

collegiate level at the Georgia Institute of Technology, doing contract research at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and serving six years at the Georgia Department of Archives.

Outside of his academic work, Dr. Bridges has also participated in numerous state and community activities. He has served as President of the Alabama Historical Association, as a member of the Alabama Historical Commission, on the Governor's Mansion Advisory Board, and many more. He received the Alabama Humanities Foundation's Annual Humanities Award and was inducted into the College of Communications Hall of Fame at the University of Alabama. Dr. Bridges expertise is also recognized beyond the State of Alabama, having represented the United States in archival exchanges with both the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, and as vice chairman of the Information Policy Task Force of State Governments.

Ed Bridges embodies the very best qualities of a true scholar, one who knows that knowledge means nothing without the will to pass it on to others and to future generations. Dr. Bridges has done this and more though his outstanding career.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend my personal appreciation to Dr. Bridges for his service to Alabama's past, present, and future through his stewardship and tremendous leadership of the Alabama Department of Archives and History. I would like to wish him, his wife Martha and their family the very best in their future endeavors.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN QUAYLE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House voted on H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that was introduced by my colleague from Arizona, Representative TRENT FRANKS. This bill would generally prohibit abortions, except in cases where the mother is at risk, 20 weeks after fertilization, the point at which studies have shown an unborn child has the capacity to feel pain.

I strongly believe that we have a moral obligation to protect life and defend those who cannot defend themselves. Recognizing the gruesome nature of late stage abortions, nine states, including my home State of Arizona, have enacted laws to restrict this procedure.

While I'm disappointed that we failed to secure the two-thirds vote necessary to pass H.R. 3803 this week, I was heartened that a majority of my colleagues in the House stood to protect the unborn. This week's vote has only strengthened my resolve to continue to advocate for pro-life policies to hasten the day when all life is valued and treated as a gift.

HONORING JACQUES ALEXANDER
MARQUIS MATTHEWS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable 22-year-old young man from Shaw, Mississippi. Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews has answered the call of duty to his country and is currently serving as an active soldier in the Mississippi National Guard stationed in Afghanistan.

Specialist Matthews comes from a lineage filled with military servicemen and women. His paternal grandfather, Mr. William Carter, is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United States Air Force; his maternal uncle, Mr. James Attaway, served in the United States Marines; and his mother, Ramona Matthews, had just enlisted in the United States Army when she learned she was pregnant with her first child, Jacques.

Specialist Matthews was raised in a single parent home by his mother, Ramona, along with his two younger brothers, Chauncey and Malik. Specialist Matthews understood the pain of his mother as she struggled to provide for them and the reproach of his grandparents, William and Alicestean Carter and Susie Matthews. As his mother's oldest child, much was expected of him and he wanted to fulfill those expectations. But like many other young men, what appears to be quick and easy was tempting. And sometimes he was prey to those temptations. In fact he said and I quote, "my mother was more determined than me—for me to succeed. So, she snatched me from that wrong path and told me my life had three paths it could take and I had to choose one right then, college, military, or she was going to commit a homicide and that's all I needed to know. Needless to say, I chose the military."

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Matthews has a litany of highlights during his military career including:

2008 Year. Specialist Matthews enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard.

August 2008–October 2008. Specialist Matthews did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

October 2008. Specialist Matthews completed his basic training. He was recognized during graduation for having scored a perfect 300 on the physical fitness portion of the training.

July 10, 2010–July 31, 2010. Specialist Matthews was a member of the 2089th Vertical Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion. He received the Army Achievement Medal for his Superior and Unflagging Support of his unit.

November 6, 2010. Specialist Matthews was honored with the Commanders Award for scoring 297 on the Annual Army Physical Fitness Test while he was a member of the 223rd Engineer Battalion.

November 7, 2010. Specialist Matthews while in the 168th Engineer Brigade received the Silver Castle Challenge Certificate of Achievement for having completed the Army Physical Fitness test with a score of 297. He was recognized for distinguishing himself by his excellent conditioning. He is truly to be commended for the accomplishment and de-

serving of the recognition for his sacrifice and self-discipline.

May 2011. Specialist Matthews was in the 2089th Vertical Construction Company when he was honored with the Army Meritorious Achievement Medal for his selfless service, loyalty and honor, dedication and integrity as an example for all to follow for his significant contribution to the success of his unit and the Mississippi Army National Guard.

October 2011–November 2011. Specialist Matthews received the Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his superior physical ability during the annual training while assigned to Detachment 1 of the 2089th Vertical Construction Company.

May 7, 2012. Specialist Matthews' unit, the 289th Vertical Construction Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion was activated to Afghanistan.

I want Specialist Matthews' story to serve as a one of encouragement to those who think there is no hope for change and to those who prejudice someone because of their circumstances. Specialist Matthews has expressed great interest in building an exciting career in the military answering the call at home and abroad whenever and wherever he is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Specialist Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, now serving as a member of the Mississippi National Guard currently stationed in Afghanistan. As he so proudly represents the United States, I too am proud to represent him as a Member of Congress. I wish him a continued rewarding military career and a safe return home to the United States.

ON INTRODUCING THE PCIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2012

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the PCIP Improvement Act of 2012, a bill that will make much needed improvements to the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) program, created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As you know, the ACA prohibits insurance companies from refusing to sell coverage or renew policies because of a person's pre-existing condition. While the provision already affects children up to 19 years of age, it will only apply to adults in January 2014. In the meantime, adults with a pre-existing condition can get coverage through the PCIP program, a temporary high-risk pool which has helped over 50,000 previously uninsured individuals get coverage.

While I have always been a strong supporter of this important program, I believe that some improvements need to be made in order to make it a success. Indeed, enrollment has been significantly lower than initial projections, which varied from 200,000 to 375,000. One of the biggest obstacles for enrollment in the program is a Congressional mandate requiring that individuals applying for PCIP coverage have not had creditable insurance coverage during the 6 months prior to the date they

apply to the program. Since the program's inception in July 2010, 69 percent of applications have been denied because individuals had creditable coverage within 6 months of applying.

While well-intentioned, this wait period has shown adverse effects by incentivizing people with pre-existing conditions to go uninsured for 6 months to qualify for the program. Individuals who lost their health insurance through no fault of their own and can no longer find coverage must wait 6 months to apply, thus exposing themselves to high out-of-pocket medical costs and unnecessary health risks. Unfortunately, because they go without insurance for such an extended period of time, they enter the program with a need for immediate care and cost more to the program.

Furthermore, considering mini medical plans as creditable coverage also encourages individuals to go with absolutely no coverage for 6 months in order to apply to PCIP. Mini medical plans are basic plans that may pay for portions of a doctor's visit or prescription drug, but do not provide catastrophic coverage or enough benefits for people with pre-existing conditions. Individuals who choose to obtain such a plan within 6 months of applying for PCIP to limit their medical liabilities will no longer be eligible for the program.

Such a misfortune happened to one of my constituents who lost his health insurance when he lost his job and has been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition since then. In June 2010, he received limited coverage through a mini medical plan that did not cover his pre-existing condition. When he applied to PCIP in September 2011, his application was denied because he had such plan within 6 months of applying. The only way for him to qualify was to go completely uninsured for 6 months. I cannot, in good conscience, advise my constituents in need of immediate care to wait 6 months to seek medical coverage.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will address these serious issues by eliminating the 6-month wait period and excluding mini medical plans from creditable coverage. My bill will bring us on step closer to ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality health care for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to help make PCIP a more successful program by supporting this important legislation.

HONORING DR. ROBERT LIGHTFOOT, RECIPIENT OF THE SAMUEL BUFORD WORD AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Robert Dickson Lightfoot, for being awarded the Samuel Buford Word Award. This is the highest award given by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama in recognition of service to humanity beyond the usual scope of medical practice.

Dr. Lightfoot is a fourth-generation physician who graduated with honors from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1981 and completed a general and vascular surgery residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in 1986. He later returned to

school receiving a Bachelors of Science in Psychology in 1997.

After participating in several medical mission trips to Central and South America, Dr. Lightfoot and his wife, Tami, realized a need for affordable, quality primary adult health care in their own community. Out of this need, Dr. Lightfoot founded Victory Health Partners in Mobile, Alabama, in 2000 and began seeing patients in 2003 with incomes less than 300 percent of the federal poverty line.

What began as an act of faith by one physician and his wife has now turned into a fully functional partnership involving hundreds of volunteers, medical providers, and churches. The clinic has grown from seeing 12 patients on its first day in 2003, to serving more than 18,000 in this past year. The clinic's patients come over 20 counties in Alabama, eight in Mississippi, and four in Northwest Florida. In the past decade, Dr. Lightfoot has seen Victory Health Partners expand to offer dental and eye care, as well as wound care and diabetic classes for adults.

Dr. Lightfoot has devoted his life to medicine and providing healthcare to the needy. Through his brilliant acts of generosity, faith, and dedication to his community, Dr. Lightfoot is an accomplished physician who has earned the respect of his patients, staff and colleagues.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend a personal thank you and congratulations to Dr. Lightfoot on his monumental achievement and selfless acts of generosity for the people of South Alabama and surrounding areas. May God continue to bless him, his staff and all those they serve.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Although nine other states have passed similar abortion bans, this is the first attempt to pass a law of this kind on a federal level. However, even the nine state laws include at least a narrow exception to protect women's health. This bill unfairly singles out the District of Columbia, but more importantly it lacks any health exceptions to the ban. Pregnancy can become dangerous, sometimes even life-threatening. This bill fails to provide women with necessary health exceptions to save their lives or their ability to have children in the future.

In addition to not protecting women who are pregnant, H.R. 3803 fails to provide exceptions in instances of rape or incest, even when it involves young girls. About 25,000 women become pregnant due to rape each year and about 30 percent of rape cases involve women under 18. This bill falls short in providing the necessary protections for these women.

I would have voted against H.R. 3803. Unfortunately my plane was delayed due to

weather coming in to Washington, DC, causing me to miss the vote. I have been a strong supporter for women's health in the past and I plan to continue to do so.

COMMENDING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the first graduating class of North Hunterdon Regional High School in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The class of 1952 celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

As a graduate of North Hunterdon Regional High School and as the Representative for New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District, I have had the honor to observe the growth and expansion of the school's educational excellence. North Hunterdon continues to excel as one of our Nation's top high schools. In 2002, the Department of Education awarded North Hunterdon the Blue Ribbon of Academic Excellence Award and it was recently highly ranked by the Washington Post.

The class of 1952 began an outstanding tradition of academic achievement at North Hunterdon Regional High School that has continued for sixty years. I am proud to honor my alma mater and I thank the first graduating class for commencing these celebrations.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF EMMA SHAW

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to congratulate Emma Shaw, a beloved and respected community member of San Bernardino, who is celebrating her 100th Birthday on August 9, 2012.

Born in Tallulah, Louisiana, Emma was raised and began her education in Louisiana where she attended Madison Parish Training School. During her schooling, she met her future husband George Shaw, whom she married on February 6, 1933.

Emma and George Shaw lived in Tallulah for nine years, until moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1942 in search of a better life for their family. Two years later, in 1944, the family moved to San Bernardino, California, where the Shaw family has resided since.

In San Bernardino, George Shaw worked hard as a construction worker, and was also the only African American barber in San Bernardino for many years. Emma worked as a housekeeper to help provide for her 11 children. Although times were tough and money was tight, Emma always found extra time and resources to give back to her community and those in need.

Since moving to San Bernardino, Emma and her family have been active members at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, and later the Greater New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ. Emma is known for her kindness and generosity; all who know Emma affectionately call her "Mother Shaw". Emma