

18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals" due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." In addition, I also missed a vote on H.R. 1073, "To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, and for other purposes." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL
FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month. National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness for the hundreds of thousands of children and youth who are in our nation's foster care system. Each one of these individuals is part of a network of dedicated professionals, foster parents, and advocates who work 365 days a year, and for that they must be commended.

Furthermore, I believe that it is imperative we focus on the day-to-day successes of these children and their allies. In March 2012, I was proud to host a listening tour through Broward and Miami-Dade counties to bring greater attention to the efforts of local communities striving to improve our foster care system.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I am distinctly aware of the issues facing our child welfare system. Currently, there are over 400,000 children in our nation's foster care system, many of whom have serious emotional or medical problems. On average, these children wait three years for permanent families, with many aging out of foster care without the love and support from family. These children deserve permanent loving families, and it is our responsibility as legislators to create policy that will help to that improve their outcomes.

At times, the frailties and stark statistics of the foster care system can seem overwhelming. However, as I have seen from my own experience, when given a voice and a chance, foster youth are resilient, capable, and yearning for success. It is up to all of us to nurture the greatness in these youth.

Investing in our children's future is an investment in the future of our nation, and that is why I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to move this country forward on issues critical to their success.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GAVIN
KEITH SANDVIG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Army National Guard Captain Gavin Sandvig for being named a recipient of the 2013 General Doug-

las MacArthur Leadership Award by the United States Army. Captain Sandvig is one of only six National Guard Officers nationwide to receive this prestigious award.

The United States Army's General MacArthur Leadership Award is reserved for the most exemplary company grade officers in the nation who consistently demonstrate the ideals of "duty, honor, and country." The winners of this great distinction are invited to an award ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. There they are presented with a bronze bust of General MacArthur, an engraved timepiece, and a Commendation Memorandum by the Army Chief of Staff.

Before joining the Iowa Army National Guard in 1993, Captain Sandvig was raised in Eagle Grove, Iowa by his parents Wayne and Penny. He would go on to obtain his Bachelor of the Arts from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and a Master's of Education from Graceland University in Lamoni amid his 20-year military career. In 2004, after 11 years as an enlisted soldier and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, Captain Sandvig accepted his officer commission and was sworn in as a 2nd Lieutenant before completing Ordnance Officer Basic Course in 2005 and his Captain's Career Course in 2008. Through his time with the Guard, he has supported his state and country in multiple roles overseas, including a 2010 deployment to the rough terrain of northeastern Afghanistan. Captain Sandvig has earned numerous decorations for his service over the last two decades, including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Award, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Award.

Beyond his normal service duties, Captain Sandvig has been involved in numerous organizations and activities to benefit several charitable organizations across Iowa. A resident of Ankeny with his wife Shannon and their sons Ben, Sam, and J.J., the Sandvig family has donated much of their time and money to organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, United Way, Families of Iowa's Fallen, the American Legion, the American Cancer Society, Cub Scouts, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and various sport leagues in Ankeny. The Sandvig family has also donated financially to two separate families planning to adopt.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Captain Sandvig's professional and private conduct truly reflects the General MacArthur Leadership Award's emphasis on duty, honor, and country. In the words of General MacArthur: "Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage . . . to regain faith . . . and to create hope . . ." I can think of no better recipient for this great award than Captain Sandvig. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him for this achievement, thanking him and his family for their service and sacrifice, and wishing him continued success in the future. May God continue to watch over all of our soldiers and their families, across the world and here at home alike.

THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations that examined the United States' contribution to the global fight against malaria.

Leadership matters. In 2005, President George W. Bush established the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and targeted several African malaria endemic countries to receive over a billion dollars to mitigate and someday eradicate this killer disease. The positive consequences of that bold and compassionate initiative include over a million lives saved over the last decade.

The global impact of this disease is severe—yet we are making progress. The World Health Organization estimates that in 2010 there were 219 million malaria cases and 660,000 deaths. While still unconscionably high—every life is absolutely precious and of extraordinary importance—loss of life has declined from approximately 985,000 deaths in 2000.

Not surprisingly, malaria has a particularly devastating impact on the most vulnerable. Nearly 86% of those who die are children under five years of age living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and President George W. Bush's extraordinarily effective Global AIDS Coordinator, said that in "Africa alone, Malaria take the life of a child every minute" and pregnant women are also disproportionately afflicted with the disease. WHO emphasizes in its World Malaria Report 2012 that malaria is strongly associated with poverty. Countries in which a larger percentage of the population lives in poverty also have higher mortality rates from malaria. Children living in poorer populations and in rural areas have the highest parasite prevalence rates.

It is also important to note the extent to which the prevalence of malaria is concentrated. Eighty percent of malaria deaths occur in just 14 countries and almost 80% of cases occur in 17 countries. Over 40% of malaria deaths occur in two countries—the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, and 40% of malaria cases are in the DRC, Nigeria, and India.

These high morbidity and mortality rates are not necessary—malaria is both preventable and treatable. We heard about the cost effective measures that are currently available and already having an impact or that are in the development process. And the United States, despite the current financial constraints, is making a significant contribution to the global fight against malaria. In addition to our contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States provided \$871 million in anti-malaria assistance in FY2012, and the request for FY2014 is \$893 million.

But these levels, even when combined with contributions from other donors, fall short of the global need. So our question last week was: what are the major challenges going forward, and how we can best use our resources

to meet those challenges, to save the most lives and to have the greatest impact in controlling, if not eradicating, this dreaded disease?

We also took a close look at several immediate threats to global efforts to combat malaria. On April 19th, the subcommittee that I chair held a hearing called "Meeting the Challenge of Drug-Resistant Diseases in Developing Countries." In his testimony at that hearing, Dr. Thomas Frieden, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned that in recent years, malaria infections in parts of Southeast Asia have been showing resistance to artemisinin drugs. These drugs are the last remaining class of anti-malarial drugs and form the basis of malaria treatment globally. If these resistant parasites manage to spread to sub-Saharan Africa, he stated that "the results could be devastating."

Insecticide-treated bed nets, which have an average useful life of two to three years, are an important, proven malaria prevention tool. According to the World Health Organization, 150 million nets are needed each year to provide protection to the vulnerable populations in sub-Saharan Africa. For the past two years however, the supply has been considerably lower than this level, resulting in an estimated current shortfall of 77 million nets. The consequences, if not urgently addressed, could place entire populations, especially children, at risk of a dramatic malaria resurgence and death.

We were fortunate to have with us three distinguished experts who provided us with valuable insights into these challenges.

RECOGNITION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONS OF THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN'S AND THE CONSTITUTION" COMPETITION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, twenty-nine exceptionally bright students from Howell High School in Michigan won a competition on their knowledge of the Constitution. As the winners of this competition, they came to Washington D.C. the last weekend in April to participate in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, helps elementary and secondary students build a strong foundation of knowledge of the history and philosophical influences of the Constitution. The knowledge gained from this experience teaches the students about civic responsibility and how to enhance and uphold the democracy of this nation.

The final activity in this program, which took place April 27–29, gave students the opportunity to "testify" in a simulated congressional hearing. This experience allows them to utilize and demonstrate their understanding and teaches them how to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues based on constitutional principles. I am happy to announce that the Howell High team won the Outstanding

Unit Six award. Overall the team finished 16th in the nation with Unit One also placing in the top ten and Unit Two finishing 14th overall.

I am honored and proud to recognize the achievements of these students, they are Unit One: Heather Buja, Brody Kutt, Aaron Osborne; Unit Two: David Grusendorf, Lauren Lomasney, Nicole Trudeau, Jason Wisby; Unit Three: Ashley Carignan, Megan Isom, Jeremy Johnson, Sarah Kenney, Francesca Mettetal, Benjamin Schultz; Unit Four: Katherine Beard, Dillon Higgins, Adam Hukkala, Samantha Rineman, Christina Szkrybalo, Jake Tholen; Unit Five: Michael Beard, Grant Bowman, Jarrid Rector-Brooks, Erika Senecal, Karsyn Textor; and Unit Six: Breanne Casper, Nadja Grauer, Abigail Harrington, Andreja Petrusis, Jonathon Reck. I also recognize Linda Start, the Michigan state coordinator for the "We the People . . ." program.

I would also like to applaud Mark Oglesby, the teacher who has led the Howell High School class to this national competition after eleven years of competing in the state of Michigan.

It was a pleasure to meet these students while they were here and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CARLEY GRABLE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Carley Grable is a senior at Lutheran South Academy in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Oftentimes, in a nation where people have become relatively desensitized to the acts of the world, it is easy for one to simply fade into the crowd and become a follower. However, without adequate leaders, any nation, regardless of its stature, is destined for degradation. Warren Bennis once stated that, "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality". American citizens need to get involved in even the simplest of ways in the political process because without the opinions and ideas of the people, the foundation of America crumbles.

One cannot completely understand something until they have immersed themselves into every facet of it. This proves to be axiomatic in the sense that numerous American citizens do not voice their opinions or take definitive sides on critical issues simply because of a lack of understanding of the political process. The American government is one of the most fascinating aspects of our nation purely because it was the first successful system of its kind. Nowhere else in the world had a group of people become so passionate about something and create

something based on that passion that was functional and prosperous. In order for citizens to become the leaders that the nation so desperately needs, it is crucial that they educate themselves and become activists for the causes that they believe in.

Although, in the past century, the world as a whole has made great strides in ideas and technology, many people across the globe live in an isolated mindset concerning only themselves and their family or community. One may ponder the relationship between government and one's service to others in the world, however, I believe that if one is to truly make a difference in the world, one must become an active promoter of his/her beliefs. America's future calls for leaders who have a global perspective and are willing to work alongside others in a means of compromise and combination of ideals in order to attain a nation that is concerned with foreign affairs and is willing to use the functional facets of the US government and use them as a model to assist developing governments.

Since the age of Greeks and Romans, leadership has been a quality that is cherished in society and is placed on a pedestal of honor if attained. The future of America relies on the upcoming generation to provide the knowledge and ideas that will evolve the already great nation into not only a force that remains highly influential in the economic world, but also one that shows compassion through its aid. The involvement with the political process is vital to the creation of new leaders of society because without experience, one is left with a nation led by people who formulate decisions based solely upon instinct, instead of intelligence. Edmund Burke noted that "no one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little". No amount of involvement in one's government is too small to make a difference.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 21, 2013 EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today, ninety Iowa World War II and Korean War veterans will travel to our nation's capital. Accompanied by volunteer guardians, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor.

For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I am deeply honored to join them for their visit to the National World War II Memorial to personally thank these heroes for their service to our nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice that they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but