

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).

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WESLEY A. BROWN

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly inspirational man, Lieutenant Commander Wesley Anthony Brown, the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy. Sadly, Lt. Cmdr. Brown passed away on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. On Wednesday, June 6, 2012, a public memorial service was held in Annapolis, Maryland, where more than 250 people gathered to honor his life and legacy.

Lt. Cmdr. Brown was born on April 3, 1927 in Baltimore, Maryland to William and Rosetta Brown. During his senior year at Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., he was Cadet Corps Battalion Commander. He then went on to attend college at Howard University.

In 1945, Lt. Cmdr. Brown entered the U.S. Naval Academy as the sixth African American man admitted in its 100-year history. He would be the first to endure until the end the hazing, the torment, and the hostility bred by racial inequality. He would be the first to hold his head high and keep true to himself amid the tension. He would be the first to graduate.

Despite the publicity surrounding this great accomplishment, Lt. Cmdr. Brown remained humble throughout his life. He honored those in whose footsteps he had followed and he spoke words of encouragement to those who followed in his footsteps.

Lt. Cmdr. Brown served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a Navy civil engineer. He

worked on many construction projects all over the world until his retirement in 1969. He then worked as a facilities analyst at Howard University until 1988.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Lt. Cmdr. Brown went far in life because he treated people the right way—with dignity, honor and respect even when he was not treated the same way in return. He has been an inspiration to all of us and we are blessed to have had him touch our lives.

Lt. Cmdr. Wesley A. Brown accomplished many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the enduring love and support of his loving wife, Crystal; his children, Wesley, Jr., Gary, Wiletta, and Carol; and his seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Vivian, and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Lt. Cmdr. Brown's family during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

**PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT**

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 8, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that strengthens the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and seeks to remedy the discrepancies in the wages of men and women in America.

In 2009, the first bill that President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Creating equal pay for women was one of the top priorities of Congress in 2009 and it was my honor to support this bill. The Lilly Ledbetter act pioneered the first steps at tackling the issue of sex-based discrimination, but our duty to American women in the workforce is not complete. Now more than ever, with women increasingly taking on the role as the breadwinner in many American households, this issue no longer affects just women; it affects entire families. For almost 50 years, we have been combating this issue. In El Paso women make up 45 percent of the labor force, with similar numbers around the country, but women earn only 77 cents on the dollar compared to men. If this gap in earnings is not reduced, everyday expenses, the ability to support their families and retirement funds will be negatively affected.

Continuing his commitment to securing equal pay for women, President Obama is pressing for us to turn this basic right, equal pay for equal effort, into a reality with the Paycheck Fairness Act. With the creation of the National Equal Pay Task Force that is cracking down on any violations of equal pay laws, the President is pressing forward with his efforts. Like President Obama, we must continue to fight for equal payment opportunities for our nation's women and in turn their families. Senate Republicans are blocking passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act which advocates for the fair treatment of almost half of our labor force. I support the Paycheck Fairness Act and its intent to increase penalties against those who participate in gender-based discrimination, and I urge Senate Republicans to stop their resistance on this issue.