

deep in the city of Marks. Eleven years later, he is still on the grill and Smokehouse is still going strong.

Paul is now engaged to Stacy Frost who helps him run Smokehouse. Paul is destined to continue running his business and serving great food to those who eat at and support The Smokehouse Grill. Paul has a bright future that is continuing to blossom on a path to greatness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Smokehouse Grill for serving our great community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BUSTER  
JOHNSON

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, Today I congratulate Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson on becoming president of the Arizona Association of Counties (AACO). Mr. Johnson is the first elected official from Mohave County to serve as the AAAC's president. He has already proven his dedication to the people of Mohave County as a leading Mohave County Supervisor, and I have no doubt that his leadership will serve the AAAC and all people of Arizona well.

The AAAC is an important organization in Arizona. As the only organization that represents all of Arizona's 15 counties and their officials, its purpose is to promote issues important to our counties on the state and federal levels.

Congratulations to Mr. Johnson and the AAAC. I wish them much success in serving Arizona.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO  
ALLOW AGENCIES TO FIGHT  
FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN  
THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two technical corrections to the Affordable Care Act. These two bills provide minor technical corrections to avoid confusion and to ensure that regulators can effectively do their work in combatting fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program. We need to extend the solvency of the Medicare program and to do so, we must ensure that the regulatory agencies are empowered to fully enforce provision to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program.

The first bill would allow certain physician extenders, including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists, to document that the face-to-face encounter required by the Affordable Care Act has occurred. The Affordable Care Act currently requires that a physician document that a face-to-face encounter has occurred, even though the law allows the face-to-face encounter to be performed by a physician extender. The face-to-face encounter is an important

tool to combat fraud and abuse in the durable medical equipment context, and it is important to recognize the role that physician extenders play in many instances.

The second bill would correct an error in the ACA that was carried over from an underlying law, which prevents regulators from stopping waste, fraud, and abuse. A provision in the Affordable Care Act intended to allow regulators additional discretion to impose a surety bond on home health agencies based on the volume of payments they received from the Medicare program. However, due to a drafting error in the underlying law that was inadvertently perpetuated in the Affordable Care Act, the bond that regulators can require from home health agencies is essentially capped at \$50,000. For large providers, this amount is too low a sum to have a meaningful impact and directly contradicts Congress' intention to require a higher bond from home health agencies that receive substantial Medicare payments.

We must continue our efforts to extend the solvency of the Medicare program. Fighting fraud is a nonpartisan issue. I urge my colleagues to support these technical correction provisions.

WREN'S NEST HOUSE MUSEUM

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Wren's Nest House Museum, a community institution and National Historic Landmark is one of Atlanta's most engaging historic sites, bringing education and joy to untold numbers of visitors including many from the 4th Congressional District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the Wren's Nest is open to the public year-round sharing the African American storytelling tradition and educating visitors about the life and work of Joel Chandler Harris, one of Georgia's most celebrated journalists and literary figures; and

Whereas, the Wren's Nest is filled with many original artifacts and furnishings that belonged to the Harris family and as a museum is one of the finest examples of 19th century Victorian-era middle class lifestyles in the United States; and

Whereas, in recent years the museum has completed several accurate historic restorations of the property with an eye toward authenticity; and

Whereas, the Wren's Nest was the boyhood home of Julian, a Harris son and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who in the 1920's courageously fought the Ku Klux Klan in the editorial pages of his newspaper; and

Whereas, the museum has extended its community outreach by encouraging young writers through the Wren's Nest Scribes Program which mentors 5th, 6th and 7th graders to hone their writing skills and become published authors; and

Imhotep, Curtis Richardson, Josie Bailey and Mama Kofu who interpret and present the more than 180 African folktales preserved by Joel Chandler Harris; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to join in the celebration and recognize this outstanding museum and community institution that is uniquely Georgia; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 8, 2013 as Wren's Nest House Museum Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2013.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM  
"KINGFISH" BYRD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this month is August and all this month I rise to honor black farmers. So today, I rise to honor the late Mr. William Byrd of Sunflower County, MS, five miles east of Shaw on Highway 442. He earned the name of Kingfish not because people thought he was a joke but because he became a well-known, respected and honest black business man with money—time frame 1920s to his death.

Mr. Byrd did not get a chance to go to school and get a full first through twelfth grade education, no, in fact, he acquired his education by the means of hands-on hard work, life experiences, and the "Blue Back Webster." Like many laboring migrant black families he moved with his father, mother, and siblings around until finally settling in the Mississippi Delta. The many moves with his family was because his dad, Mr. Shep Byrd, was strong willed on not settling his life as a sharecropper but, rather self-employed and own land.

So, this transmission of self-employment was passed on to Mr. William Byrd, who in turn passed it on to his children, Lonnie "LC" Byrd, Melvin "Jimbo" Whiting, Velma "Red" Whiting, Thelma "Black" Whiting, and Thomas "TL" W. Byrd. His son, Thomas recalls his dad, often saying, "I'll even buy swamp land and make something out of it, if I just get the chance to buy it."

Little by little Mr. William Byrd would work and save his money never forgetting his dream to buy land. He even found a piece of land he wanted to buy and yes, it was under water and thought to be useless. A useless piece of land back then was called "deadening" land because it was swap area and not considered fertile for anything. He would often go there and gaze and dream, and cut down trees wisely clearing the land but telling all those who asked him, "What are you doing. . .?" he would say, "I'm cutting wood for burning."

Many times, the white men would threaten his life and run him home but he kept going back into the "deadening" until eventually he had saved enough money to buy the first of approximately 700 acres of land he would own over the course of his entire life.

The journey of this Black Farmer is that by 1940 he was well established with 20 houses or more on his land for all his workers,

both black and white, although once word got out that white folks were willing to work for him the other whites would run them off.

You see, Mr. Byrd believed in treating people the way he wanted to be treated, regardless of color. By 1955, he had earned enough money and respect as a black business man that he was able to purchase at least ten homes and two restaurants in Shaw, often paying cash each time he made a purchase. By this time, "money was no problem" as his son remembered his Dad saying. In fact, the first house he purchased was a big beautiful brick house which was the home of Mr. Thomas McEvans.

Mr. McEvans was another rich man in Shaw; he owned a clothing store, tailoring shop, and he took the lead in building the 1st colored school in Shaw, and a member of the Board of Trustees among other influences he held in Shaw. In 1959, part of his dream to build a community for blacks began to materialize. Mr. Byrd purchased a building ten miles west of Shaw on Highway 448 and had it moved to its current location of Hwy 442, five miles east of Shaw. That building became a focal point of Byrd's community. He remodeled the building turning it into "Byrd Grocery," and later he added on to the building a restaurant and gas station, changing the name to "Byrd Grocery and Service Station." Byrd's community also had two baseball fields.

When Black farmers were losing their farms in the 1960s for various reasons, Mr. Byrd was never affected or worried because he knew he had planned wisely. Long before automation really took over, he was already using tractors to do the work on the farm, getting away from the mule. But when automation fully came into use, his son, Thomas recalls the day his Dad went to the John Deere place and purchased a brand new top of the line, "John Deere" cotton picker. And because he was able to pay \$25,000 cash for the John Deere, the white salesman surely sold it to him because of the money but after that he refused to have anything else to do with him because it was unheard of and certainly shocking that Mr. Byrd, a black man, was in possession of that amount of cash and no one really knew. You see, his success rested in his belief to "never spend more than you make, keep folks out of your business, and don't be extravagant because a fool and his money will soon part," said, his son, Thomas Lee.

In 1975, Mr. Byrd due to health problems turned the family farm over to his oldest son, Lonnie "LC" Byrd, who died December 17, 1999. Mr. William "Kingfish" Byrd died in July 1980 and is buried in the Strangers Home Cemetery in Shaw, MS beside his wife, Daisy Byrd, who died in August 1981. Thomas Lee recalls his father's last words to him, "Son, I told LC and I'm telling you never sell the farm. I built this for all my children."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, Mr. William "Kingfish" Byrd, a black farmer from the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
ACADEMY NOMINEES FROM THE  
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the young men and women from the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania who have been nominated to attend a service academy. These men and women will honor a commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation. They have been nominated because they have displayed character traits such as leadership, service and dedication both inside and outside the classroom. I am confident that their parents and teachers have prepared them well for this world-class educational opportunity and extraordinary service to their nation.

The following individuals have been nominated for academy appointment:

Evan Allen, Valley Forge Military Academy, United States Naval Academy; Zachary Assenmacher, Haverford High School, United States Naval Academy; Bret Beebe, Twin Valley High School, United States Naval Academy; Troy Bergwall, Bayard Rustin High School, United States Naval Academy; Nicholas Bologa, Pequea Valley High School, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Matthew Brecht, LaSalle College High School, United States Military Academy; Steven Bushold, LaSalle College High School, United States Military Academy; Julia Clements, Downingtown High School, United States Naval Academy; Cole Drahus, Twin Valley High School, United States Naval Academy; Jonas Fiant, Governor Mifflin High School, United States Air Force Academy; Daniel Geibler, Ridley High School, United States Military Academy; Chasan Hall, Coatesville Senior High School, United States Air Force Academy; William Higgins, Penncrest High School, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Phillip Ianozi, Springfield Township High School, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Matthew Jones, Malvern Preparatory School, United States Naval Academy; George Keating, North Penn High School, United States Naval Academy; Ethan Klabunde, Unionville High School, United States Naval Academy; Heather Laudermilch, Westtown School, United States Air Force Academy; Justin Lee, Upper Dublin High School, United States Military Academy; Kiersten Martin, Cardinal O'Hara High School, United States Naval Academy; Catherine McCarthy, Upper Darby High School, United States Naval Academy; Jacob McCubbins, Methacton High School, United States Air Force Academy; James McWilliams, Haverford Senior High School, United States Military Academy; Ross Obenschein, Twin Valley High School, United States Air Force Academy; Christopher Paolantonio, St. Joseph's Preparatory School, United States Naval Academy; Matthew Prestia, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, United States Naval Academy; Charles Rossino, Haverford High School, United States Naval Academy; Thaddeus Schlamb, Downingtown West High School, United States Naval Academy; Andrew Schutta, LaSalle College High School, United

States Naval Academy; Zachary Smith, Cardinal O'Hara High School, United States Naval Academy; Olivia Tierney, Villa Maria Academy, United States Naval Academy; George Ulrich, LaSalle College High School, United States Naval Academy; Madeleine Wawrzyniak, Hatboro-Horsham Senior High School, United States Air Force Academy; Kyle Werner, Kennett High School, United States Military Academy; Dalton Wolfe, Oxford Area High School, United States Naval Academy.

Again, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all of these outstanding nominees. I wish them nothing but the best in all their endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT CHRIS  
BOHLER

**HON. MIKE MCINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Chris Bohler of Willow Spring, North Carolina, who gave his life while defending our Nation on December 17, 2013, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Bohler was one of six U.S. servicemembers killed when a helicopter crashed in Zabul Province, Afghanistan. He shall be remembered by all those whose lives he touched as the finest example of altruism, integrity, and patriotism. His life and his sacrifice merit our utmost respect and gratitude.

Chris came from a long line of soldiers. His great-grandfather served in Europe during World War I. One of his grandfathers enlisted in the Army during World War II, and a great-uncle enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War. His father also served in the Army.

Chris graduated from South Johnston High School in Four Oaks in 2003 and went on to attend Johnston Community College, where he was admired as a man with high aspirations and the tenacity to achieve his goals. Eager to protect his country, he joined the Army in 2007, and was assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. Chris was a humble hero that lived his life the best way he knew how—by serving others.

Chris was serving our country dutifully when his life was taken. He will be missed by his family and friends. He was the son of Deborah and Pete Bohler and the oldest of three children. Although he is now gone, his courage will continue to be an inspiration to us all. He shall be remembered as the finest example of bravery, honor, and public service. May God comfort his family, and may we always remember the life of Sergeant Chris Bohler.

WELCOME BABY VALENTINA  
LUCILLE DAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my Chief of Staff, Jonathan Day, and his wife Muffy, who serves as Chief of Staff for Congressman