

In doing so, they do not demonstrate genuine interest in legislating on behalf of the American people. The Republicans know the Senate will not vote for such a bill. Nor will I. I will not approve a bill that caps non-economic medical malpractice damages at \$250,000. Apparently, this is the price the Republicans put on a lifetime of physical impairment, pain, suffering and even wrongful death.

I know our medical malpractice system needs improvement. If only my Republican friends would come to me with a third way, a new fair and workable way, to approach this problem. I would be more than happy to work with them on a bipartisan basis, which this Congress so desperately needs right now.

But, until that time, I am forced to vote against this piece of legislation. I will not approve of a bill that reshapes the same old medical malpractice language. I will not vote for a bill that attempts to wear down bits of the Affordable Care Act. If they had their way, the Republicans would repeal the entire ACA, and take away insurance from over 30 million Americans. Instead, we are busy granting insurance coverage to 17 million children with pre-existing conditions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, due to the sudden passing away of my father, I was unable to participate in House floor votes on March 22, 2012.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, tragic events in the last few weeks in Afghanistan have underscored the messages I have continuously emphasized in Congress in the past. As long as we pursue military solutions to the unrest in Afghanistan while foregoing attention to economic, political and social solutions, security will remain elusive. Our military service officers are heroes, but we are failing them as we continue to pursue a strategy that lacks proper understanding of both the social constructs of the Afghan people and the meaning of peace.

It is our duty as Americans to give the people of Afghanistan what they want, not what we want to give them. Afghan citizens want peace, they want security and they want the right to self-determination based on their own social, cultural, and religious values. Afghans do not want to be at the constant risk of night raids and air strikes that could kill their friends and neighbors, checkpoints and security barriers that keep their families apart, or incidences of violence which sometimes involve International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops and contract security forces. And they certainly do not want foreigners burning the Holy Quran, which all Muslims hold as dear as life, or have their very own

safety compromised by foreign forces who should be there to protect them.

As members of the United States government, we also owe the American people what they want, and not what we want to give them. In this regard, we are failing our own people as they face the difficulties brought on by the global economic crisis while lives, money and resources are being wasted abroad in an effort which has, sadly, led to resentment and the incitement of hatred against America.

Last week, the Department of Defense Comptroller confirmed one of our worst kept secrets—that the deployment of one soldier to Afghanistan for one year costs \$850,000. We currently have 90,000 soldiers deployed in Afghanistan. Additionally, we have 1,142 U.S. civilians from the State Department and other non-defense agencies currently in Afghanistan, and each civilian costs taxpayers \$570,000 per year, according to the most recent estimate from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Furthermore, in 2011, our taxpayers spent \$11.2 billion to pay, train and equip Afghanistan's security force. Over the past ten years the U.S. has spent more than \$550 billion in Afghanistan alone, or about \$1 billion per week.

A new Washington Post poll finds that sixty percent of American voters feel that the war was not worth fighting. It also finds that, for the first time, Republican voters are "evenly split" on the wisdom of continuing this war. This is what America wants, and it is our duty to respect that.

Last year, as co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus's Peace and Security Taskforce, I urged President Obama to bring about the swift, safe and responsible withdrawal of U.S. troops and military contractors from Afghanistan. We asked for plans for a significant drawdown, beginning no later than July of this year.

We welcome the news that Congress's calls to the White House have finally been heard. On February 1, 2012, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said that while American troops will still leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014, plans were laid out so that by late next year, U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan will switch from a combat role to a training mission. The Administration may further want to take heed of the same Washington Post poll which revealed that fifty-four percent of all voters want the U.S. to withdraw troops even faster than the President's 2014 timetable.

As we look forward to our future role as global leaders of peace and security, we must not forget our past and present mistakes. Our international affairs priorities must be anchored in the recognition that our national security is inextricably linked to our economic vitality. We cannot fight for global security but ignore the economic security of the people of America. We need a budget that reflects the fact that diplomacy and development prevents wars, because smart security can lead to global stability at a fraction of the cost, freeing up funds to engage in nation building here at home. As we look forward to the question of how to handle future matters in the Middle East, these are the priorities that we simply cannot afford to forget.

Mr. Speaker, Peace and Security are created through a well-functioning government, a fair and prosperous economy, and a harmonious society. We have failed the Afghan people on each and every one of these fronts,

and in so doing, we, we have also failed ourselves and our constituents. As we reflect on the recent military tragedies in Afghanistan, we must ask ourselves how many more apologies we can afford to offer.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
TOWNSQUAREBUZZ FOUNDATION
AND PARTNERS: HONORING
THOSE WHO SERVE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the TownSquareBuzz Foundation and the City of McKinney, Texas, as they join forces to declare Red Shirt Fridays in McKinney.

The Foundation's "Paint McKinney Red!" campaign was launched last year to raise awareness about the unique challenges veterans face when they return from war.

To date, TownSquareBuzz has printed 500 red t-shirts that are being sold by 10 local partner businesses. The shirts remind us, "Honor Those Who Serve: Past, Present, Future," and all sale proceeds go directly to the local Community Lifeline Center in McKinney.

The Lifeline Center's great operation serves folks in need in 17 cities across Collin County. Its veterans-support initiative, funded in part by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission, helps local veterans and their families with housing, utilities, medical and dental treatment, transportation, counseling, and job training, to name a few.

Inspired by the nationwide Red Shirt Fridays project, the local efforts of TownSquareBuzz and the City of McKinney will provide direct assistance to our friends, family members, and neighbors who are the returning heroes of today's military campaigns.

These brave men and women put their lives on the line to keep America strong, proud, and free. Through partnerships like Red Shirt Fridays, the North Texas community is reminded of the privilege and duty we bear to honor, thank, and give back.

To the TownSquareBuzz Foundation, City of McKinney, Community Lifeline Center, and every individual and business helping to paint McKinney red:

Thank you for your efforts. May God continue to bless the United States of America through great folks like you. I salute you!

JACK SILLIMAN

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today in honor of U.S. Marine, Jack Silliman. Tragically, Jack was killed during the Vietnam War. In 1961, when Jack was still a boy in the 7th grade he wrote a winning speech that was presented to President John F. Kennedy.

I submit Jack's speech.

WHAT I CAN DO FOR MY COUNTRY

Madam president, honorable judges, fellow C.Y.C.L. members, parents, teachers and

friends, The subject of my speech is, "What I Can Do For My Country".

First of all I can be a good citizen. I can honor and respect the flag of the United States in which I live. I can be proud of our president and his ten cabinet members.

When I am ready to vote I should know and understand the rules of voting. I should think of the privilege I have of being able to cast a free and secret ballot.

In being a good citizen I should allow each person to speak his own opinion.

I can give help to the ill and friendless.

I must help make safety rules for my community and endeavor to carry them out.

Second, I should get the best education possible by learning the principles of my classroom.

I can learn to enjoy the company of others.

I must do my best to understand the governmental problems of my nation.

I can read and listen to the news and current events of my state and nation.

I can take an active part in political affairs and learn all I can about them.

I must learn all I can about the science and progressiveness of other nations as well as my own.

I must be able to contribute to the defense effort.

Third, I must keep myself physically fit by eating the right kinds of food, getting the right amount of sleep and correct exercise, and avoiding the use of those things harmful to me.

I must train myself so as to make a real contribution to the defense of my country in the fields of science and education.

In conclusion, I can be a good citizen, get the best education possible and keep myself physically fit.

Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT E. CASEY, JR.

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert E. Casey, Jr., the Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Dallas Field Office. Mr. Casey is retiring from the FBI on April 30, 2012.

Upon graduation from Indiana State University, Mr. Casey joined the Houston Police Department in 1981. During his tenure, he served as a patrol officer and an investigator on the organized crime squad and earned the prestigious "Police Officer of the Year" Award in 1983. In September 1986, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent in the Phoenix Field Office and began working on organized crime and drug investigations. Throughout his tenure with the FBI, Mr. Casey served in a variety of offices including Washington, D.C., Chicago, Miami, and Dallas. Due to his exemplary service, he was promoted to the ranks of Senior Executive Service and was the recipient of the prestigious 2006 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Mr. Casey. He is a principled man with a keen sense of civic duty. He has dedicated his life to public service and proven to be a great leader and a true patriot. Our Nation is a better and safer place because of individuals like him.

As he retires from the FBI, I know Mr. Casey will be delighted to spend more time

with his wife, Leslie, and their two children, Gayle and Drew, who have faithfully supported him throughout his career. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Casey on twenty-six years of dedicated service to the FBI and this great Nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. May God bless him and his family.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE CENTER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Children's Service Center, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on April 11, 2012. The Children's Service Center has been serving families of the Wyoming Valley in Northeastern Pennsylvania since it was incorporated on April 11, 1862, to create a sanctuary in order to provide shelter, food, and instruction to a number of underprivileged children in the Wyoming Valley.

The Children's Service Center was originally called The Home for Friendless Children. As its programs grew and developed, it became a nationally renowned shelter and educational center for infants and children. By 1929, the Home for Friendless Children had become the Children's Home. As time went on, it appeared the children needed more than a shelter—they needed a home. Two cottages were built, the Martha Bennet Home and the Children's Home, and they became the first two open psychiatric residential settings for children in North America. During this time, the Martha Bennet Estate and Children's Home Foundation requested that a newly formed organization called the Children's Service Center become established in order to manage the residential program. The creation of the Children's Service Center occurred in 1938.

As a mental health care system, the Children's Service Center is deeply committed to the wellness of young people in our community. Their services are designed to meet the individual needs of children, adolescents, and their families. Children's Service Center assessment, crisis, and referral services are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to help these children lead a better lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, today, Children's Service Center stands as ray of hope for young people in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania. I commend this agency for its 150 years of dedicated service to our children, to community, and to country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TAMARA C. CANSLER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tamara C. Cansler on the occasion of being honored with the Sixth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award by The Greystone Society. As an outstanding candidate for this recognition, Tamara was chosen for this honor as she has demonstrated the same love of com-

munity as the award's namesake, Rebecca Lukens.

Tammy began her career as a high school and elementary school teacher in South Carolina, but moved with husband, Dale, to Pennsylvania where she took positions with Lukens Steel and Merck Pharmaceuticals. Employed by Merck from the mid 1970s to 1985, Tammy served as the first female production supervisor in the company's history. She then started her own development company, Cansler Investment Group, and focused on creating clean and safe living environments for underprivileged adults in the City of Coatesville.

Over the years, Tammy's efforts have resulted in the creation of successful complexes such as Coatesville's North Second Avenue Redevelopment Project, Penn's Crossing Townhomes, and the Brandywine Health Center. Such projects are examples of entire communities established for the benefit of economically-challenged adults, helping to give these folks more secure, more attractive places to live. Philabundance and others donate food to these complexes, and quality used clothing from Freedom Village Senior Living Community is sold to the residents for a very nominal fee.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of contributions to the community and litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Tamara C. Cansler on the occasion of her being honored with The Greystone Society's Rebecca Lukens Award.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP J. DREW SHEARD ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Pastor of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ of Detroit, for his exceptional leadership in the great State of Michigan.

A Detroit native and Wayne State University graduate, Bishop Sheard was called to the Ministry under the guidance of his father, Bishop John H. Sheard.

He has worked diligently and dutifully in several positions in the Church on both the local and national level, including serving as choir director, and chairman of local and State youth departments.

In addition to his Church Of God In Christ ministry, Bishop Sheard has served as Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of the SCLC, and a Board Member of the Michigan Anti-Apartheid Council.

He currently leads Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ, one of the largest churches in the Church of God in Christ denomination.

Exhibiting a genuine concern for our community's children and young adults, Bishop Sheard has initiated the Greater Emmanuel TV Ministry, annual Youth and Women Conferences, the Greater Emmanuel Men's Society (GEMS), as well as annual programs such as "Sanctified Men in Black" and "Holy Women in Red."