

I would like to honor them. And I salute the entire community of Farmington, Minnesota, for helping with that noble cause.

HEALTH CARE AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, during this holiday season, it appears that all our fellow Americans are hearing is a sense of pessimism; but I rise to talk about the optimism of this Nation and the great strides that we have made, particularly as it relates to our seniors.

The Affordable Care Act has taken the brunt of everybody's criticism. My friends on the other side of the aisle are singing a broken record, not a Christmas carol.

It is important to note that seniors have benefited. The Affordable Care Act recognizes the financial burdens that seniors face. No group has been hit harder by soaring health care costs. But now, under the Affordable Care Act, seniors can have preventative care services without any copay, coinsurance, or deductible.

Services like wellness visits, cholesterol testing, and others, sing a good song, yet we sing a negative song to those who are lining the streets for comprehensive immigration reform. The families who have been fasting have been suffering.

Let's sing a good song for health care and do comprehensive immigration reform.

□ 1215

PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE LAWS

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, when the President picks and chooses which laws to enforce, it undermines the foundations of our democracy.

Yesterday, in the House Judiciary Committee, we held a hearing to examine the President's constitutional responsibility to "faithfully execute" the law. Our Founding Fathers formed the structure of our government specifically so that none of the three branches could become too powerful. If we ignore our system of checks and balances, our government will become unstable and chaotic.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, this President and his administration have abused their executive power. President Obama continues to violate his constitutional duty to enforce the laws and instead chooses when, where, and which laws to enforce. He has enforced laws and policies based on preferences, like making changes to our immigra-

tion system, our criminal code, and his signature health care law.

Mr. Speaker, neither this President, nor any President, should grant themselves extra-constitutional authority to change laws they don't like. If the President himself does not follow the law, it sets a dangerous example.

SNAP: CHILDREN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, my constituents have inspired me by writing in about the importance of food aid and the SNAP program.

All of us here in Congress have the luxury of knowing that we can provide our families with healthy food; but there are so many people in our country that will go this holiday without such a blessing, and, sadly, most of those in dire need are children. In fact, 70 percent of all households that depend on SNAP are families with children.

In my district, a 16-year-old girl named Maya was hospitalized last year for issues related to malnutrition. She had struggled in school and showed signs of depression. Maya's hospitalization triggered her father to apply for SNAP benefits. Having a more reliable source of food gave Maya the energy to improve her grades and help her family. She helped her family out by getting a part-time job.

As we debate the farm bill, let's remember that there are children like Maya. Let's work together to protect SNAP.

HONORING JIMMIE JOHNSON

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my fastest constituent, Jimmie Johnson, who recently won his sixth NASCAR Sprint Cup championship.

In a remarkable display of teamwork, consistency, and a burning desire to always improve, Jimmie Johnson won six NASCAR championships in the last 8 years.

More importantly, Jimmie is a champion off the track. Since 2006, the Jimmie Johnson Foundation has contributed more than \$5 million to charity, with a special focus on improving K-12 education in North Carolina, Oklahoma, and California. In Charlotte, Jimmie is a supporter of Project LIFT, a private-public partnership working to improve the graduation rate in some of Charlotte's toughest neighborhoods.

Thank you, Jimmie, for using your on-track success to make a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of children.

DENNIS DENBO AND OBAMACARE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the benefits of ObamaCare.

Dennis Denbo, a 63-year-old constituent of mine, spoke to our local newspaper, the Press-Enterprise, to share his story.

Mr. Denbo, who was laid off recently from his computer sales job, went to the Covered California Web site and found that he and his wife Jean will save \$300 a month on a plan comparable to what they have now.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Denbo wrote to my office to tell me personally about his experience and how deeply he believes in America's ability to achieve great things.

In his letter he said:

We are Americans. We can solve whatever issues or tactical challenges that come up in the implementation of a nationwide health care solution. We can make it efficient, cost-effective, accessible, and a valuable service for all Americans.

I couldn't agree more, Mr. Denbo.

The benefits of ObamaCare are real. This body should be concerned with finding ways to improve access to affordable health care instead of delaying and defunding.

ZEELAND WEST HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DIVISION 3 STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Zeeland West High School's football team on winning the 2013 Division 3 State championship on Saturday, November 30, at Ford Field in Detroit.

The Zeeland Dux rushed for over 440 yards during the game, resulting in a 34-27 win over DeWitt. Their 13-1 record this season is a testament to the players' dedication, hard work, and self-sacrifice. In fact, the program itself has become an example of hard work and leadership. This is the Dux's third State title since the program's inception only 9 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't also congratulate Dux Head Coach John Shillito and his coaching staff for a job well done with his players, as he leads them not only on the field, but off the field.

Again, congratulations to the Dux on their big win last Saturday.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the positive impact

the Affordable Care Act is having in my home State of California.

A woman by the name of Melanie wrote the following letter to the L.A. Times:

My daughter and I have been without health care for 3 years following my loss of employer-provided insurance. In that period, I have paid handsomely for those times when my mother-ministrations were not sufficient and I had to seek the care of a very expensive doctor. I've been waiting eagerly for ObamaCare for the two of us since the law was enacted in 2010.

Did I run into problems when I first tried to sign up in California? I did.

Did I persevere? I did.

Did I finally get through? I did.

In January, I'll be able to take care of a condition I've ignored for the last 2 years, and my college-age daughter will be covered as well. Although the subsidy certainly helps, I will be paying something for coverage we haven't had for years. To those who cry foul, I say "score."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't have said it better. The reality is that because of ObamaCare, millions of vulnerable Americans now "score."

IN MEMORY OF DR. PERRY INHOFE

(Mr. BRIDENSTINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated Thanksgiving. We gathered with family and friends to thank God for his provision, his goodness, and his mercy.

But for some families, this Thanksgiving was bittersweet. Such was the case for Senator JIM INHOFE's family. They lost their son, Perry, in a tragic aviation accident on November 10.

Dr. Perry Inhofe was a highly skilled surgeon associated with Central States Orthopedics in Tulsa. David Long, Central States' CEO, said:

Dr. Inhofe was known as a very caring and compassionate physician. He was the kind of doctor who made you feel you had his full attention and that your health was the most important thing to him.

Continuing an Inhofe family tradition, Perry loved flying with his children and teaching them about flying. From what I understand, he was a good pilot.

Dr. Inhofe is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two sons, Glade and Cole.

I wish to express condolences to the whole Inhofe family. I pray they will be comforted and strengthened by the fact that Perry was a believer in the living Christ, who said:

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

Amen.

DO NOT REPEAL OBAMACARE

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, now that the notorious problems with the ACA

Web site healthcare.gov appear to be largely behind us, it is important that we cut through the partisan noise and look at some facts.

One fact is that in 2 days—Sunday and Monday alone—almost 30,000 Americans have gone to healthcare.gov to sign up for health insurance. Many of these families are families with pre-existing conditions that would have no way to get health insurance other than healthcare.gov and the ACA.

In my own State of Connecticut, with less than 1 percent of the American population, 22,000 families have signed up for health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, from the President down, we were concerned by people losing their health care plans in the rather small individual market. But it is important for the American people to understand that when they hear the word "repeal," they need to understand that repeal means that the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands, the millions of Americans who will get insurance because of the ACA will lose it.

Millions of Americans will lose their new-found insurance if this word "repeal" ever becomes law. That is not right; and on that, I think we should agree.

CONGRATULATING CORPORAL MATTHEW HAMPTON

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Corporal Matthew Hampton, an outstanding citizen of our community and a true American patriot.

In recognition of his service to this country, Matthew was recently awarded the 28th Palmer Veterans Appreciation Award.

Following his graduation from Grundy County High School, Matthew volunteered for the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Iraq, where he served as a Huey and Cobra helicopter crew chief and gunner.

Corporal Hampton's exemplary service as a "devil dog" is reflected in the numerous commendations and military decorations he received, including the Naval Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and National Defense Medal.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition is a testament to the heroism and dedication to duty that marked Corporal Hampton's exemplary service in the United States Marine Corps. I, along with a grateful Nation, congratulate him on receiving the Palmer Veterans Appreciation Award and thank him for his outstanding service to our Nation.

ACA AND BREAST CANCER

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight how the Affordable Care Act is already helping thousands of breast cancer survivors and those with preexisting conditions.

In late 2007, I heard those terrible words, "You have breast cancer." I underwent seven surgeries, but in some ways, I was one of the fortunate ones because I had health insurance coverage.

I have spoken to women who have foregone mammograms and even cancer treatments because the cost was simply too great to bear. Now, the Affordable Care Act emphasizes prevention by making it possible for Americans to get screenings, like mammograms, without a copay.

It also finally ends the egregious practice of denying coverage to patients with preexisting conditions, like my south Florida constituent Carolyn Newman, a survivor who will save \$7,000 a year with an affordable plan, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. She can save even more by shopping on the exchange.

With the Affordable Care Act making it possible for more women to access preventive services and not be denied coverage, we can work to eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

□ 1230

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to tell the story of the Montez Family, who live in my congressional district in Colorado.

They live in Arvada, Colorado, and because of the Affordable Care Act, they will now be able to afford health insurance. This is a success story of the Affordable Care Act and of its improving access to quality, affordable health care.

Both Joaquin and Rosalee Montez are employed, but neither of their employers provides coverage to their employees. They have a daughter in college, a 13-year-old son, and a 4-year-old daughter. With rates ranging from \$450 to \$600 per month, purchasing private insurance was too expensive for the Montez Family, especially with three kids, a house payment, and a car payment. Due to a constrained budget, the only time the kids were receiving health care was when they were "really, really, really sick," and always at an urgent care center. One time after their daughter got E. coli, the Montez Family was stuck with a \$17,000 hospital bill.

Thanks to the help of a navigator, they were able to get insurance through the Affordable Care Act, which is a success for this Nation.

BUDGET

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)