

they're fighting. The soldiers are mostly in their teens, I pointed out. Why would we expect them to evaluate U.S. foreign policy?

The host had made the classic error of thinking that war belongs to the soldiers who fight it. That is a standard of accountability not applied to, say, oil-rig workers or police. The environment is collapsing and anti-crime measures can be deeply flawed, but we don't expect people in those fields to discuss national policy on their lunch breaks.

Soldiers, though, are a special case. Perhaps war is so obscene that even the people who supported it don't want to hear the details or acknowledge their role. Soldiers face myriad challenges when they return home, but one of the most destructive is the sense that their country doesn't quite realize that it—and not just the soldiers—went to war. The country approved, financed and justified war—and sent the soldiers to fight it. This is important because it returns the moral burden of war to its rightful place: with the entire nation. If a soldier inadvertently kills a civilian in Baghdad, we all helped kill that civilian. If a soldier loses his arm in Afghanistan, we all lost something.

The growing cultural gap between American society and our military is dangerous and unhealthy. The sense that war belongs exclusively to the soldiers and generals may be one of the most destructive expressions of this gap. Both sides are to blame. I know many soldiers who don't want to be called heroes—a grotesquely misused word—or told that they did their duty; some don't want to be thanked. Soldiers know all too well how much killing—mostly of civilians—goes on in war. Congratulations make them feel that people back home have no idea what happens when a human body encounters the machinery of war.

I am no pacifist. I'm glad the police in my home town of New York carry guns, and every war I have ever covered as a journalist has been ended by armed Western intervention. I approved of all of it, including our entry into Afghanistan. (In 2001, U.S. forces effectively ended a civil war that had killed as many as 400,000 Afghans during the previous decade and forced the exodus of millions more. The situation there today is the lowest level of civilian suffering in Afghanistan in 30 years.) But the obscenity of war is not diminished when that conflict is righteous or necessary or noble. And when soldiers come home spiritually polluted by the killing that they committed, or even just witnessed, many hope that their country will share the moral responsibility of such a grave event.

Their country doesn't. Liberals often say that it's not their problem because they opposed the war. Conservatives tend to call soldiers "heroes" and pat them on the back. Neither response is honest or helpful. Neither addresses the epidemic of post-traumatic stress disorder afflicting our veterans. Rates of suicide, alcoholism, fatal car accidents and incarceration are far higher for veterans than for most of the civilian population. One study predicted that in the next decade 400,000 to 500,000 veterans will have criminal cases in the courts. Our collective avoidance of this problem is unjust and hypocritical. It is also going to be very costly.

Civilians tend to do things that make them, not the veterans, feel better. Yellow ribbons and parades do little to help with the emotional aftermath of combat. War has been part of human culture for tens of thousands of years, and most tribal societies were engaged in some form of warfare when encountered by Western explorers. It might be productive to study how some societies re-integrated their young fighters after the intimate carnage of Stone Age combat. It is

striking, in fact, how rarely combat trauma is mentioned in ethnographic studies of cultures.

Typically, warriors were welcomed home by their entire community and underwent rituals to spiritually cleanse them of the effect of killing. Otherwise, they were considered too polluted to be around women and children. Often there was a celebration in which the fighters described the battle in great, bloody detail. Every man knew he was fighting for his community, and every person in the community knew that their lives depended on these young men. These gatherings must have been enormously cathartic for both the fighters and the people they were defending. A question like the one recently posed to me wouldn't begin to make sense in a culture such as the Yanomami of Brazil and Venezuela or the Comanche.

Our enormously complex society can't just start performing tribal rituals designed to diminish combat trauma, but there may be things we can do. The therapeutic power of storytelling, for example, could give combat veterans an emotional outlet and allow civilians to demonstrate their personal involvement. On Memorial Day or Veterans Day, in addition to traditional parades, communities could make their city or town hall available for vets to tell their stories. Each could get, say, 10 minutes to tell his or her experience at war.

Attendance could not be mandatory, but on that day "I support the troops" would mean spending hours listening to our vets. We would hear a lot of anger and pain. We would also hear a lot of pride. Some of what would be said would make you uncomfortable, whether you are liberal or conservative, military or nonmilitary, young or old. But there is no point in having a conversation about war that is not completely honest.

Let them speak. They deserve it. In addition to getting our veterans back, we might get our nation back as well.

#### TRIBUTE TO SARAH CURTIS

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 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.

Sarah Curtis is a junior at George Ranch High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

Within the past 50 years, our nation has seen great divides socially created by monumental governmental decisions. In the year 1973, the law allowed legal abortions within the United States passed under the court ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. By creating this abominable law that now prohibits state and federal unrecognizing of the law, new corporations

have begun to boom, those such as Planned Parenthood. Morally and ethically wrong, a law that allows the legality of the killing of our unborn is practically manslaughter and an unjust crime against humanity. This court ruling has created such a massive divide within our country that even politics are being decided through this law. Liberals have taken a more pro-choice (proabortion) stance while the conservatives of the U.S. take a more pro-life (against abortion) stand. Even those who see this law as a sacrilegious act against God have recognized the monstrosity situation this has become. Religious leaders, as of recently, have been forced, under Obama Care to offer abortions, even though it goes against everything they morally believe. Our country has been known in the past to be the "promised land" or "the land of the free", but forcing laws down everybody's throats and creating a divide between our own people not exactly unite us united against one cause, but rather against each other for different causes. Because of one court decision 40 years ago, the repercussions are still being dealt with today with the killing of the innocent and unborn being so normal and legal. *Roe v. Wade* may have been a court case about one woman claiming to have been raped, and wanting to legally have an abortion, but she was not raped, and ended up having the child before the case ever appeared in court anyway. So what was the point of one woman's want to not have a child costing our nation nearly 800,000 unborn children per year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING IMPACT THE BALDWIN CENTER HAS MADE ON THE COMMUNITY OF PONTIAC, MICHIGAN

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize talented staff and dedicated volunteers of the Baldwin Center in Pontiac, Michigan, for the outstanding work they engage in every day to fulfill its mission to feed, clothe, educate and empower the disadvantaged residents in the Pontiac community.

Like so many great community organizations, the Baldwin Center traces its foundation to people of immense compassion and faith, who have been committed to making a difference in their community. Created as an outreach program of the Baldwin Avenue United Methodist Church in 1981 to respond to increasing need in the community, the Baldwin Center has grown into a multifaceted, comprehensive human service agency that serves thousands annually. The Center's first programs provided children with food and recreation, but quickly expanded to include a soup kitchen, tutoring services and emergency shelter. In 2006, the congregation of Baldwin Avenue moved and the Baldwin Center remained at its current location, becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Over the decades it has served the Greater Pontiac Community, the Baldwin Center has significantly increased both the size and scope of the support it offers to area residents.

Today the Center offers more than twenty-five different programs which fulfill its core mission, including programs that feed, clothe, provide educational enrichment for children and adults, and offer critical health care related services. Among its most widely used programs are its Clothing Closet which offered almost fifteen thousand low-income individuals and families access to clean clothing, sheets, blankets and other smaller household items, including victims of domestic abuse. Furthermore, in 2012, the Baldwin Family Soup Kitchen provided over eighty-three thousand meals to residents that are food insecure; include more than nine thousand children. However, its programs are not limited to just basic necessities; the Baldwin Center also offers a GED program, ESL classes and nutrition education sessions, as well as flu shots and blood pressure screenings.

In the economic downturn, the Baldwin Center, like so many human service agencies across our nation, saw an increase in demand coupled with a decrease in funding. However, the fourteen staff under the leadership of Executive Director Lisa Machesky and the dedicated army of three thousand volunteers have not only risen to meet this challenge, but have continued to excel in providing vital services to Pontiac area residents who are in need. Just last year, the Center added a computer lab that offers adults access to the important resources they need to achieve success.

Mr. Speaker, organizations like the Baldwin Center occupy a vital position in our communities. During our times of prosperity, they ensure that no one is left behind, and in times of economic challenge, they are on the front lines of holding families, neighborhoods and communities together. The impact the Baldwin Center has made on the lives of thousands in the Greater Pontiac area has enriched many neighborhoods. Again, I commend Lisa Machesky and her staff, as well as the thousands of volunteers, for the daily work they do to empower the entire community. Pontiac is a brighter city because of the Baldwin Center and I look forward to continuing our joint endeavors to empower all segments of the community to achieve success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 130, I missed a vote on H.R. 291, the Black Hills Cemetery Act (Noem, R-SD) because I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### IN HONOR OF GLORIA HALL

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Bucks County is in the forefront of Pennsylvania land

preservation because of individual leaders such as Gloria Hall, who founded The Friends of the Farmstead in 1986 and helped launch the successful, countywide "Save the Farms" campaign. Since 1989, Bucks County's farmland preservation program has saved 157 farms and over 14,000 acres. Gloria Hall has inspired farm families — and the greater community — to safeguard the land for future generations. In so doing, she epitomizes environmental stewardship at its best and; therefore, is most deserving of the George M. Bush Farmland Preservation Award from the Bucks County Conservation District and acknowledged by the Bucks County Board of Commissioners on June 5, 2013. I thank Gloria Hall for her dedicated 25-year effort to save Bucks County's farms for future generations.

#### SAFEGUARDING AMERICA'S PHARMACEUTICALS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2013*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, although this bill takes important steps to secure our nation's pharmaceutical supply chain, we need to do more to protect patients and the public health.

For over a year, I have been investigating the problem of so-called "gray market" drug companies that take advantage of critical drug shortages to charge exorbitant prices.

Working with the Senate Commerce Committee and the Senate HELP Committee, we identified numerous cases in which gray market drug companies were able to get their hands on shortage drugs when hospitals and other providers could not. And in many cases, these middleman companies exploited national drug shortages by charging exorbitant mark-ups for drugs used to treat cancer and other life threatening conditions.

This kind of price gouging is unconscionable, and it represents a serious threat to patients' health and safety.

Our investigation found that in more than two-thirds of cases, prescription drugs entered the gray market through pharmacies. These pharmacies purchased their drugs from authorized distributors, but instead of dispensing them to providers or patients in accordance with state laws, the pharmacies re-sold them to gray market wholesalers.

For these reasons, I introduced the Gray Market Drug Reform and Transparency Act to implement reforms in this area and to protect consumers and providers from exploitation.

I am encouraged that the bill before us takes up one of my proposals, which is to require wholesalers to register and report annually to the FDA, including on their disciplinary actions. Although this is a step in the right direction, the bill fails to make this information publicly available, which is critical to consumers, healthcare providers, and state boards of pharmacy.

The bill also fails to close the primary loophole by which drugs enter the gray market, by prohibiting wholesalers from buying drugs from pharmacies.

We need to put an end to unethical profiteering at the expense of patients with cancer and other critical illnesses, and I hope we can add these common sense provisions to H.R. 1919 in conference negotiations.

#### CONGRATULATING DENNY ZANE AND MOVE LA

#### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 4, 2013*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mr. Denny Zane and Move LA, as the 2013 recipients of the John Leighton Chase Legacy Award from the Westside Urban Forum. Move LA received this award for its advocacy for transportation development in the Los Angeles region. Mr. Zane, the Executive Director of Move LA, garnered this award for his positive contributions to the Los Angeles region over a period spanning more than three decades.

This award's namesake, John Leighton Chase, passed in 2010. He had been a renowned West Hollywood urban designer, writer and advocate of civic spaces and vernacular architecture (which is focused on local needs, reflects local traditions and is constructed with local materials). The Westside Urban Forum, that bestowed this deserved award on Mr. Zane and Move LA, has for over twenty years been a prominent organization dedicated to land-use issues impacting the west side of Los Angeles.

Mr. Zane has been a persistent advocate in the Los Angeles region for "smart growth" in local development and for bringing best practices to local communities, with a focus on soliciting broad input from varied constituencies, protecting local jobs, generating local revenue and limiting adverse traffic impacts. In 2007, seeking to support development of a robust Los Angeles regional transit system—a goal that had been announced already by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaragosa—Mr. Zane, a former Mayor of Santa Monica, succeeded, with the help of the Annenberg Foundation, in bringing together a powerful coalition of major local stakeholders, including business, labor, environmental, and political leaders and in forming Move LA. In 2008, Mr. Zane and Move LA impressively led a successful effort to achieve the required two-thirds majority vote favoring a local tax measure that is expected to generate for regional transportation development in excess of \$40 billion over 30 years.

Mr. Zane served the public in many ways as Mayor, as a City Councilmember, as the director of the local Coalition for Clean Air, as a local teacher and now in his role with Move LA. His resolute commitment to public service has strengthened our community and for that we owe him our heartfelt gratitude.

I have personally known Mr. Zane for many years and am most pleased to join the Westside Urban Forum in honoring Move LA for its contributions to regional transportation and Mr. Zane for his legacy of successful community activism.