

Ralph and Joy's support has helped Lyric Stage provide the City of Irving and all of North Texas access to amazing original Broadway musical productions. In fact, in the 2012 season, audience members from 20 states and 347 zip codes traveled to Irving to attend productions at Lyric Stage. Irving is proud to say that 90 shows have been produced locally, including 20 world premieres, several of which have gone on to theaters in New York and London.

Lyric Stage is not the only program that Ralph and Joy Ellis have influenced through their generosity. They have made numerous contributions to local charities including the Salvation Army, Irving Cares, Brighter Tomorrows, Irving Symphony Orchestra, Irving Healthcare Foundation, Irving Family Advocacy, The North Hills School, and Crossroads Interfaith Clinic. The majority of their philanthropy, however, has been to endow several student scholarships at Texas A&M University, Southern Methodist University, and to graduates from the Irving Independent School System and Carrollton-Farmers Branch School System.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Ralph and Joy Ellis for their charitable contributions to North Texas programs. Their influence in the community has enhanced the quality of life for many Texans, and we are extremely grateful for this caring couple.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PERSONALIZE YOUR CARE ACT

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, advances in health care have led to increasingly complex health care decisions and more treatment options than we have ever before had the benefit—or the burden—of choosing between. Both Democrats and Republicans agree that individuals should be fully involved in decisions related to their own health care and should be able to make informed decisions about that care reflecting their values and their needs. We also agree that when people have expressed their wishes, particularly in a formal and legally binding manner, those wishes should be known and respected.

While there is widespread agreement regarding these principles, too often this is not the reality. Most adults have not completed an advance directive; if documents are completed, they are not regularly revisited and can be difficult to locate. Because these issues are difficult to discuss, surrogates often feel ill-prepared to interpret their loved ones' written wishes.

It is for these reasons that I am introducing the bipartisan Personalize Your Care Act, legislation that would support individuals and their doctors having voluntary conversations about patients' wishes and health care decisions.

Failing to have conversations about these decisions ahead of time can leave families and health care proxies faced with the burden of determining their loved ones' wishes in the midst of crisis, sometimes with little or no information about how best to direct care. This

adds not only stress and anxiety to an already difficult situation, but studies show that lack of advance care planning actually prolongs the grieving process after losing a loved one.

One of the greatest misconceptions about advance care planning is that it is a one-time event. Attempting to plan for all possibilities in a single document or within a single conversation is overwhelming and, quite likely, impossible. Where possible, this should be an ongoing conversation. Careful, early advance care planning is important because a person's ability to make decisions may diminish over time and he or she may suddenly lose the capability to participate in his or her health care decisions.

Successful advance care planning is less about legal documentation and more about facilitating ongoing communication about future care wishes among individuals, their health care providers, and surrogates. The Personalize Your Care Act recognizes that documents like advance directives and physician orders for life-sustaining treatment are not "ends" but "means"—the tools individuals can use to document their care preferences based on informed decisions incorporating their own values and current circumstances. It is important that individuals work with their care providers to update these documents as treatment options and personal preferences change.

This process not only provides higher quality care, but personalized care.

The Personalize Your Care Act aims to support advance care planning by providing Medicare and Medicaid coverage for voluntary consultations about advance care planning every 5 years or in the event of a change in health status. This periodic revisiting of advance care documents and goals of care recognizes that an individual's preferences can change over time. It also recognizes that the advance care plan should be updated if an individual develops a serious or chronic illness, if additional curative and palliative treatment options become available, and to consistently reflect the individual's current circumstances and preferences.

Honoring the expressed wishes of individuals must also be a priority. For this to occur, advance care planning documents must be accessible wherever care is provided. The legislation ensures that an individual's electronic health record is able to display his or her current advance directive and/or physician orders for life sustaining treatment (POLST), so that his or her wishes are easily accessible and respected. Furthermore, under the legislation, advance directives would be portable, ensuring that advance directives completed in one state are honored in another state, in the event care is needed to be provided there.

The legislation also provides grants to states to establish or expand physician orders for life sustaining treatment programs. For instance, the National POLST Paradigm Program Task Force provides consultation, guidance and mentorship to developing states for program and form development, recognizing the uniqueness of each state. These programs have a track record of promoting patient autonomy through documenting and coordinating a person's treatment preferences, clarifying treatment intentions and minimizing confusion, reducing repetitive activities in complying with the Patient Self Determination Act, and facilitating appropriate treatment by emergency personnel.

These investments in advance care planning will reinforce patient-centered care—engaging individuals in planning and decision-making about their future care and ensuring that those preferences are documented, accessible, and can be honored in any state and in any care setting. The Personalize Your Care Act is supported by members of Congress on both sides of the political aisle and by patient advocates, physicians, nurses, and the faith community who see every day how advance care planning improves individuals' and families' peace of mind and the quality of their care.

#### HONORING LORI BELL

#### HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lori Bell, a forest ranger with a strong dedication to her community and to the preservation of the grasslands. As the district ranger of the Pawnee National Grassland, Lori has established lasting relationships with the Weld County Commissioners and grazing associations.

Growing up in northern Wisconsin, Lori developed a love of the forest and joined the United States Forest Service as a forest ranger. She has worked in South Dakota, Idaho, California, Florida, Wyoming, and Alaska before settling in eastern Colorado.

As the district ranger, Lori has focused on building relationships with officials in Weld County. Her passion for her work and dedication to continuously improving relationships with the various organizations in Weld County have earned her praise from those who work with her. She was recently profiled in the Greeley Tribune for her efforts to balance the needs of the many groups that make use of the land.

Good stewardship of our lands is everyone's duty. Lori's leadership has provided an excellent example for all of us.

I am pleased to recognize Lori Bell for her hard work and dedication. I wish her continued success as district ranger of Pawnee National Grassland.

#### HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO JOHN CROW

#### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Vinton County resident, Mr. John Crow, a very happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Crow was born in Eagle Township on March 4, 1913. His family moved to Trumbull County briefly when his father went to work in the mines. After returning to Vinton County, Crow decided to enter politics and was elected mayor of McArthur at age 23. He was the youngest mayor of a county seat in Ohio at the time, and he served for 12 years. He then worked in the treasurer's office for four years, eventually serving in the state auditor's office and spending a total of 49 years in public service.

Crow was also a longtime businessman, having owned a Firestone tire store and a Marathon service station in McArthur. He also operated a star mail route, a rural delivery service contracted out by the U.S. Postal Service.

Mr. Crow has led an incredible life of public service. His genuine love of helping people has served him well, and he continues to bring joy to those around him with his handmade rocking horses that he gives to children throughout the community.

I would again like to wish John Crow a happy 100th birthday. He is a great example of the remarkable, hardworking people of Ohio's 15th district who I am proud to represent, and I am thankful for his many years of public service to Vinton County and to the state of Ohio.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the destruction caused by natural disasters across the country affirms the need to address climate change. Conservation efforts that protect wildlife ecosystems help to mitigate these climate concerns as well as provide lands for all Americans to enjoy.

Today, I am proud to introduce legislation that helps preserve the northern Rockies—one of our country's vital environmental regions. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act will safeguard 23 million acres by establishing a system to connect biological corridors on public lands in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington. It prioritizes the health of whole ecosystems by designating all of the inventoried roadless areas as wilderness, including wild and scenic rivers. This designation helps ensure the preservation of native plants and animals.

It's our responsibility to preserve our country's natural treasures for our own and future generations. I thank my colleagues Reps. MARKEY, GRIJALVA, CAPPS, and NADLER for their support, and I urge others to join us in helping to protect these lands.

#### H.R. 803, "THE SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT"

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 803, "The Supporting Knowledge And Investing in Lifelong Skills Act."

I join with the National Skills Coalition, a national network of business leaders, union affiliates, community colleges, community-based organizations, and public workforce agencies who oppose H.R. 803. This bill eliminates more than thirty-five federal job programs. H.R. 803 gives states too much discretion to

decide who would receive jobs services, and what kinds of programs would be offered. I also agree with the National Skills Coalition that consolidation, in and of itself, will not produce reform.

Block granting 35 programs, including those designed to serve adults, youth farmworkers, dislocated workers, and other disadvantaged populations without any independent evaluations of whether or not these programs would benefit from consolidation is bad public policy.

I am particularly concerned that H.R. 803 would have a harmful impact on job and training opportunities for our most vulnerable citizens, including the long-term unemployed, veterans, individuals with disabilities, low-income youth, and adults from underserved communities.

H.R. 803 eliminates the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, and other supported employment programs that benefit people with disabilities.

We must ensure that every veteran who has served our nation with distinction can return home and be able to quickly find a good job at a livable wage. Therefore, we in Congress, in good conscience, should do everything in our power to strengthen funding for WIA programs that help veterans find jobs—not eliminate them.

Clearly, at risk youth and adults lead more productive and law-abiding lives, when they have the dignity and hope that comes with being employed. H.R. 803 also completely eliminates the priority of service delivery for low-income adults and youth. Youth will now have to compete against adults for Workforce Investment Fund funding. This is not the time to eliminate training opportunities for low-income adults and youth, especially during one of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression.

I must respectfully ask the following question: what job programs have my friends on the other side of the aisle put forward to create jobs for our nation's veterans, and the millions of Americans who are currently out of work? I have not seen one direct job-creation program being proposed by conservative lawmakers, and I continue to see fierce opposition to any direct job creation programs proposed by President Obama and my other colleagues in the House of Representatives.

H.R. 803 is simply another example of "you're on your own," "fend-for-yourself" public policy that is bad for business, bad for the economy, and harmful to the unemployed.

Respectfully, I would request that Congress give serious consideration to legislation that would create millions of "fast track" jobs for unemployed veterans, youth, and adults. We can put America back to work now rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, schools, housing, and communities. I therefore urge Congress to pass a comprehensive direct job creation bill now, like the program I have proposed in H.R. 1000, "The Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment And Training Act."

I urge this body to vote "no" on H.R. 803.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Lake Elsinore, the second oldest city in Riverside County. On April 9, 2013, the City will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Lake Elsinore has a rich and colorful past, and will continue to contribute to the landscape, diversity and history of our county and the state of California.

Settlers came to Lake Elsinore in the early 1800s for the natural springs which were said to have healing qualities. Rich and fertile farm lands and natural resources such as clay, coal, sand and gravel, kept the early settlers here. The birth of these industries brought the Butterfield stagecoach line through town. In 1858 a stop was established at the Juan Machado Adobe along Grand Avenue, part of which can still be seen today. In 1882 a rail line was extended through town and soon the Santa Fe train station was constructed one block off Main Street. Today, that station serves as the home of the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

These early settlers established a town site around the lake, which they named Elsinore, after the town of Elsinore in Denmark immortalized by Shakespeare in his play Hamlet. On April 9, 1888 the town was incorporated, five years before the County of Riverside even existed.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Lake Elsinore was a weekend getaway for some of Hollywood's best-known stars. Famous residents included actor Bela Lugosi and founder of the Four-square Church and radio personality Aimee Semple McPherson. According to local legend, some of the grand homes on the hills surrounding Lake Elsinore were also allegedly used as speakeasies and gambling dens during Prohibition. Their high perch above the valley floor afforded the occupants the opportunity to see the headlights of the County Sheriff from miles away.

In 1971, the Elsinore Grand Prix launched Lake Elsinore into the national spotlight when Bruce Brown released his movie "On Any Sunday" featuring Baja Champion Malcolm Smith and Steve McQueen. Today, the last race of the Grand Prix is called the Harvey Mushman, an alias McQueen often used when riding.

In 1972, citizens approved Lake Elsinore as a new name for the city to promote it as a prime destination for tourists. The city offers venues for professional baseball, Motocross, skydiving, sail planes, bowling, golf, water skiing, jet boats, fishing and even bow fishing. I encourage tourists from all over to come and enjoy southern California's only natural lake and the recreational paradise that is Lake Elsinore. I am honored to represent Lake Elsinore once again in the House and look forward to serving its residents as the Member of Congress for the 42nd District of California.