individuals and groups kept the tradition alive by organizing the first DC Black Pride celebration on May 25, 1991, at Banneker Field. The celebration has grown from a few hundred people to the thousands expected for the 2011 celebration.

The DC Black Pride celebration fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Pride celebrations on three continents.

Fittingly, the DC Black Pride celebration's organizing body, Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a local affiliate of the International Federation of Black Prides, chose "21 Years and Legal!" as the theme for this year's celebration. The theme reflects the 21 years DC Black Pride has fulfilled its mission to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender African-American community, as well as support for organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth and families.

DC Black Pride is led by a volunteer Board of Directors, which coordinates this annual event and smaller events throughout the year. We are pleased to also recognize DC Black Pride 2011 board members: George Birdson, Jimma Elliott-Stevens, Earl Fowlkes, Jr., and Danielle King.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, and to welcome its attendees.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

#### HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC). For the past 30 years, the MSAC has served as a champion for low- and moderate-income seniors, achieving gains in promoting the rights and well-being of seniors.

Since its first meeting in April 1981, the MSAC has brought together thousands of area seniors to participate in public meetings, rallies and government hearings and has succeeded in bringing necessary services to seniors in need.

Shortly after its inception, the MSAC restored local bus routes, established medical

and transportation services, and ensured the improvement of maintenance at local subsidized housing complexes. It has won hard-earned victories in creating low-cost drug programs for seniors, passing legislation to provide home care as an alternative to institutional care, and ending "balance billing" for Medicare patients.

Today, the MSAC has over 1,000 active members of all ages working at the grassroots level to continue to ensure that seniors have access to the resources they need most. Seven chapters throughout Massachusetts provide support, leadership training, and opportunities to advocate for those members of the senior community who otherwise would have no voice.

I join my friends in the North Shore chapter and so many others in congratulating the Massachusetts Senior Action Council on 30 successful years. I wish them the best as they continue to serve as a voice for all vulnerable residents of Massachusetts.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my concerns with repealing Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act through the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision of the NDAA would undermine Department of Defense efforts to reduce oil dependence and could cripple America's nascent algal biofuel industry.

Our Armed Forces are making great progress to reduce their dependence on oil in a manner that promotes climate security. For example, the Air Force plans to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016. It has already developed the "Green Hornet," a fighter jet that runs on algae-based biofuel. The Navy is in the process of deploying its "Great Green Fleet," which will run entirely on alternative fuels and be operational by 2016.

These improvements to national security parallel new economic opportunities for the biofuel industry. According to the Biotechnology Industry Association, "Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the 'valley of death' between development and commercialization," and is "already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals." The domestic biofuels industry contributes 400,000 jobs and \$53 billion to the American economy while supporting deployment of domestically-produced biofuels for our Armed Forces.

We cannot abort this critical effort to help our military achieve energy independence. It is imperative that repeal of Section 526 be strick-

en from the National Defense Authorization Act before this legislation proceeds to the President for his signature.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTION 526 OF THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007 TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF ADVANCED BIOFUELS

MAY 2011

#### *What Section 526 Does*

Prevents federal agencies from purchasing unconventional fuels with higher greenhouse gas emissions than conventional fuels.

Most relevant to the Department of Defense (DOD) because it is the Nation's largest fuel purchaser and is leading federal efforts to support, develop and commercialize domestic alternative sources of fuel for military use.

For instance, the U.S. Air Force intends to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016.

Also, the U.S. Navy plans to deploy a "Great Green Fleet" by 2016, which will be entirely operated on alternative fuels.

#### *Why Section 526 Is Important to the United States and to the Advanced Biofuels Industry*

Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the "valley of death" between development and commercialization by preventing large, carbon intensive fossil fuel facilities from crowding out their opportunities. Section 526 is therefore already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals and the country move toward greater energy independence and security and create jobs.

The domestic biofuels industry is now contributing more than 400,000 jobs and \$53 billion in new activity to the Nation's economy. A recent report found that additional job creation from advanced biofuels production could reach 807,000 by 2022.

Since its enactment, Section 526 has provided a clear signal that energy security and climate security will be advanced in parallel to federal alternative fuel procurement. This has helped to focus private investment and early DOD testing on advanced biofuels, which offer substantial greenhouse gas reductions in addition to their energy security benefits.

The prospects of a stable and long-term customer in the DOD is a major driver of early investment in advanced biofuels for aviation and marine applications. Eliminating Section 526 could seriously undermine this investment certainty, leading to less and less investment and capital access for advanced biofuels.

Congress must maintain Section 526 to assure continued U.S. leadership on biofuels, especially advanced and cellulosic biofuels for aviation and other military applications. *Advanced Biofuels Companies and Projects That Could Be Negatively Affected if Section 526 Were Eliminated*

The maps below illustrate existing and planned cellulosic biofuel biorefineries and algae production projects at various stages of development in North America.

Currently, there are more than 70 pilot and demonstration advanced biofuel biorefineries across North America—including cellulosic, algae, and other advanced biofuel technologies—representing hundreds of millions of dollars in investment.

There have been successes at each stage of research and development and all are in the process of scaling-up.

Commercial development was slowed by the recession but is regaining momentum as a result of supportive federal programs, such as Section 526, and some thawing of capital markets.

Many of the facilities and projects shown may be negatively impacted by the elimination of Section 526.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 27, 2011*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall 376. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall 376. I am proud to support the intelligence community, as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in their efforts to protect our homeland and combat global terrorism.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO AZERBAIJAN ON THEIR 93RD REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 27, 2011*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 93rd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28. Additionally, the Republic of Azerbaijan will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence from the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan has become a critical ally of the United States due both to its location in the Caucasus Region and its access to rich energy sources in the Caspian Sea. Additionally, Azerbaijan has been an example of religious and ethnic tolerance. As a predominantly Muslim country, Azerbaijan has maintained strong and active Jewish and Christian communities.

Azerbaijan was one of the first nations to offer the United States support in the aftermath of 9/11. They have participated in many joint military efforts since their independence and recently doubled their military presence in Afghanistan. They have also offered logistical support for our efforts in Afghanistan, offering refueling stations and over-flight permission.

Once again, I am happy to honor and congratulate Azerbaijan on their 93rd Anniversary of Republic Day. Azerbaijan has been a great ally to the United States, and I think it is important that we highlight all the efforts they have made to support efforts to bring peace and freedom to parts of the world that have known nothing but tyranny.

#### OPPOSING REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 27, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the Republican's plan to eliminate Medicare as we know it. The Republican budget ends the Medicare benefits guarantee and replaces it with an inadequate voucher system where seniors will have to buy their own health insurance in 2022. These actions