

by the sirens' piercing sounds of war alert at 3:15 a.m. in Haifa, Israel's northern city, far away from Gaza or as proven rather close, and moving quickly with my mom, a ninety-two year old remarkably resilient Polish Holocaust survivor, to the best possible room in her apartment to await whatever might happen with our hearts pounding. Luckily the rocket was intercepted by an Iron Dome installation that the United States has gratefully financed.

No nation would have done less than Israel to fulfill a basic mandate of protecting one's population and all nations would have done more early on. Restrained by its legacy of Jewish and humanitarian values, ever conscious of the double standard applied to its conduct, Israel has exercised an admirable measure of caution to save lives even from the midst of a firing hostile territory controlled by Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization whose covenant unabashedly calls for Israel's destruction and criminally has used children, women and men as human shields; it shot 3500 rockets and also mortars from schools, hospitals, mosques, homes and U.N. facilities with the clear goal of indiscriminately killing and maiming Israelis.

When Hamas and the host of other Arab terrorist organizations will care more for their children than the death of its "enemy's" children, will there emerge new hope for the long-awaited to be transformed Middle East. When Israel's insistence on the sacredness of human life—all human life—will become the inheritance of the entire troubled region, replacing pagan human sacrifice, will the yearning of modern Israel and its biblical prophets for that essential though elusive Shalom, Salaam, Peace, reemerge as a potent force for the sake of all. How could Hamas, tragically and ironically elected into power by Gaza's misguided and long-suffering people, following Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza at an enormous cost, squander its donated material resources away from the declared purpose of creating a supportive and necessary infrastructure toward establishing a terrorizing war machine with attack tunnels reaching into Israel with a goal of surprising Israel someday with mortal death blows? We are duty-bound to remember that Iran supplied Hamas with the smuggled weaponry and that Hamas is but Iran's proxy, alerted by Iran's stubborn search for a nuclear capability that will make all the difference. Sadly Qatar is not an innocent bystander, offering Hamas vast financial support.

I was deeply touched by Israel's courageous people coming together in a heart-warming display of national unity in the face of a mighty and unique challenge, while maintaining its enviable democratic impulse of cherished freedom to express a variety of views that could not take place in Gaza. Israel is weeping for its heroic defenders as well as the innocent victims on the other side held hostage by an ideology alien to what we in the West will never willingly give up.

Make no mistake. Israel represents the American democratic heritage with common purpose and interest, in a part of the world disdaining it and in which Radical Islam increasingly makes disastrous inroads as the shameful slaughter in Syria and Iraq continues while self-righteous and callous Europe with its growing anti-Semitism fueled by Islamist forces looks aside, expecting the Israelis to be like past Jews who could not defend themselves and paid such a high price for it. Let all

Americans say with one voice for the sake of all that is sacred and sane in a triumphant message that dare not be misunderstood, "Never Again!"

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach.

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER FLINT FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they celebrate 70 years of dedication and service to children and families in Genesee County. Since 1944, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has provided a no-cost mentoring program to thousands of youth and families facing adversity.

To celebrate 70 years of service, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint will hold a Platinium Jubilee—Royal Gala. The anniversary celebration will honor the volunteers that have helped shape this institution throughout the past 70 years and highlight the future direction of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they provide life-changing relationships through mentorship. Chris Broussard, American sports analyst for ESPN will also join in the celebration as a celebrity guest.

For 70 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, one-to-one, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in communities across our great country. Their presence in our community is invaluable. Genesee County, as well as the entire State of Michigan, is better because of this agency.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint for 70 years of quality mentoring services, fulfilling their mission of creating relationships that change lives for the better, forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY HEALY AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Ms. Mary Healy, a valued community leader who recently passed away. Ms. Healy was the director and chief executive officer of the Sacramento Zoo as well as a leading advocate for engaging the community in the preservation and understanding of animals in their natural habitat. As her family, colleagues and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join

me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected figures.

Ms. Healy began her career in 1975 as a bird keeper at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, South Carolina. Following a stint at the San Antonio Zoo and Walt Disney World's Discovery Island in Orlando, Ms. Healy came to Sacramento in 1999. Under Ms. Healy's leadership, the Sacramento Zoo saw growth in attendance and improvements to its physical setting. During her tenure, a full-scale veterinary hospital was built and new habitats were constructed and old structures renovated for a number of animals including giraffes and North American river otters. She focused on improving quality of life for the animals and advancing the experience for zoo guests.

Ms. Healy's passion and commitment resonated in her work and will not be forgotten by the Sacramento community. Her dedication to advocating for animals is unmatched and she took pride in educating our youth. She knew each animal's name and background and was often found teaching zoo guests about the animal's unique features or the exhibit's purpose at the zoo.

In addition to her work in Sacramento, Ms. Healy was a well-respected board member and former chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and served on its accreditation commission. She was president of the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums and was one of nine international council members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Her vision to make Sacramento the best small zoo in America was highlighted in 2013, when she was recognized with a Women Who Mean Business Award by the Sacramento Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Healy's husband, Steve, and her colleagues, family and friends gather to celebrate her wonderful contributions to our community, I am honored to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary woman, Ms. Mary Healy.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act of 2014, a bill that sponsors say will permit a health insurance issuer that sold insurance coverage to employers who are mandated under the Affordable Care Act to provide insurance to their employees in 2013 to continue offering the same insurance in 2014.

I oppose H.R. 3522 for three reasons:

It does not obligate employers to provide insurance coverage for the essential health care services enumerated in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Provisions of the ACA that prevent discrimination based on age, pre-existing conditions and gender are not part of the plans allowed under this bill.

Finally, the bill is opposed by the Administration and will not become law.

The ACA limits the ability of insurers in the small group market to charge higher premiums based on age, preexisting health conditions and gender.

The H.R. 3522 creates exceptions to these important protections in the ACA for the next five years.

In addition, this bill allows insurers to charge small businesses higher insurance rates for coverage based on the age, gender and health status of their employees, which is prohibited by the ACA.

This will make working for small employers less attractive to workers, which can make the cost of labor higher as employers are forced to offer higher pay to attract workers while simultaneously paying higher rates for insurance.

H.R. 3522, will continue unnecessary uncertainty regarding the year-to-year cost of providing ACA mandated healthcare coverage to employees should a major health event occur or accident impact the health care cost of an employee.

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3522 because it threatens the health care security of hard working, middle class families.

Today, the nation is experiencing the lowest rate of health care price inflation in nearly 50 years.

We are also seeing a very slow growth in other measures of health costs, which have combined to dramatically slow the growth of small business premiums.

While health care costs are rising at low rates and choices for small businesses are improving through the Health Insurance Marketplace, this bill would be a major setback.

The Administration's transition program for non-ACA compliant plans to ACA compliant health insurance plans allows States to work to make sure that health plans remain affordable and compliant with the ACA.

We should make sure insurance plans offered to millions of small business workers do not reverse the progress made to extend quality, affordable coverage to millions of uninsured, hardworking, middle class families.

Before the ACA, ill people could only obtain high premium insurance that did not provide coverage for a pre-existing illness or medical condition.

Insurance companies could use annual caps on coverage that resulted in very high out-of-pocket costs to people who were paying for health insurance, but had no coverage for a medical condition.

The ACA brought relief to those with health insurance, those with pre-existing health conditions and the working poor where the Medicaid expansion was implemented.

Because of the health care law, for the first time, insurance companies in the individual and small group market are required to cover ten essentials, which include:

- Outpatient care;
- Emergency room visits;
- Treatment in the hospital for inpatient care;
- Care before and after child births;

- Mental health and substance use disorder services: behavioral health treatment, counseling, and psychotherapy;

- Prescription drugs;

- Services and devices to promote recovery from injuries, disabilities or chronic condition: physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, psychiatric rehabilitation, and much more;

Lab tests;

Preventive services such as counseling, screenings, and vaccines; and

Pediatric services that cover dental care and vision care for kids.

The Affordable Care Act is one of the largest expansions of general healthcare, mental health and substance abuse disorder coverage in a generation.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

13 million Americans received \$1.1 billion in rebates from their health insurance companies last year.

105 million Americans have free preventive services.

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services.

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage.

17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers.

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans.

6.3 million Seniors in the "donut hole" have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs.

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare, and

360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

STATISTICS ON TEXAS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

3.8 million Texas residents receive preventative care services.

7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance.

300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26.

5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare.

4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance.

In 2014, insurance companies will be banned from: discriminating against anyone with a preexisting condition, charging higher rates based on gender or health status, enforcing lifetime dollar limits, enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

Attempts to weaken or end the ACA are wrong. The unwillingness of the majority to make sure that those in our society with the greatest need health care coverage, but do not have the financial means to be denied access to healthcare are doing the nation a disservice.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3522.

CELEBRATING BRENNON MOBLEY,
JAMES RICHFIELD, AND J.D.
HARTWIG

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, changing the world is no small feat. Many feel the call, but not many set out, put feet to their prayers and dreams, and actually change the world for the better. Three collegiate men from Belmont University have spent the summer putting more than their good wishes into motion. I rise today to honor Brennon Mobley, James Rich-

field, and J.D. Hartwig as they work to complete their heroic cross-country cycling tour.

Cycling across the county is certainly a noble endeavor. Nobler still are the 147 million reasons these three men are offering up their summer with blood, sweat, tears, and bike tires. By teaming up with 147 Million Orphans, a nonprofit founding in 2009 by two Middle Tennessee mothers seeking to meet the critical needs of orphans, the three will raise money to build a school in Honduras as they cycle the 3,300 miles from Oceanside, Oregon to Washington, DC.

Whether participant, parent, friend, supporter, or community member, those who have offered their time, talents, and treasures to this incredible summer ride bear witness to the power of coming together, in the name of the Almighty, for a common good. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the loving-kindness of Brennon Mobley, James Richfield, and J.D. Hartwig as we all continue the sacred work of protecting and serving the least among us.

TRIBUTE TO LOU MUMFORD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a much beloved member of our community and a well-respected journalist, Lou Mumford, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Bend Tribune newspaper.

For the past 43 years, Lou has reported the news as it unfolded in Greater Michiana. He is an excellent writer with a trusted, familiar voice, gentle humor, and a strong sense of integrity. He was a true journalist's journalist, exemplifying the newspaper industry's gold standard.

During his many decades at work, Lou has seen it all, both good and bad. From covering everything from the high school football team to the courthouse; providing eyewitness accounts to presidential visits; to reporting on the grand national scene and sharing the stories of individuals living right within our community.

When Lou was covering local politics or breaking news out of Washington, you always knew what to expect. His questions were fair, unbiased, and intuitive. You were never going to get a free pass, but you would always be treated with the utmost courtesy and respect. It is impossible to not develop a deep professional respect and admiration for a man of Lou's character. And despite our unbridgeable differences—he roots for the White Sox and I am a dyed-in-the-wool Cubs fan—I am grateful for the warm personal rapport we developed over the years.

Lou has a knack for reading the political field—the history, personalities, issues, and all their nuances—because he understands people and what makes them tick. He also empathizes and brings the reader along with him on an emotional journey. This is where Lou showed his true strengths.

His columns shared the lives of ordinary folks in our own community, touching upon the full range of human emotions. His stories about everyday lives could warm the heart, bring a smile to our face, or a tear to our eye.