

woman member of an influential organization was given to her once more, as she was appointed to the University of North Florida board of trustees.

But Annette's service to her community transcends far beyond the realm of creating an environment where business can flourish. She is committed to improving education for people in Florida, and has organized fundraisers with her Synagogue, B'nai Torah, to assist students in need at FAU. Furthermore, in Miami she was instrumental in the creation of Israel Tennis Centers, a Jewish organization that fosters cultural exchange by connecting athletes who are part of the global Jewish community.

Today, women make up half of our workforce here in the United States. And although we have made great strides since the 1960's when Annette first began her career, we are often reminded that there is still room for progress. Business owners like Annette who took on careers previously reserved for men are an inspiration to us all. She reminds us that with tenacity and courage it is possible to break barriers and give women a seat at the table.

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HONORING LIEUTENANT KEITH  
WHEELER

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**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Keith Wheeler for his tremendous service to the people of Aroostook County.

On May 6, 2012, Lieutenant Wheeler will have completed his 40th year of exemplary service in the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office. Keith began his career in law enforcement as a jail guard at the age of 24. As a Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant and a Lieutenant, he has never wavered from his dedication to the community or his desire to help people. These values have made Lieutenant Wheeler a fixture in the Country and a highly effective Commander of the Sheriff Office's Law Enforcement Division.

Lieutenant Wheeler is also known for his ability to form close relationships and inspire confidence amongst his colleagues. Retired Chief Deputy Shirley Cleary has been a career long role model and friend to Keith, always stressing the importance of treating people the way you would want to be treated. Lieutenant Wheeler was also entrusted to coordinate the state's Marijuana Eradication Program. In 2008, he was named the Deputy Sheriff of the year by the Maine Sheriff's Association.

I am pleased to join the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, and the people of Maine, in celebrating Lieutenant Wheeler's 40 years of commendable service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lieutenant Wheeler on achieving this milestone, and thanking him for all that he does to keep Maine families safe.

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, imagine one million pounds, 500 tons of prescription pills piled high on the National Mall. Those numbers and that image boggle the mind. And yet, in thirteen short months, that's just about the amount of leftover or expired drugs legions of concerned and compassionate Americans have turned in during the last three National Drug Take Back Days sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

That total may well be only the tip of the iceberg threatening our National ship of state. On this Saturday, April 28, 2012, the American people and every Member of Congress have the opportunity to strike a blow to rid our nation of the prescription drug abuse scourge that is ravaging so many of our families and communities. The DEA, along with almost 4,000 state and local law enforcement partners are, once again, sponsoring a National Drug Take Back Day.

This is a national call to action. Everyone can participate; everyone needs to participate, because one of the most insidious contributors to this growing epidemic lurks in every home bathroom.

"Ground Zero" for Drug Take Back Day is each medicine cabinet in humble homes across the country. Participation is made simple by the vast number of drop-off points made available by our law enforcement professionals—over 5,300 sites in all 50 states of our nation.

A resounding and very clear message at the nation's first National Summit on Prescription Drug Abuse was made: one of the most cost effective, long-term measures we can take to turn the tide on prescription drug abuse is prevention. That effort starts in our own cabinets and cupboards.

Once described as America's "Silent Epidemic," the abuse of prescription drugs can be openly witnessed any hour—day or night—on countless street corners across the country. Today, prescription drug abuse may be the biggest challenge of our society, and the only way its destructive trend can be reversed is if everyone—I mean, everyone—gets involved.

We are traveling a difficult and challenging path to save an entire generation. But, events and action on a national level, like Drug Take Back Day, provide simple and effective solutions in our quest to conquer the problem of prescription drug abuse.

Let us act with dispatch and compassion and with an acute understanding of the enormity of the challenge before us. Working in partnership with law enforcement, not as vigilantes or self appointed marshals Drug Take Back Day is one of the simplest, most effective, prevention measures we have on our side.

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DANIEL KOHEN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Kohen

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Daniel Kohen is a 12th grader at Pomona High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Kohen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Kohen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise today in order to recognize the sixty-fourth anniversary of Israel's independence. After 2,000 years the Jewish people regained their independence with the establishment of the State of Israel on April 26, 1948.

Israel was conceived during a dark time for the Jewish people and for the world, but because of their steadfast vision and perseverance they have become a beacon of prosperity and hope for the entire world to follow.

For sixty-four years the United States and Israel have been unwavering partners. We share an unbreakable bond based in mutual respect, shared values, and the ideal of equal opportunity for all. Our two nations have worked together side by side to promote respect for human rights and to ensure a more secure and stable world for all.

As President Obama has said, and as I have said so many times before, the security of Israel is of paramount importance, and our support for that security is unbreakable. We should take this occasion to reinforce this bond and renew our commitment into the future.

It is also fitting to take this occasion to focus on the future of a lasting peace. As I and my colleagues have repeatedly said, the only path to a lasting peace is through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians that lead to a two-state solution. We must also acknowledge that a lasting peace cannot be achieved while a contingent within the Palestinian Government does not recognize Israel's right to exist. The State of Israel has existed for sixty-four years and will continue to endure. It is time all factions within the Palestinian Government acknowledge this so that we can move forward to achieve peace for a region that so greatly desires it.

Mr. Speaker, Israel has much to be proud of today. On this day of independence, I congratulate the people of Israel for their perseverance and for the hope of a brighter future as our two nations continue down a path of prosperity and peace for years to come.

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1971, the Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act. This legislation will help level the playing field between neighborhood pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) ensuring rural communities will continue to have access to see the providers of their choosing.

The 7th Congressional District of Minnesota, which I represent, is made up of more than 31,000 square miles and many small towns and farms. Small and independent retail pharmacies serve the pharmacy needs of residents in this large rural area. Residents of my district are concerned that they are losing access to their local community pharmacist whom they trust and have built relationships with throughout the years.

These PBMs tend to encourage patients to use their own mail-order-only operations in order to receive discounted co-pays on prescription drugs. Many constituents have expressed how they want to save money but also would like to talk to the pharmacists about their drug regimens and possible drug interactions. They do not like the idea of dealing with faceless employees of a managing company and talking with someone new each time they call. Patients should not have to choose between best price and best care.

Small pharmacies play a vital role in rural communities. Not only are they an employer, but serve as a health care advisor to senior citizens and families. I have heard concerns that such market concentration, like one we will see with Express Scripts and Medco, will likely lead to higher prices for consumers and fewer choices. During this difficult economic time, we cannot afford to lose jobs and the small businesses that serve the very important health-care needs of American consumers. This is especially true in rural areas, where there are already fewer choices.

H.R. 1971, the Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act, would provide transparency into how PBMs deal with Medicare Part D plans, and would require PBMs to deal more honestly with pharmacies when contacting and conducting audits. By protecting Part D plans and beneficiaries, as well as patient access to local community pharmacies, this legislation will help ensure that rural patients will continue to have access to local pharmacies.

RECOGNIZING DIANA Z. YSRAEL  
ON RECEIVING THE 2012 GUAM  
BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Diana Z. Ysrael on being awarded the 2012 Guam Businesswoman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. Diana Ysrael is the owner of Diana's Specialty Shops, which opened in 1960, and she is an advisor for Tanota Part-

ners, a family-owned real estate business that was established in 1970.

Diana was born in Graceville, Minnesota on November 9, 1935 and attended George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Education from St. Theresa's College in Winona, Minnesota and went on to work as a registered nurse for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and the Guam Memorial Hospital. In 1960, Diana decided to start her own business and opened Diana's, Guam's first children's specialty shop. Over the years, Diana expanded her business to five locations with over 50 employees. She also provides guidance and consultative work to her family businesses, Tanota Partners and Dizzy Inc. clothing stores.

In addition to being a local entrepreneur for over 50 years, Diana is an active member of Guam's community. She has dedicated her time to volunteering for Strides for the Cure, a local non-profit organization that raises awareness of cancer and seeks to reduce cancer rates on Guam. Diana also frequently contributes to the American Red Cross and provides financial support to St. John's School athletic program and scholarship fund. Further, through Tanota Partners, Diana has helped provide funding to repair the Agana Pool.

Diana has dedicated her career to building a successful self-owned business, and she serves as a positive role model for businesswomen on Guam. I join the people of Guam in thanking her for her many contributions to our community, and I wish her continued success in the years to come.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED  
WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of United Way of Bucks County, an organization that strives to better the lives of countless people in my Congressional District.

United Way was founded shortly after World War II, just as Bucks County began to experience a rapid growth in population. Fearing this new influx of local residents would place too much of a burden on existing charitable agencies, a group of determined citizens began meeting to discuss the struggles that the new community faced. Although small at first, these meetings eventually led to the creation of United Way of Bucks County in 1952.

Over the years, United Way has worked with many different people and organizations in order to identify and resolve pressing neighborhood issues. Since 1952, United Way has worked with various schools, government agencies, businesses and neighborhood associations in an effort to foment public policy and much needed community change.

Today, the organization allocates over \$1 million to 31 different agencies that support 52 local programs in Bucks County. Undoubtedly, United Way of Bucks County has become a vital attribute to our community, and I am honored to speak on behalf of its members and affiliates today.

Thank you for 60 years of public service, and dedication, I am proud to have such an

admirable organization work on behalf of the constituents in my Congressional District.

POTENTIAL IMPORT OF THE  
MERGER OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS,  
INC., AND MEDCO

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the potential impact of the merger of two major pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), Express Scripts, Inc. and Medco. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently decided not to oppose this merger, which combines two of the "Big Three" PBMs. However, the FTC decision was not unanimous; in fact, one FTC Commissioner who opposed the merger called it a "game changer."

The merger of Express Scripts and Medco now means that the top two PBMs will cover approximately 72 percent of the privately insured Americans. This "mega PBM" will have the ability to raise prices for health plans and patients, limit access to pharmacy patient care and force patients to use the PBM's mail order pharmacies rather than their trusted community pharmacies, driving up costs for employers, health plans and other federal and state programs.

Additional concerns resulting from the Express Scripts and Medco merger include increased market concentration in the PBM market, with decreasing competition. The "Big Three" PBMs controlled approximately 80 percent of the national prescription drug plan market for large plans. This merger reduces the options for large plans from three to two. For large health plans that have typically selected one of the "Big Three" PBMs, the merger creates a firm with more than 50 percent market share.

The new mega PBM alone will control over 40 percent of the national prescription drug volume. Approximately 135 million Americans—more than one-third of all Americans—will rely on this new "mega PBM" to manage their prescription benefits. The merger combines two of the three largest suppliers of specialty pharmacy services, consolidating an excessive share of all specialty pharmacy sales. The merger creates the nation's largest mail-order pharmacy accounting for close to 60 percent of all mail-order prescriptions processed in the United States. This is a very troubling situation.

I have actively sought to bring this issue to the forefront, through floor speeches, letters to the FTC, and calls for hearings in the House Energy & Commerce Committee. I am concerned that this "mega PBM" will only exacerbate the problems for community pharmacies and consumers caused by PBMs currently. Already, many PBMs disallow pharmacies the ability to appeal pricing decisions with which they disagree. It is documented that they often mandate that a covered individual use a specific retail pharmacy, mail order pharmacy, specialty pharmacy or other pharmacy or entity. This is exceedingly problematic in places like the First Congressional District, where there are limited options for seniors and the disabled to reach certain pharmacies.

Only a handful of states directly regulate some PBM functions, such as how they conduct audits of pharmacies, and some state