

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3292

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor of H.R. 3292.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

COMMEMORATING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, October was the 29th anniversary of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to encourage early detection, to support those who are battling this disease, to honor survivors, and to reflect on those who have lost their battles against this dreadful disease. Over 232,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer within this year, so events that increase awareness and education must be a top priority.

One of the many great events to take place in my home area of Miami-Dade County is the annual American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Irela Bague, a south Florida native, was one of the proud participants this year. Irela and her team, Chica Power, put together a wonderful support system to help survivors and to foster empowerment for all of those impacted by breast cancer. Another team participating in the event was Lopez Gov Law, put together by philanthropist Marile and Jorge Luis Lopez. They also helped to raise awareness about the benefits of early detection, and they promoted free information and services offered by the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Speaker, education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment are the important steps to preserving women's health. Every effort must be made to ensure that this disease is eradicated, and until a cure is found, it is crucial that we do all that we can to prevent this horrible disease from taking yet another woman's life.

ALIVE DAY

(Ms. DUCKWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today is my alive day.

On November 12, 2004, I nearly lost my life in a dusty field in Iraq. I would have died that day if it were not for my helicopter crew.

If it weren't for Chief Warrant Officer Dan Milberg, we would never have been able to land that aircraft. If it weren't for Specialist Kurt Hannemann, who, despite his own injuries, stood the perimeter to protect us from approaching enemy, I wouldn't be here today. If it

weren't for Sergeant Chris Fierce, who was also grievously wounded and pointing to the medics to take care of me before him, those medics would not have realized as quickly as they did that I was still alive. There was no way to egress if Chief Warrant Officer Pat Meunks didn't land his aircraft right behind ours to pull us out. Dan could not have carried me out if Sergeant Matt Backeus were not there to help all of us to his aircraft.

It is because of my buddies that I am here today. I owe it to them to make their sacrifices and their heroic efforts that day worth it. I owe it to them to live every day to the fullest and to stand up for our veterans and for all Americans.

It doesn't matter where you come from. It doesn't matter what god you pray to or whether you are a male or a female. What matters is the mission and that you will never, ever leave one of your own behind.

We have a lot of work to do here in Congress, but we must remember that our mission is to serve the American people. That means we must work together just like my crew. That's why I will always reach across the aisle to work with all of my colleagues in order to find solutions for our Nation. We don't often get chances like I did. I will never waste a second chance, this time that I have.

Dan, Chris, Kurt, Matt, and Pat, thank you for my life.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD FULFILL HIS PROMISE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the White House has been under pressure for weeks as millions of Americans have started receiving health insurance cancellation letters despite repeated assurances from the President that this would not be the case.

Earlier today, former President Bill Clinton weighed in on the debate. He stated the following:

I, personally, believe, even if it takes changing the law, the President should honor the commitment the Federal Government made to those people and let them keep what they got.

Last week, the President apologized, despite American families continuing to lose their coverage as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker, rather than apologize to the millions of Americans who are losing their coverage, the President should fulfill the promise that was made.

This week, the House will consider H.R. 3350, the Keep Your Health Plan Act, which will allow insurance companies to continue offering the plans that millions of consumers were happy with and would like to keep.

If the President is sincere in keeping his promise, the very least he could do is support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1915

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE HUGH WALKER

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Hugh Walker of Pleasanton, who recently announced he is retiring after 19 years of service.

Judge Walker has served much of the eastern portion of Alameda County, which I represent, since 1994. He was first appointed as a municipal court judge for the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin district by Governor Pete Wilson and was elevated to Superior Court judge for Alameda County in 1998.

For 19 years he has served in the Tri-Valley, and when I was a prosecutor he even kept me in line. Judge Walker is well known for being a tough but down-to-earth and compassionate judge and never shies away from a lighthearted moment in his courtroom. He is well respected by both his peers and by those who have argued cases before him.

He is very much a part of the community for which he helps ensure justice is served. He is a very familiar face in downtown Pleasanton and at local Rotary Club meetings.

He has dedicated a great amount of energy into helping bring a larger courthouse to the eastern portion of Alameda County. I want to thank Judge Walker for his decades of public service to the people of Alameda County and wish him the best of luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH PLAN ACT

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, President Obama promised the American people that if they like their current health care plan, they would be able to keep it. That promise is meaningless to the 4.8 million and counting Americans who have already been notified that they will lose their current health care plan because of ObamaCare.

Stacy Johnson Lindsey of Scott Depot, West Virginia, is one of those 4.8 million forced to choose a more expensive and new health insurance plan. Stacy writes:

I have no desire to have government-funded health care and refuse to be pushed into utilizing the marketplace. Will you please help us? I am worried what the future holds.

Barbara Zeiger of Lehigh, West Virginia, will be forced out of her current insurance plan that has only a \$250 deductible. When Barbara asked her insurer, she was told that her plan no longer would be offered because it does not include maternity and pediatric coverage. Barbara is 61 years old and widowed.

The Keep Your Health Plan Act will save Americans like Stacy and Barbara from the broken promises of ObamaCare and allow their current health care plans to be offered for another year.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill to keep the promise the President made to the American people.

TYPHOON HAIYAN

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because a sizable portion of my community is in mourning. In the aftermath of the typhoon that hit the Philippines on November 8, my community is in mourning and is looking for answers.

As you know, we have had more than 1,700 persons pronounced dead; 10,000 are projected to die; 9.7 million people have been affected; more than 23,000 homes and infrastructure have been damaged; 2.5 million will need immediate food assistance.

Mr. Speaker, while we are in mourning, I am grateful that the administration has sent the USS George Washington into the area. It will produce water. USAID has authorized \$10 million. There are other agencies and organizations, as well as countries, that are being beneficial and helpful.

I want to tonight announce that there is a lot more that will have to be done, and I want to do my part. I thank the administration for what is being done.

CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF TYPHOON HAIYAN

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest condolences to the people of the Philippines in the aftermath of what was possibly the strongest typhoon in recorded history to ever hit land. As many as 10,000 people are feared dead and 600,000 displaced.

As chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am committed to helping the people of the Philippines recover and rebuild. The U.S. is providing \$20 million in immediate humanitarian assistance. As we speak, the U.S. Navy and Marines are working hand in hand with their Filipino counterparts in the rescue and recovery process.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in the Philippines is dire. American assistance in post-disaster relief is often the difference between life and death. Even as we speak, the American people are opening their hearts and making contributions to the relief effort.

We stand with the people of the Philippines as they begin the long road to recovery. The United States and the

American people are by your side. Today, we are all Filipinos, and we share the unimaginable grief that many of you in the Philippines are feeling right now.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDINA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS TEAM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Edina High School Girls Tennis Team. Once again, this talented group of young ladies demonstrated extreme passion, intensity, and dedication in winning their 17th consecutive AA State Tennis Tournament this year.

The motivation and athletic commitment that the girls on Edina's Tennis Team showed throughout this season was outstanding. Together, the ladies of this team have truly exemplified what it means to be student athletes. I would like to commend coaches Steve Paulsen and Perry Forster for leading this team, and Edina's previous tennis teams as well, to this very honorable position.

A special congratulation also goes out to junior Caitlyn Merzbacher for placing first in singles for the State Tennis Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, the Edina Girls Tennis Team displayed a positive standard for all of their classmates and for our entire community. It is an honor to be able to represent and recognize such wonderful and outstanding student athletes, and I offer them congratulations.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, again, on the front of the Affordable Care Act we have yet another business—this one in northern California, in Paradise, California—called California Vocations.

This is a nonprofit group that helps people with developmental disabilities to find employment. This organization has had to drop for 90 employees its health care coverage because it cannot afford it under the Affordable Care Act.

This week, we will be taking up legislation to give people the opportunity, if they like their health insurance, to be able to keep it, as was promised by the President. We need to move on this measure in order to help the President to keep the promise that he said or implied, but more importantly, the promise to the American people that they have choice, that they have freedom in this country to make their own decisions, not have the heavyhanded government deciding for them something that doesn't work or they cannot afford.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, 435 Members of the House of Representatives spent the last 10 days back in their districts. I suspect, like me, they had a chance to meet with their constituents to talk about the issues of the day and to see America's real progress, the progress that is taking place in our communities.

I would like to share some of those experiences that I had over the last 10 days with the Members of this House because they are instructive about what we ought to be doing here in the House of Representatives.

Every person I talk to, probably more than 30 meetings, many of them public in nature, townhall meetings, meetings at manufacturing plants with the workers, meetings at the universities, all of those people had the same agenda. Frankly, it ought to be our agenda because it is America's agenda.

They want this economy to grow. They want this economy to provide the job opportunities that Americans must have. Those good hardworking American families, they want to go to work, they want to have a decent wage, and they want to be certain that when they are sick they have an affordable health care policy.

We hear a lot of rhetoric here about the Affordable Care Act and ObamaCare, but back home people are trying to figure out their insurance programs, just like they do every time at this time of year. Every year it is time to renew your insurance policy and people look at new policies. They put aside the old policy. They get a notice that their old policy, the cost has gone up or the coverage has changed.

Now they are in the same situation, but we have a name for it now. We call it ObamaCare. Americans always in the fall have a high level of confusion as they try to figure out what to do with their health care for the coming year.

At one meeting I attended this last week with a group of doctors and administrators, they said: This will work it out, this is no different than we have seen every year. We know that at the end of this process the health care insurance will go on and people will have coverage. Then they added: But this year, there will be far more people with health care coverage, and in our hospital there will not be as much uncompensated care, that is, people that don't have insurance. So they said: Just keep working at it, let this thing settle down, let it go forward because we know that in California millions of our citizens and our neighbors will finally have health care insurance.

But hey, this is a place of rhetoric, this is a place where we create problems like the new crisis that is going to come up in just 2½ months. Oh yeah,