

It is a troubling thought that in 2012, the Congress has to rise up and introduce this bill to protect voting rights. Even though Reconstruction Era and the Civil Rights Movement are technically in America's past, the current threat against voting rights is just as real as in those days. We are proud to stand with the American people to protect the exercise of their voice in our democracy.

THE BERRIEN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Berrien Community Foundation's 60th anniversary of providing invaluable financial support to southwest Michigan.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Berrien Community Foundation after six decades of impeccable service to our community. Founded in 1952 by William Vawter and many conscientious business men and women, the Foundation has, been committed to finding innovative ways to invest charitable dollars to help residents of Berrien County. From grants to scholarships, the Berrien County Community Foundation has been working to educate our young people and prepare them to enter the workforce. Without that assistance, many students would not have the academic prospects they do today.

The Berrien Community Foundation represents the very best our district has to offer. Philanthropic individuals who desire to help deserving individuals reach their goals and meet their dreams are able to do so in a financially responsible way by collaborating with the Foundation. I have been very impressed by the Foundation's creative approach to making dollars go far to help individuals who just need a little help in moving forward with their aspirations. I continue to marvel at their dedication and good will and hope their work continues for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to again recognize the achievements and irreplaceable contributions the Foundation has provided to my district and look forward to their continuing efforts to make Berrien County a better place to live and work.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE COMPLETION
OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Appalachian Trail's completion.

On the 18th of August, 1937, the last mile of the original Appalachian Trail (AT) was completed at Sugarloaf Mountain in Maine's Carabassett Valley. Although the idea of a super trail on the scale of the AT had been discussed for years, it was the vision and determination of Benton Mackaye and Myron Avery who truly gave the project life. The leg-

acy of the trail was not always secure however, with severe weather, the Great Depression, and World War II threatening its continuity. Fortunately, the tremendous efforts of trail enthusiasts, lead by Mainer Stanley Murray, launched a campaign to save the AT and preserve it for future generations.

Maine's Appalachian Trail Club will be hosting a 75th anniversary celebration of the AT's completion 75 years ago. Members of the Club, Maine's Appalachian Trail Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, the High Peaks Alliance, the University of Maine, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will be present. The event will be an opportunity to reflect on the beauty of the trail and honor the countless volunteers who have helped to sustain this national treasure throughout the years.

The enormous significance of the Appalachian Trail to the state cannot be overstated. Many of our local economies benefit from the thousands of hikers that are drawn to Maine every year along its paths. I am deeply proud to share in this celebration of Maine and American history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in commemorating this momentous anniversary.

MARCH OF DIMES COMMEMORA-
TIVE COIN ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor and to work with my colleague from Illinois, Mr. DOLD, to issue a commemorative coin honoring the 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes, based in my district in White Plains. Funds from the sale of the coins would be used to support the March of Dimes' vital work to ensure healthy pregnancies.

The March of Dimes has a long and proud history. President Franklin Roosevelt took the four billion dimes sent to him by Americans in the Great Depression and created the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Later renamed the March of Dimes, the foundation was dedicated to supporting the care of thousands of Americans with polio, as well as supporting research into the prevention and treatment of the crippling disease.

The March of Dimes fulfilled President Roosevelt's dream of a polio-free nation by funding the development of polio vaccines, which led to its eradication in the United States and much of the world.

In the decades that followed, the organization helped stamp out rubella, pushed for Neonatal Intensive Care Units, promoted folic acid to prevent neural tube defects, and brought newborn screening to every American baby.

Today, the March of Dimes focuses on reducing prematurity. Every year, nearly half a million babies in the U.S. are born premature, the leading cause of newborn death. In my home state of New York, almost 600 infants are born preterm every week—representing 12.2% of all live births in the state.

The March of Dimes New York State Chapter has one goal—to help babies start life in

the healthiest way possible by helping moms-to-be learn to care for themselves before, during and after their pregnancy. The New York Chapter also partners with local medical groups and organizations to establish guidelines for how to care for pregnant women and premature infants.

Over four million babies will be born across the United States this year, and each and every one will benefit from the March of Dimes historic legacy of scientific breakthroughs—from the polio vaccine to newborn screening. The March of Dimes Commemorative Coin will help us reach the day when we celebrate a new scientific breakthrough: preventing premature birth.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Illinois, and I urge your support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF GORE VIDAL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight and remember the life of Gore Vidal, a celebrated American literary and cultural icon, who passed away this week at the age of 86. A writer famed for his acerbic wit, elegant style, tough-minded radical views, and versatile talent, Vidal's incredibly varied career boasted over 20 novels, in addition to memoirs, essays, plays, television dramas, and screenplays.

Vidal was impressively characterized by the inimitable and revered Christopher Hitchens as being a 20th century answer to Oscar Wilde, a tribute to Vidal's cleverness and eloquence. As British author Martin Amis said in praising Vidal, "he is learned, funny and exceptionally clear-sighted. Even his blind spots are illuminating."

In 2009, Vidal won the annual Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters from the National Book Foundation. Unlike many of his intellectual contemporaries, however, he saw his role as a public intellectual not as a sidelined observer, but rather as an active participant in democracy and public affairs, contributing frequently and prolifically to the American political debate.

This weekend, I will travel to New York to see a revival of his play "The Best Man," starring my fellow Memphian, Cybill Shephard. I ask everyone to join me honoring Gore Vidal for his many contributions. His was a life well lived.

INVEST IN A CLEAN ENERGY
FUTURE!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act. (H.R. 6275) The purpose of this legislation is to invest in a clean energy future.

This legislation will allow all Americans to invest in new clean energy technologies that will create over 1.7 million competitive American

jobs, increase energy security, and secure our nation's competitiveness in the rapidly growing field of clean energy technologies.

With Clean Energy Victory Bonds, today's Americans can invest in our nation's future, and ensure that the American economy remains competitive for generations to come. Funds raised from Clean Energy Victory Bonds would:

Create billions of dollars in incentives to accelerate the development of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies;

Create over 1.7 million new American jobs;

Ensure that the U.S. is a world leader in this increasingly crucial and competitive sector;

Reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources of energy;

Allow Americans a safe opportunity to invest in the future of their country.

The Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act draws on the powerful history of Americans investing together to ensure our nation's victories. During World War II, millions of Americans purchased Victory Bonds, raising over \$185 billion for the war effort, the equivalent of over \$2 trillion in today's dollars.

HONORING PRIESTS FOR LIFE

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring and celebrating the more than 20 years of service and work of the Priests for Life ministry. Under the leadership of Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life has grown from a no-staff operation to one of more than 60 people. They have proclaimed the pro-life message at more than 12,000 events across the country, and have worked inter-demoninationally and ecumenically to advance the pro-life cause. Religious and secular leaders alike praise the efforts of Priests for Life. They are second-to-none in their advocacy and their support for the pro-life mission.

But, in his humility, Father Frank would not want us spending this hour talking about him. He would want us talking about why his organization preaches the gospel of love and of life.

Abortion, plain and simple, is the taking of an innocent human life. It may be deemed a 'right' by judges, but a wrong it still is. What does it say about our society that for some people, it is a child at 20 weeks; for others it is property, subject to mutilation at the hands of a so-called medical professional. If it is a child to some, it should be a child to all. There is no gray area, no two ways about it. The scientific fact is without question—life begins at conception.

What does it say about our society that our Commander-in-Chief views an unplanned pregnancy as a "punishment"? President Obama said that if one his daughters became unexpectedly pregnant, he would not want them to be punished with his unborn grandchild.

Priests for Life is known internationally for its work. In fact, Mother Teresa of Calcutta encouraged all priests and deacons to join the organization. And, she invited Fr. Frank to travel to India to preach the pro-life message.

We know that message is needed there now more than ever. As reported by The Economist and ABC News, gendercide is alive and well. 50,000 unborn girls are aborted every single month in India simply because they are girls, not boys.

While Priests for Life is preaching abroad the right to life for all—boys and girls alike—they are preaching here at home the right to life for all—boys and girls of all races and ethnicities. Close to home for me is their ministry to the African-American community, led by Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. You see, my wife and I are the proud parents of four adopted children. And, two of our children came to us through crisis pregnancy ministry—the exact type of ministry Priests for Life promotes.

We pray and wait for the day that a ministry like Priests for Life will not be necessary—a day when no woman is encouraged to end the life of her unborn child. While those of us vested with the responsibility have the ability to pass laws that promote a culture of life, our work is incomplete without the efforts of groups like Priests for Life that provide the support women and families need in order to live the culture of life.

THE BREATH OF FRESH AIR ACT

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing the Breath of Fresh Air Act. This legislation would establish a grant program to make funds available to elementary and secondary schools to purchase nebulizers. I am proud to be joined by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as an original co-sponsor, and I urge my colleagues to join me as a co-sponsor.

A nebulizer is an extremely effective and easy-to-use medical device used to treat asthma attacks. It delivers the medicine in the form of a mist directly to the person's lungs and is the best remedy for young children who may not cooperate in their time of distress. This bill authorizes funding to purchase nebulizers as well as to provide training to school personnel who administer the nebulizers.

Mr. Speaker, across the United States, nearly 25 million people have been diagnosed with asthma, including almost 7 million children. That means on average one out of every 10 school-age children suffers from the shortness of breath, chest pain, and airway restrictions that are common symptoms of asthma. This serious disease impacts every district in every state, and its effects are far-reaching.

Low-income and minority communities are disproportionately affected by this chronic respiratory disease, and their health outcomes are likely to be worse. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that black children are twice as likely to be hospitalized and four times as likely to die from asthma as white children. Low-income and minority communities also disproportionately live in areas afflicted with high levels of air pollution, allergens, and other environmental factors that trigger asthma attacks. They may also have limited resources to put towards asthma man-

agement or to deal with the financial challenges of medical bills and missed days at school and work.

I have been particularly concerned with this issue, as it affects my home district in California. The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles operate within and near the 37th Congressional District, and if left unregulated, the California Air Resources Board estimates that the ports will be the largest source of pollution in the state by 2020—greater than the impact of every car on the road in California. The neighborhoods of Los Angeles and Long Beach also rank as one of the U.S. cities most polluted by Particle Pollution. Exposure to air pollution such as this can be dangerous for children whose lungs are still developing, and it increases the risk of emergency room visits for asthma attacks.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide schools with the equipment to treat asthma attacks as soon as symptoms present themselves, and without contributing to the nearly 2 million asthma-related emergency room visits each year. School personnel, particularly school nurses, play an invaluable role in detecting early symptoms and administering a quick medical response in emergency situations. This grant program would be a way to support their efforts even as schools face budget cuts. It will ensure that they have access to all possible resources and can properly assist the students and families with the full range of asthma management decisions.

I also want to acknowledge the indispensable work of my able staff members, Anna Bartels and Gregory Berry, in developing this important legislation.

I would also like to submit into the RECORD a letter of support from the Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, and I thank them for their hard work to ease suffering from asthma, allergies, and other related conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Breath of Fresh Air Act. Let us work together to make schools a healthy and safe place for children.

ALLERGY AND ASTHMA NETWORK,

MOTHERS OF ASTHMATICS,

McLean, VA, August 2, 2012.

Hon. LAURA RICHARDSON,

1330 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: Founded in 1985 by families for families, Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) is the leading national nonprofit family organization dedicated to eliminating death and suffering due to asthma, allergies and related conditions.

AANMA supports the "Breath of Fresh Air Act" which would provide student access to nebulizers at school for use with their prescribed medications.

Working together with 28 organizations, AANMA led the nationwide effort to ensure students have the right to carry and self-administer their lifesaving inhalers and auto-injectable epinephrine during the school day. Today 50 states protect that right for students with asthma and 49 states protect students' rights to carry their auto-injectable epinephrine.

While students can carry and self-administer their inhalers, in some cases students may best be served by inhaling these medications via the nebulizer.

We support the "Breath of Fresh Air Act" and look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

NANCY SANDER,
President and Founder.