

also be afforded the fullest protection of our legal system.

I urge a no vote and I hope that the Majority comes to its sense, embraces bipartisanship, and comes back with a bill I can support.

CELEBRATING STEVE TOTH, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF TROY, MI

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Toth, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, on the occasion of his retirement, after 16 years of service.

Steve's service to the Troy community has extended well beyond the walls of the Boys and Girls Club. He has been a leader—taking action and bringing elements of Troy's diverse groups together to build a stronger, more connected community. For the last 15 years, he has been a member of the Troy Kiwanis Club and served terms as its Treasurer and President. Furthermore, he has volunteered his time mentoring youth in sports and spent the last eleven years as a soccer referee and trainer for middle school students. Steve has also been active in his church and has taken time each of the last three years to deliver food containers to seniors living in Troy.

Steve's passion and dedication for helping others have not only earned him the respect and praise of other community leaders, but a number of awards and recognitions. Among those honors is a 2004 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Keep the Dream Alive Award" from the Archdiocese of Detroit for his support of the South Oakland Shelter project and his Parish's Giving Tree Programs. Steve has also been recognized by Leadership Troy as Troy's Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2009 for his volunteer work in the community.

However, among all of his endeavors in the last 16 years, there is nowhere Steve's passion, vision and service have been more profoundly felt than at the Boys and Girls Club of Troy. When Steve arrived at the Club, he brought with him his 18 years of prior experience as an Executive Director for two of the YMCA's centers in Michigan. In 2006, after a decade of work at the Boys and Girls Club, Steve used his knowledge and experience to engage its board and the broader community in a campaign to construct a new 18,000 square foot, state-of-the-art, facility. This facility had allowed the Club to offer an innovative and comprehensive set of programs that help its 30,000 annual attendees build their leadership skills and take an active role in shaping their futures for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Steve's impact not only on the Troy community, but on the youth whose futures he has helped to build. I know he will surely be missed by all who have benefitted from his wisdom, his passion and his determination to engage our youth. I wish Steve many years of happiness in retirement, with his wife Ann and their family and I know he will continue to heed the call to serve the Troy community.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOYER LODGE NO. 1 FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION OF NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Black History Month to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Boyer Lodge No. 1 of the Free and Accepted Masons Prince Hall Affiliation of New York City. February 16, 1812, marked the birth and beginning of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the State of New York. The Charter was issued by Peter Lew, Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

History notes that Boyer Lodge No. 1 was named after Jean Pierre Boyer, a native of Saint-Domingue, who was born around February 15, 1776. He was a courageous soldier and leader of the Haitian Revolution, who served as a General under Toussaint L' Ouverture in the Haitian War of Independence against the French Government. Jean Pierre Boyer served as the fourth President of Haiti from 1818 to 1843, and managed to rule for the longest period of time of any of the revolutionary leaders of his generation. He reunited the north and south of Haiti in 1820 and also invaded and took control of Santo Domingo, which brought all of Hispaniola under one government by 1822. Under President Boyer's leadership, Haiti declared independence from France in 1825, becoming the only free Black nation, then in existence.

As stated by Worshipful Master Carlo Smith-Ramsay, "The daring price that our ancestors paid to boldly and audaciously decide to become Freemasons at a time in history when men of color were not entirely free men and the laws of the land provided them very little protection is the reason why we should humbly and reverently celebrate our Bi-centennial Anniversary of Boyer Lodge No. 1."

President Jean Pierre Boyer recruited freed American blacks to immigrate to the Republic of Haiti, using advertisement opportunities in newspapers, promising free land and political opportunity to black settlers. He sent agents to black communities in the United States to convince them that Haiti was a sovereign state and open to immigration only for blacks. In September of 1824, nearly 6,000 Americans, mostly free people of color, migrated to Haiti within a year, with ships departing from New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Unfortunately, due to the poverty of the island and the inability of President Boyer's administration to help support the new immigrants in the transition most returned to the United States. Boyer ruled the island of Hispaniola until 1843, when he lost the support of the ruling elite and was ousted. He was later exiled to France where he died in 1850.

Since its founding, Boyer Lodge #1 has met continuously for One Hundred and Ninety Four years. In 1826, The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts helped further expand Black Freemasonry in New York State by the Chartering of Celestial Lodge, Rising Sun Lodge and Hiram Lodge. On March 14, 1845, further progress was achieved when Boyer Lodge #1, Celestial Lodge #2, Rising Sun Lodge #3 and

Hiram Lodge #4 convened and erected Boyer Grand Lodge of New York. Thus becoming, "The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York."

Prince Hall Freemasonry derives from historical events which led to a tradition of separate predominantly African-American Freemasonry in North America. It consists of independent Grand Lodges, which are considered regular by the United Grand Lodge of England. Prince Hall was born in 1735 and was a tireless abolitionist and a leader of the free black community in Boston. Hall tried to gain New England's enslaved and free blacks a place in some of the most crucial spheres of society, Freemasonry, education and the military. He is considered the founder of "Black Freemasonry" in the United States, known today as Prince Hall Freemasonry. Prince Hall formed the African Grand Lodge of North America.

On March 6, 1775, Prince Hall was made a Master Mason in Irish Constitution Military Lodge No. 441, along with fourteen other African Americans: Cyrus Johnston, Bueston Slinger, Prince Rees, John Canton, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiler, Duff Ruform, Thomas Santerson, Prince Rayden, Cato Speain, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Forten Howard, and Richard Titley, all of whom apparently were free by birth. Prince Hall was unanimously elected its Grand Master and served until his death in 1807. Most Worshipful Grand Master Prince Hall is considered the first black community activist of his time, who made many appearances before the Boston City Council and Massachusetts Colony Legislature. Prince Hall had a passion for learning and education and operated a school in the basement of his home. He also lobbied tirelessly for education rights for black children and a back-to-Africa movement. Many historians regard Prince Hall as one of the more prominent African American leaders throughout the early national-period of the United States.

The Prince Hall Lodge, formerly known as the African Lodge is the oldest fraternal organization in the country and has been a leading influence in the lives of black men in America. During the abolitionist movement, African American churches and the Prince Hall Lodges emerged at the forefront of the struggle. As stated by Most Worshipful Grand Master Reverend Dr. Gregory R. Smith, "In essence, and more often than not, members and church members were one and the same. This was the case with both Lattion, who was the First Worshipful Master of Boyer Lodge and a member of Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and James Varrick, the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and charter member of the Boyer Lodge."

Both the church, particularly the Mother AME Zion Church, formerly known as the "Freedom Church" and the Masons played prominent roles in the Underground Railroad. Many Masons were captains and conductors on the Railroad and Mother Zion earned its "Freedom Church" name by being one of the major stops on this complex network, which contributed to the freedom of more than 100,000 slaves. Today, the Mother AME Zion Church is the oldest existing African American institution in New York—and Boyer Lodge is the oldest lodge in the Prince Hall fraternity and the third oldest African American institution in New York State.

Mr. Speaker, let me join my fellow brethren and a very grateful nation as we celebrate during National Black History Month, the 200th Anniversary of Boyer Lodge No. 1, the first established Lodge of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Let me congratulate and recognize Worshipful Master Carlo Smith-Ramsay, leader of Boyer Lodge No. 1 and our 55th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, Most Worshipful Reverend Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, 33°, EdD, DMin, MBA, MDiv.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS' FARMERS BRANCH CAMPUS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the grand opening of Maxim Integrated Products Inc.'s new campus in Farmers Branch, Texas on March 23, 2012.

As a semiconductor company headquartered in Silicon Valley, California, Maxim's presence in North Texas began in 2001 when it acquired Dallas Semiconductor. Maxim is an impressive Fortune 1000 business with annual revenues of \$2.5 billion and approximately 9,300 employees worldwide, of which nearly 1,400 operate in Texas. The Farmers Branch campus will employ 800 people and is Maxim's second-largest site in the United States. It is the centerpiece for the design of integrated circuits and engineering as well as business management functions such as finance, marketing and customer service.

The 18.5-acre campus will be home to the 138,000 square-foot, employee-named Lone Star Building. The Lone Star Building will house 528 employees with the potential to accommodate a total of 650 people. The building is unique and features state-of-the-art, energy-efficient technology that includes automated lighting and control systems to reduce energy consumption by 37 percent. It also enjoys double-paned insulated windows with low e-coating, a chilled water air conditioning system and a roof that reflects heat.

Maxim has been active in the community by sponsoring the October 2011 Dallas Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure," with 80 employees participating. Through proactive environmental efforts, the site also recycled more than 90 tons of materials in 2010, including glass, cardboard, paper, metal, plastic and batteries.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Maxim Integrated Products on the grand opening of its Farmers Branch campus. I am proud to represent Farmers Branch, and I am grateful for the hundreds of jobs the company provides to the North Texas community.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, ObamaCare is unconstitutional and must be repealed in its entirety. That is why I voted for the full repeal of the President's nationalized healthcare bill, including the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). I have also introduced legislation to defund the individual mandate provision of ObamaCare. Although I fully support the repeal of IPAB and have cosponsored legislation to repeal it (H.R. 452), I cannot support final passage of H.R. 5 because the bill includes provisions that I believe violate States' rights and the 10th Amendment. As a strict constitutionalist and a fierce defender of States' rights, I cannot accept replacing one unconstitutional law with another.

H.R. 5 imposes a Federal medical liability cap on the States. In effect, this allows the Federal Government to overrule the State governments that have decided to prohibit liability caps. Five States already have constitutional prohibitions on liability caps. I believe that H.R. 5 will supersede these State constitutions and override the will of those legislatures. I myself believe in medical liability caps, like we have in Texas; however, if another State's voters do not want such reform, that is their decision to make. And, their doctors are welcome to keep coming to Texas.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SERGEANT TOM BERGREN OF THE SAINT PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Tom Bergren of the Saint Paul Police Department, and his retirement after 32 dedicated years of service.

Sergeant Bergren represents the finest example of a dedicated community law enforcement professional. His interest in public safety began early. As a child, he would visit his grandparents' home in Saint Paul to pick up local calls on the police scanners, longing to be the responder on the other end. His career formally began in Circle Pines, Minnesota, when in 1976 at 19 years old, he became a reserve officer. After 3 years of service to the residents of Circle Pines as a reserve officer, and later as a full time community-service officer, he entered the Saint Paul Police Academy.

After graduation, Sergeant Bergren served a number of different roles in the Saint Paul Police Department, including time as an officer in

the K-9 unit and as an investigator in auto theft. Bergie, as he became known by those close to him, became a homicide investigator in 2004, ultimately this would be the role that would shape his career. This job demands the utmost dedication, and he not only exceeded these expectations, but inspired those he worked with to do so as well. It was this unrelenting dedication that would help him solve the biggest case of his career.

In 2007, a triple homicide took place in the North End Neighborhood of Saint Paul. Over 4 long years and hundreds of interviews, Sergeant Bergren tirelessly sought to bring closure to the families and bring the assailants to justice. It was this dedication that not only saw the conviction of the two perpetrators, but created a bond between Bergren and families of the victims.

Sergeant Tom Bergren's unparalleled commitment to serving the public has earned him many awards through the years. In 2007, he earned the Detective of the Year award from the Saint Paul Police Department, and just recently, he received a fourth Medal of Commendation from the city.

On his desk sits a sign from the mother of one of the victims of the 2007 homicide, which states "never, never, never give up." On behalf of myself and all of the residents of Saint Paul, I want to thank Sergeant Tom Bergren for never giving up in his efforts to protect and serve the public.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Sergeant Tom Bergren's 32 years of valiant and dedicated service, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H.R. 5 PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice the concerns raised by my constituents regarding the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

Though I voted against H.R. 5, the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act, I, too, have concerns about an unelected, unaccountable board tasked with creating cost-cutting plans if Medicare spending exceeds certain levels. Though the Board is prohibited by law from cutting beneficiary policies, and the Congressional Budget Office predicts that a cost-cutting plan will not be triggered during this budget cycle, I urge my House colleagues to revisit this issue. We, as elected representatives of the people, have a Constitutional responsibility to ensure the voices of our constituencies are heard when it comes to the future of Medicare. Walling off those decisions, in order to expedite cost cutting efforts that lack sufficient popular support, is the surest way to a budgetary debacle.

We must preserve access to quality care, while containing costs, but we also must ensure an opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard and their needs to be taken into consideration.