

access to the resources needed in order to prevent this disease from progressing. Prevention is crucial.

For those who do have kidney diseases that progress, dialysis and transplant become the only options. The world's first outpatient dialysis facility opened 50 years ago in my district in Seattle, and although technologies continue to improve, the basic idea remains the same: Patients with end-stage renal disease are dependent on access to dialysis centers to survive. We must continue to fully fund the Medicare ESRD program, as well as advance kidney disease research at the NIDDK (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases).

Today, I join other members from both sides of the aisle to attend Kidney Action Day events on Capitol Hill. I encourage my fellow members to join me in helping to spread awareness about a cause that affects us all. I hope we will all stand together to fight Kidney Disease and support those living with the disease every day, as well as their families.

HONORING KYLE EWING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Ewing. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 38 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Kyle has served in many leadership roles within his unit, most notably as Senior Patrol Leader. Kyle has also contributed to his community by rehabilitating the parking lot and painting the community room of Dearborn Retirement Community in Dearborn, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Ewing for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, I was absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 80.

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR ITS PERSECUTION OF YUCEF NADARKHANI

SPEECH OF

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, Youcef Nadarkhani is a Christian pastor in Iran who at this very moment is under sentence of death for refusing to convert to Islam. As a matter of conscience, Pastor Youcef's story must be boldly told in this chamber and in every place where human rights are valued. His story reminds us of the blessings of liberty which we enjoy and sometimes take for granted. It reminds us that millions of people around the world live under brutal regimes that deny those same basic freedoms to their own people.

In 2009, Pastor Youcef protested a law that would forcibly impose Islam on his children. In September 2010 an Iranian court accused Pastor Youcef of the "crime" of abandoning the Islamic faith and condemned him to death by hanging unless he converts to Islam.

Mr. Speaker, this case represents just one in a long line of abuses the government of Iran has perpetrated against religious minorities. The intolerant, indeed barbaric, actions of the Iranian regime trample on the most basic of human rights—the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. I condemn it in the strongest possible terms.

Iranian leaders must understand that if Iran is to be a legitimate member of the community of nations, if it seeks trade, if it seeks the benefit of economic engagement with the free world, if it wants to provide a firm and secure future for its citizens, it must protect and defend the rights of religious minorities. It must respect the religious liberties which its own constitution guarantees, and which it is obligated to respect as a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

So I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 556 condemning the government of Iran for its continued persecution, imprisonment, and sentencing of Pastor Youcef on the charge of apostasy. I am a cosponsor of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING THE CARROLLTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Carrollton Area Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1912, the Chamber has been an effective advocate for Carrollton and Carroll County. Now numbering 160 members, the Chamber remains committed to leading the way for economic development and promoting small businesses throughout the Carrollton region.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Carrollton Area Chamber of

Commerce for their accomplishments over the past 100 years and in looking forward to the years to come.

HONORING THE ARLINGTON CHAPTER OF THE LINKS INCORPORATED

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, for 45 years the Arlington Chapter of the Links Incorporated has been serving women, children and youth in the Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia communities.

Collectively, the chapter has been able to:

Award over \$100,000 in scholarships to high school and college students;

Reach hundreds of students and parents at multi-cultural events to honor/celebrate their rich heritage;

Support student-run TV broadcasting and offer mentoring and character building workshops;

Support educational, health and sustainable food sources to international developing countries; and

Conduct awareness training to hundreds of community residents on obesity, diabetes, and the number one killer of women . . . heart disease.

I would like to commend the Arlington Links for providing resources to deliver sustainable and impactful programs, and for promoting civic, educational and cultural activities that instill excellence and improve the quality of life to thousands in the Northern Virginia community.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF SKILLED HOME HEALTH IN MEDICARE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, as we search for solutions to ensure that the Medicare system remains solvent for seniors and future beneficiaries, I believe it is vitally important to support cost-effective benefits that allow seniors to remain healthy and independent. Many of the treatments that were once offered exclusively in a hospital or physician setting can now be safely, effectively, affordably and efficiently provided in patients' homes by skilled clinicians. Home health care offers an intermediate level of care for patients who have difficulty accessing outpatient care or who need intensive assistance with an acute or chronic health problem.

Home health services are cost effective because they prevent costly hospitalizations, and serve as an alternative to expensive skilled nursing facilities. According to an October 2010 report in the Des Moines Register, seniors utilizing skilled home care cost taxpayers an average of \$607 per month, compared to an average of \$3,687 for seniors in nursing homes. Not only is home care less expensive, but studies also show that the vast majority of seniors prefer to live independently and remain in their home if possible.

A case study through the Veterans' Administration (VA) highlights the benefits of home healthcare. The VA has provided comprehensive primary care services to veterans in their homes since 1972 in an effort to keep patients in their homes and reduce inpatient hospital days. The program was specifically designed to target patients with complex chronic diseases through an interdisciplinary team of health professionals. This program showed a reduction in inpatient hospital days by 62 percent, and a reduction in nursing home bed days by 88 percent. This translated into a reduction in the cost of care from \$38,000 to \$29,000 per patient per year for patients enrolled in the program (a 24 percent reduction).

The Medicare program continues to increase in importance in my home state of Iowa, where our senior population is increasing dramatically. The percentage of Iowans age 65 and older is expected to grow from 14.8 percent in 2009 to 22.4 percent by 2030, according to the Iowa Department on Aging. I am committed to preserving benefits for current recipients and those nearing retirement, while guaranteeing the program's solvency for future generations of Americans.

Seniors throughout Iowa depend on Medicare for their health coverage, and we have to do everything we can to safeguard those benefits. As we examine solutions to address Medicare's solvency, there is strong evidence that home care is a cost-effective benefit that should remain accessible to seniors.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM F. SCHENCK FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSION

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to recognize William F. Schenck for his outstanding career as a prosecuting attorney and his efforts of upholding justice in the Greene County Community and the nation.

Bill earned his Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University and shortly after began his career in the Greene County prosecutor's office. Elected to the position of Prosecuting Attorney seven times, Bill honorably served the citizens of Greene County for over 25 years. During his time as the county's prosecuting attorney, Bill prosecuted over 50,000 felonies and brought justice to numerous victims.

After his time in the Greene County prosecutor's office, Bill served as the Assistant United States Attorney at Department of Justice in the U.S. Attorney's Office for over five years. During this time, Bill prosecuted felons involved in organized crime.

Bill has shown himself to be a dedicated and hardworking member of the Greene County community and the state of Ohio. Throughout his service, he has been an advocate for victims' rights and has worked tirelessly for justice.

Thus, it is with great pride, I congratulate William F. Schenck for his commendable service in protecting the Miami Valley, the state of Ohio, and the United States. I join the people

of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending best wishes upon his retirement from the U.S. Attorney's Office and success in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America.

On March 12, 1912, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low brought together 18 girls for the first ever Girl Scout meeting. One hundred years later Girl Scouts of America has 112 councils and more than 3.2 million members.

Since being founded, the Girl Scouts has been devoted to providing opportunities for all girls to develop and grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. Through the work of dedicated volunteers, young women are given a firm foundation to build upon their strengths and learn other valuable life skills.

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways is the branch of the Girl Scouts of America that covers my district. It serves nearly 19,000 girls and over 7,000 adults in 24 counties in New York and two counties in Pennsylvania. Through activities that help girls discover their values and skills, Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways gives girls courage, confidence, and character; attributes that will serve them well in their future.

I congratulate Girl Scouts of America on their 100th anniversary and offer my sincerest thanks to all of the Girl Scouts of America's volunteers, especially those from NYPENN Pathways, for their dedication and leadership to the next generation of young women.

A TRIBUTE TO MELISSA HEER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Melissa Heer of Ames for receiving a coveted Fulbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fulbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Melissa's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is India.

To receive a Fulbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their

chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Melissa from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious award. I wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career.

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for their commitment to education and to honor the volunteers that make it possible.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been known as the largest rodeo in the world. It attracts the best of the best in the rodeo and livestock industries but it also raises millions of dollars for Houston area children to go to college.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will award more 600 scholarships totaling over \$9.53 million in 2012. Every year, the rodeo increases the number of awards given to local students.

Since its beginning in 1932, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has committed more than \$283 million to scholarships, research, endowments, and other educational youth programs. Students have received more than \$165 million in direct support, since the first scholarship was awarded in 1957.

Currently, more than 2,000 students are on Show scholarships, attending more than 100 different Texas colleges and universities. The value of these scholarships is approximately \$30 million.

I'm sure many students from the 29th District, and from all over the Houston area, will enjoy benefiting from this great program as it continues to grow in the future.

I am proud to be a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and thank the thousands of volunteers that dedicate well over a million hours of service each year to make the rodeo and its scholarship program operate as smoothly as they do.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo would not be the success that it is today without the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. The current 26,000+ volunteers serve on more than 100 different Rodeo committees.

Their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for their success and dedication to education and to the Volunteers that make the show possible.