

her 7 years as Vice Chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Ms. Francois has a long history of service in Maryland. Beginning as a teacher at Cherry Hill Junior High School, she went on to become a Department Head, Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. While holding these positions, Ms. Francois worked to establish policies and procedures for improving K-12 curriculum and instruction, as well as system-wide special student support services. Throughout her career, Ms. Francois has received numerous awards and commendations including the Richard R. Green Award, the nation's highest urban education honor, given in recognition of exceptional contributions to urban schools and students.

In 2006, Ms. Francois was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. Utilizing her decades of experience at every level of the public school system, Ms. Francois has provided a valuable perspective which has opened up many new opportunities to students. Ms. Francois' work in Baltimore City Public Schools has been integral to the education and success of thousands of City school children. Under her leadership and guidance, Baltimore City Public Schools have made significant improvements in the scope and effectiveness of their education programs.

Through all of the promotions, accolades, and awards, Ms. Francois has stayed true to her commitment to educate the youth of Baltimore City. She has dedicated her life to improving public education and has enriched and guided the lives of thousands of children. The State of Maryland is forever grateful for all that she has done. As Ms. Francois retires from Baltimore City Public Schools, I would like to thank her for her unwavering dedication and service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 2, 2012, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on No. 377.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Cancer Survivors Day celebration that will be cosponsored by Falmouth Hospital, Cape Cod Healthcare, and the Falmouth Public Library.

National Cancer Survivors Day is an annual and honored worldwide celebration of life that is held in hundreds of communities across the globe. Participants in these events unite on the first Sunday in June to show that life after a cancer diagnosis can be meaningful and productive. The local Cape Cod event, to be cosponsored by Falmouth Hospital, Cape Cod

Healthcare and Falmouth Public Library, is part of a biannual celebration for cancer survivors and caregivers of upper Cape Cod. At the event, the "Survivors Quilt," or the Quilt of Hope, will be unveiled, which is made up of handmade squares contributed by local cancer survivors to celebrate their resilience and determination.

The cosponsors of the Cape's National Cancer Survivors Day event are local leaders who have led the effort to eradicate cancer and to assist cancer patients, their caregivers, and survivors. Cape Cod Healthcare, which is one of the top ten healthcare systems in the nation, provides the latest diagnostic imaging technology at health facilities throughout the Cape. As for Falmouth Hospital, its cancer program has received significant endorsements from accreditation agencies, such as the Commission on Cancer and the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. Falmouth Hospital's Clark Cancer Center provides local access to the latest, most sophisticated, and most reliable cancer therapies available, and is the only hospital in which many Cape Cod residents can receive such treatments. Additionally, the hospital's Seifer Women's Health and Imaging Center, along with the Wilkens Outpatient Medical Complex in Hyannis, are the two Cape Cod Healthcare centers that provide certain types of digital screening and diagnostic services to Cape residents. The work of these organizations is invaluable to the local community, as the American Cancer Society estimates that Massachusetts will see over 38,000 new cancer diagnoses this year.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to honor these local organizations in their continuous fight against cancer and to commemorate their celebration of National Cancer Survivors Day. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of their work in the local community as well as the significance of National Cancer Survivors Day.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MARINA DAY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance and contributions of local marinas across the country as we commemorate National Marina Day on June 9, 2012. Every day across this great nation, folks take advantage of waterways for a variety of reasons, including commerce, sport, and recreation. National Marina Day is a special opportunity to highlight the valuable role that marinas play in communities across America as gateways to some of our country's most exceptional waterways.

The First District of Virginia is a region where waterways are an important part of life for many folks, from the Potomac, Rappahannock, and York Rivers to the great Chesapeake Bay itself. For many citizens, marinas serve as gateways to these grand waterways, places where folks can reacquire themselves with nature and learn valuable lessons of environmental stewardship, all while mastering the practical skills and expertise associated with operating a boat. Many of these life lessons

were instilled in me during summers on Virginia's Northern Neck, which I have called home for many years, and they are lessons that I have found to be beneficial in all aspects of my life. Marinas have provided the opportunity for folks from all walks of life to experience all of the substance that our natural waterways have to offer, and I am pleased to recognize their contributions and unique imprint on our communities as we commemorate National Marina Day.

HONORING MONTANA'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today, it is my distinct privilege to welcome a very special group of men to our nation's Capital. And while it is incumbent upon us to honor them, the truth is, they honor us with their presence here.

On June 15, 2012, nearly 100 veterans of the Second World War will arrive in Washington, D.C. through the Honor Flight program. Since 2005, Honor Flight has worked to bring WWII veterans to visit their war memorial at the foot of the Washington Monument, and a few feet from the White House. In that first year, 137 veterans participated in the program. By last year, that total annual participation has swelled to 18,055.

And while each of the veterans who has participated deserves our thanks and our honor, this particular group is very special to me in particular because it marks the very first time Honor Flight has brought out a group of veterans from Montana.

You won't find a state that's more proud of our veterans than Montana. And we have a lot of them. In fact, you won't find many states that have more as a percentage of our population.

On December 7, 1941 the United States was pulled into the war and Montanans answered the call to service. Within the first year, 40,000 Men and women from the Treasure State enlisted. By the end of the war, 57,000 had served—nearly 10 percent of the state's entire population at the time, one of the highest rates in the country.

They served in every branch and in every theater of the conflict. And too many of them never made it back to Montana, although I think that heaven must be a little something like a peaceful sunset over the Yellowstone River.

But Montana's veterans didn't sacrifice in vain. They bled and died to defeat the greatest threat to freedom the world has ever seen. They fought across the bloody islands of the Pacific and in the frozen forests of Europe. They fought in the air, land and sea. Some even fought below the waves. And they won.

Today, the men and women who fought and won that war are justifiably part of what is called The Greatest Generation. The sacrifices of men who arrive in Washington, D.C. are the reason for this honorable title. It is not something we gave to them, it's something they earned.

As they visit this city and reflect on what it stands for as a beacon of freedom to the

world, I think the rest of us should remember that the reason liberty still exists is because good men stood up to tyranny. They are the greatest of the Greatest Generation, and on behalf of all Montanans, I want to thank them.

57,000 Montanans served during World War II. Just under 100 are here this week. Please join me in welcoming and honoring:

Herbert Alvin (Billings, MT); Roy Bloom (Kalispell, MT); William Boyer (Billings, MT); George Brown (Billings, MT); John Bullis (Hardin, MT); William Butler (Billings, MT); Marion Callen (Forsyth, MT); Galen Calvert (Missoula, MT); Murel Clancey (Ennis, MT); Frank Clark (Billings, MT); Paul Creek (Billings, MT); Donald Cullen (Helena, MT); Hubert Cummings (Billings, MT); Irvin Cuthbertson (Billings, MT); Ernest Devries (Joliet, MT); John Donovan (Billings, MT); Thomas Dragoo (Billings, MT); Duane Erickson (Glendive, MT); Allen Fox (Twin Bridges, MT); Arnold Funk (Helena, MT); John Gabelman (Butte, MT); William George (Missoula, MT); Cleburne Gilliland (Billings, MT); Harvey Glover (Billings, MT); Harold Godtland (Butte, MT); Robert Graham (Billings, MT); James Gunnels (Laurel, MT); Francis Gustafson (Billings, MT); Robert Haraden (Bozeman, MT); Delbert Hartford (Alder, MT); Donald Hecox (Bozeman, MT); Jack Henley (Hamilton, MT); Adam Herauf (Billings, MT); Victor Hergett (Laurel, MT); Thomas Hoffman (Billings, MT); Q.P. Hudson (Billings, MT); Frank Jasisko (Great Falls, MT); Herbert Kindsfater (Laurel, MT); Kenneth Kjelstrup (Kalispell, MT); Dale Lamphear (Laurel, MT); Ray Lau (Three Forks, MT); John Liggett (Roundup, MT); Chester Lindblom (Plentywood, MT); Albert Litle (Billings, MT); Herbert Livingston (Billings, MT); Louis Loushin (Butte, MT); Phillip Lyons (Butte, MT); Marvin Mackey (Libby, MT); Richard Marshall (Twin Bridges, MT); Arthur Merrick (Helena, MT); Marvin Metzler (Billings, MT); Jack Moriarty (Sheridan, WY); Roy Morrison (Billings, MT); Leo Mullen (Butte, MT); Kenneth Mumme (Sheridan, MT); John Murphy (Anaconda, MT); Donald Nafus (Billings, MT); Robert Noll (Missoula, MT); Vernon O'Leary (Helena, MT); Roland Oljnyk (Billings, MT); Paul Olsen (Billings, MT); Delphine Olson (Billings, MT); Albert Ottolino (Billings, MT); Harlon Owens (Billings, MT); Douglas Parrott (Roundup, MT); Robert Paye (Billings, MT); Russell Peery (Helena, MT); Walter Pfister (Roundup, MT); Drury Phebus (Baker, MT); James Phipps (Emigrant, MT); Walter Popp (Billings, MT); Jimmie Ramsey (Bozeman, MT); John Reamy (Billings, MT); Richard Redle (Columbus, MT); Francis Riebe (Polson, MT); Carl Rivera (Billings, MT); Robert Rutford (Superior, MT); Gladys Sandborgh (Butte, MT); Ron Scharfe (Missoula, MT); Ferdinand Schell (Lewistown, MT); Paul Schuyler (Roberts, MT); Orval Scow (Helena, MT); Dennis Scranton (Miles City, MT); J. William Smith (Billings, MT); Wade Smith (Butte, MT); James Snider (Forsyth, MT); Otto Staack (Butte, MT); Norman Sulenes (Billings, MT); Harold Van Sickle (Billings, MT); William Van Wieren (Billings, MT); Joseph Wedlake (Butte, MT); Kenneth Williams (Laurel, MT); Paul Winhofer (Glendive, MT); David Wittman (Billings, MT); Margaret Woolston (Billings, MT).

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES AND LUCILLE WARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize Charles and Lucille Ward on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

On June 9, 1962, Charles and Lucille were married in Brewton, Alabama, a little town just north of the Northwest Florida panhandle, at the East Brewton Baptist Church. Since that day, Charles and Lucille have spent their lives devoted to their family, their faith, and their community. Charles honorably served his country for four years as a member of the United States Air Force until 1956 before beginning his career farming with the Ward Brothers Farm. He retired from the farm in 1998. Lucille, in addition to supporting her family as a mother and homemaker, served her community as an employee of the Santa Rosa County School System, retiring after 20 years of service. Throughout their careers and their fifty years together, their faith and family have remained first in their lives.

Charles and Lucille are proud parents to five children, Michael Ward, Doug Ward, Julie McGowin, Dean Ward, and Tina Fendley; eleven grandchildren, Preston Jernigan, Grayson Jernigan, Ashley Hernandez, Cassie Ward, Jack McGowin, Shawn McGowin, Alex McGowin, Becky Ward, Emily Ward, Madison Fendley, and Andrew Fendley; and one great-grand child, Anna Hernandez.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Ward on their golden wedding anniversary and thank them for their service to the Northwest Florida community and our great nation. My wife Vicki and I would like to wish all the best to Charles and Lucille, as well as their entire extended family, on this truly special occasion. May God continue to bless them for many years to come.

HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 436 is primarily focused on dismantling the Affordable Care Act, which is why I will oppose it today.

Medical devices offer important benefits to individuals throughout the country. In some cases they save lives; in other cases, they improve the quality of life. An important part of the Affordable Care Act was to expand access to the benefits of medical devices by making health insurance more affordable. Indeed, as a result of the Affordable Care Act, over 30 million more Americans will have access to af-

fordable care. This is good for the individuals, and it is also good for the manufacturers of these devices, who will now have more people who can afford their products.

Now, the medical device industry apparently wants to keep the benefits of having more insured people capable of benefiting from their products without contributing to the effort that allows those individuals to afford their coverage in the first place. If every group that joined the effort to expand insurance coverage took that approach, the entire health care reform effort would fall apart—which is precisely the outcome the Republican majority is seeking with this legislation.

Additionally, rather than finding a different way to pay for extending affordable health insurance to over 30 million Americans, this repeal—and the rest of the bill—is offset by eliminating existing protections for middle and lower-income citizens who receive tax credits for insurance they purchase on the exchange, a change the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimates will increase the ranks of the uninsured by 350,000.

While I would support the provision in this bill allowing health care flexible spending account holders to recover up to \$500 in unspent funds from their FSAs if it came before the House as a freestanding bill, the vast majority of this legislation is clearly aimed at undermining the Affordable Care Act.

Accordingly, I urge a “no” vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 7th, 2012, I missed rollcall votes 358–370 for unavoidable reasons.

Specifically, I was in Palm Harbor, Florida, in my congressional district, to attend my son's high school graduation.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall no. 358: “yea” (On ordering the previous question), rollcall no. 359: “yea” (Adoption of H. Res. 679, providing for the consideration of H.R. 436—Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2012), rollcall no. 360: “nay” (On motion to recommit H.R. 436 with instructions), rollcall no. 361: “yay” (Passage of H.R. 436—Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2012), rollcall no. 362: “yay” (First King of Iowa Amendment), rollcall no. 363: “yay” (Second King of Iowa Amendment), rollcall no. 364: “nay” (First Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment), rollcall no. 365: “yay” (Second Blackburn of Tennessee Amendment), rollcall no. 366: “yay” (Sullivan of Oklahoma Amendment), rollcall no. 367: “nay” (Turner of New York Amendment), rollcall no. 368: “nay” (Second Polis of Colorado Amendment), rollcall no. 369: “nay” (On motion to recommit H.R. 5855 with instructions), rollcall no. 370: “yay” (Passage of H.R. 5855—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY 2013).