

CONGRESSWOMAN CELEBRATES
DR. EDMUND GRAY, RECIPIENT
OF THE 2013 SISTER PETER
CLAVER AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edmund Gray, recipient of the 2013 Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center's Sister Peter Claver Award.

In receiving this reward, Dr. Gray joins the ranks of many like himself who have gone out of their way to help and serve others, doing it humbly and without seeking recognition.

The Sister Peter Claver Award is given in honor of its namesake each year. Sister Peter Claver gave over twenty years of her life to the Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. She led this institution by her example of charity, service, and integrity. Today, Dr. Ed Gray exemplifies the mission and message of Sister Peter Claver.

Dr. Gray became a rural family practice physician in 1953. Working at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital in Colville, he cared for outpatients, delivered babies, and performed surgery. During his five decades of practice, Dr. Gray served in regional and statewide leadership roles to improve sanitation, vaccination, and other public health policies that affect eastern Washington State.

Access to quality medical care was always a priority for Dr. Gray. He helped to develop the first Basic Health plan in Washington State. This plan expanded access to those who could not afford coverage.

He worked with the University of Washington to develop a rural medicine training track that would teach student physicians about the special health care needs of people living in rural communities. Dr. Gray was a role model for many physicians.

So today, I rise to acknowledge and thank Dr. Gray for his compassionate service to the citizens of eastern Washington. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Ed Gray on receiving the "Sister Peter Claver Award" and in thanking him.

HONORING MS. SARA LOMAX-
REESE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Sara Lomax-Reese. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Ms. Lomax-Reese is the President and General Manager of WURD Radio LLC, Pennsylvania's only African-American owned talk radio station.

Ms. Lomax-Reese is an accomplished journalist who has been widely published in The Miami Herald, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Essence Magazine, American Visions Magazine, and Modern Maturity. Additionally, she co-founded HealthQuest: Total Wellness for Body, Mind,

and Spirit, the first nationally circulated African-American consumer health magazine in the country. Due to her outstanding leadership abilities, the magazine quickly grew from a small 25,000 quarterly to a bi-monthly publication with a distribution of 500,000. She has received many awards for her dedication to her community, including the Woman of Substance Award, the Tree of Life award, the Beacon of Light award, the Woman of Distinction award, and most recently the PECO Power to the Community Award. Ms. Lomax-Reese stands committed to continuing her work of empowering the community and building a powerful voice for the African-American community at WURD radio.

It is a privilege to recognize a person whose leadership and commitment to our city has enriched the lives of countless individuals. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Lomax-Reese for her lifetime of service and dedication to Pennsylvania's First Congressional District.

TO RECOGNIZE ARIA HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Aria Health has been providing quality medical care to residents of the Philadelphia region since July 4th, 1903 when it began as Frankford Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia.

In the 110 years that have followed, Aria Health has grown to six facilities—three inpatient and three outpatient—and is the largest healthcare provider in the Northeast Philadelphia and Lower Bucks County area. Through that time it has continued to serve the medical needs of millions in the Philadelphia and Bucks County regions with the same commitment to care as the day they were founded.

I rise today in recognition of their continued service to our communities, and congratulate them on their reception of the Crystal Vision Award—given each year by the Greater Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

This award is a testament to the lasting impression Aria—its physicians, nurses and staff—have left on the lives of those they have, and continue to help. I am pleased to join with members of the Chamber in recognizing Aria for their accomplishments and wish them constant success in the future as they continue to care for our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE 908TH AIR- LIFT WING

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today Mrs. ROBY and I ask for the House's attention to honor the 908th Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve Command wing located at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

What is now known as the 908th Airlift Wing began as the 908th Troop Carrier Group at

Bates Field, Mobile, Alabama on February 11, 1963. Six years later, the 908th moved to Maxwell Air Force Base, where it remains today.

The mission of the 908th Airlift Wing is to recruit, organize and train Air Force reservists to provide unrivaled theater airlift and flexible combat support across the spectrum of military operations.

During its 50 years, the 908th has followed its mission with a dedication to excellence. Its members have served in operations and humanitarian relief efforts at home and abroad. The 908th has an impeccable safety record with over 150,000 hours logged over 47 years without a Class A or B mishap. Since 2003 the men and women of the 908th have logged over 10,500 combat flight hours in overseas missions.

During their 50 years, the 908th has been awarded some of the US Air Force's highest honors. The men and women of the 908th are seven time winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. They finished FY 2013 with a 90.4 percent aircraft mission capable rate, among the highest ever recorded for a C-130 unit. They were also named the 2012 Small Command Post of the Year for two commands, AFRC and AETC. Their 2012 virtual inspection was the best the Inspector General had seen to date. In 2012, they had 78 Programs rated excellent and 8 Superior performers, which was more than any other wing.

The 908th will celebrate its 50th anniversary on December 7th with a celebration in Montgomery. The 908th has been widely recognized as an elite unit, one in which its members consider it a privilege to serve. It is an honor to join the state of Alabama in congratulating the 908th Airlift Wing on 50 years of excellence.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VET- ERANS LEGAL SUPPORT ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when 900,000 veterans and 5,000 active duty service members face Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program cuts, I introduce a bill to allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide financial support to law school clinical programs that provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including, among other things, assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. The enormous backlog of disability claims at the VA and homelessness among veterans remain critical problems for our veterans. Approximately 107,000 veterans are homeless on any given night in this country and over 600,000 veterans are waiting for their disability claims to be processed by the VA. Providing clinical programs with the resources to assist veterans can result in faster processing of claims and quicker housing assistance to our veterans, who have repeatedly put their lives on the line for this country.

This bill, introduced by my colleagues Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN, AMY KLOBUCHAR and CHRIS MURPHY in the Senate, would allow the

VA to work with and support clinical programs for veterans. This bill merely builds on what some law schools have begun to do for the last several years while providing vital legal services to our veterans and reducing the backlog that has plagued the VA for many years. However, more needs to be done to sustain these programs and to recruit and retain qualified attorneys to supervise law students.

Mr. Speaker, just as we honored our veterans on Veterans Day, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which would further honor and assist our veterans in their daily lives.

OBAMACARE—HURTING THE HARDWORKING MIDDLE CLASS

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, I have received far too many heart-breaking stories from the people of the 2nd District about how government-run healthcare is impacting their lives.

Today, I rise to put a face on the horrors of ObamaCare and tell Jim and Kim Curtis's story who hail from Arnold, in Missouri.

This is their story in their own words.

We, the working middle class, are the ones who are being hurt by this law.

We struggle every day to make ends meet.

But now, because of Obamacare, we received a notice from the insurance company that the plan we currently pay for does not meet the guidelines and we will no longer be covered on January 1st, 2014.

"Now we have to find an extra \$500 to \$600 minimum per month to cover the insurance that is comparable to what we had before. I have no idea how we will afford that kind of money and pay our bills and mortgage each month."

This is just one of the millions of examples of real people being hurt by ObamaCare.

This story is from Kim Curtis, a Senior Underwriter at an insurance company in Saint Louis, MO:

We, the working middle class, are the ones who are being hurt by this law.

We struggle every day to make ends meet. The one bright spot is that the middle sized family owned company that my husband works for paid 100% of both of our health care and dental premiums on a very good PPO plan. That was a huge benefit and a saving grace.

But now, because of Obamacare, we have received notice from the insurance company that the plan that they currently pay for does not meet the marketplace guidelines and we will no longer be covered effective on January 1st, 2014. They are not paying anything towards our insurance at all.

So now we will be trying to scramble to come up with an extra \$500-\$600 min per month to cover the insurance that is comparable to the plan that we had. I have medical issues so I have quite a few doctor visits and bills each year so I am not cheap to cover so it may even be more than that.

Thanks for your time and again thanks for standing up for us. Someone needs to help us before we all go bankrupt and lose everything we have worked so hard to build up during our lifetimes.

From: Kim Curtis (Kim.Curtis@cmgmi.com)
Received: 10/27/13

DEAR ANN, I comes as quite a shock to me on how much of an impact Obamacare is hav-

ing on myself and the country as a whole. Let alone the fact that I feel it was NEVER really explained very well to the American people let alone very well thought out by law makers when this plan was put together. This will further hurt our economy and drive it back possibly to the brink of another recession.

My husband had already taken over \$10,000/year cut in pay a couple years ago and I at the same time took over a \$20 000 cut in pay, but we looked at it that at least we still had jobs. We struggle every day to make ends meet. The one bright spot is that the middle size family owned company that my husband works for paid 100% of both of our health care and dental premiums on a very good PPO plan. That was a huge benefit and a saving grace.

But now due to Obamacare we have received notice from the insurance company that the plan that they currently pay for does not meet the "market place" guidelines and we will no longer be covered effective on January 1st, 2014. My husband approached his employer and the comment that he received is that we will probably have to go out to the market place and get insurance from there because they don't feel that they will be able to afford the insurance that is now being required by the new "LAW". So along with that they are NOT paying anything towards our insurance AT ALL. So this will now along with cuts in pay, we will be trying to scramble to come up with probably around \$500-\$600 min per month to cover the insurance that is comparable to the plan that we had. I have medical issues so I do have quite a few Doctor visits and bills each year so I am not cheap to cover so it may even be more than that.

I have no idea how we will be able to afford that kind of money each month and pay the mortgage and other bills that we have let alone be punished with a penalty if we do not have insurance. That is ridiculous. You should have been able to put together a plan that would BENEFIT the people not PENALIZE the majority of them.

If the "PLAN" is that good why did they have to make it a law for everyone to participate. If it was done correctly people would WANT to participate. THAT is the "PLAN" that they should have put into place.

Thanks for your time and again thanks for standing up for us. Someone needs to help us before we all go bankrupt and lose everything we have worked so hard to build up during our lifetimes.

KIM CURTIS,
SENIOR UNDERWRITER,
CMG Mortgage Insurance Company.

CONGRATULATING BILL DE BLASIO ON HIS ELECTION AS MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Public Advocate and a dear friend of mine Bill de Blasio on his election as Mayor of New York City. He will be New York's 109th Mayor and the first Democrat to hold the office in 20 years.

Mr. de Blasio is a compassionate and intelligent man who believes that every person in New York should have access to a quality education, attend college or vocational training, find a job, and start a family.

He is ready to address the enormous challenge that income inequality poses for New York City and our nation, which threatens to undermine our shared commitment to the American Dream. This is a great victory for the people of New York City, and I know that he will unify all New Yorkers and lead the City forward into a new era.

New York City has a new incredible leader and I look forward to working with him on initiatives that will keep New York City and our nation on the path to prosperity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the election of Bill de Blasio, and urge us all to continue the fight for an America that is a true champion of equity and opportunity.

HONORING RICHARD AND LEE LASTER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents and good friends Richard and Lee Laster on the occasion of his 90th birthday and their 65th wedding anniversary. The Lasters have called Chappaqua, New York, home for 50 years.

Born in Vienna, Austria, Richard came to the United States in 1940. After graduating in 1944 from the Polytechnic Institute of New York, Richard began his long career with General Foods Corporation. He became President of the Maxwell House Coffee Division, Executive Vice President and a Director at General Foods. Following his retirement from General Foods, Richard helped build DNA Plant Technology Corporation and WellGen. Richard has also served on the Board of Directors of RiceTec, Inc., The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, Bowater Incorporated, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, and Peptor Ltd.

Richard has been a strong and committed community leader, generously sharing his wisdom and skills with a myriad of civic and educational organizations. These include serving as a Director of The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, Trustee of Temple Beth El, Chairman of the Purchase College Foundation, Trustee of Polytechnic University, Chairman of the Westchester Education Coalition, a member and Deputy Supervisor of the New Castle Town Board, President of the Chappaqua School Board and Vice President of the United Way of Westchester.

Richard and his beloved wife, Lee, are both Holocaust survivors. Their experiences in 1938 led to a deep and abiding commitment to fighting the evils of hatred and bigotry by teaching tolerance to young students. In 2011, the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center presented Richard and Lee with its Spirit of Humanity Award as recognition for Richard's 14 years as Chairman and Lee's longtime service as a board member. Lee has also volunteered on the board of The Chappaqua Orchestra.

I am proud to recognize Lee and Richard Laster of Chappaqua, New York for their extraordinary contributions to our community and beyond. I wish them happiness on the double celebrations of their 65th wedding anniversary and his 90th birthday.