

and created many inaugural events, including ArtSparkle for the Indianapolis Art Center, the Tribute for the Indiana State Museum, and REV to benefit Methodist Health Foundation.

She also had extensive board participation, serving on the boards of the Indianapolis Art Center, Indiana State Museum, Championship Auto Racing Auxiliary, The National Art Museum of Sports, The Oaks Academy, and Ballet Internationale, to name a few. Her other affiliations include the Governor's Residence Commission, St. Margaret's Hospital Guild, American Cancer Society Guild, Presidents Roundtable, Indiana Children's Wish Fund's Ball and Spotlight, and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. She was cause-oriented and loved a challenge; give her a goal and she was a fundraising machine. But most of all, she always had fun—and made sure everyone else did, too.

Judy was an innovator and the Hoosier community was her beneficiary. She brought so much good to the City of Indianapolis, and her hard work did not go unnoticed. After she completed her Junior League of Indianapolis Presidency Mayor Bart Peterson named June 4, 2003 as Judy Warren Day in the City of Indianapolis. She also received Governor Daniels' Distinguished Hoosier Award in 2006 and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard's Community Achievement Award in 2010.

Judy was an embodiment of all that is kind and generous. Judy is and always will be an inspiration to me. Her grace, bravery, and spirit will live on through those whose lives she touched. She is survived by her husband, Brick; son, Clay, and his wife Stasha; her mother, Vera; and her beloved grandchildren, Katie and Ethan. She is also survived by her stepson, Ryan, and his wife, Elizabeth; and their children, Elijah Brick (E.B.), Martha Claire and George Taylor Warren. Judy Warren is an example of a great American woman who throughout her lifetime served her family, her friends, and community with passion and love.

H.R. 2999, THE FAIR VA
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 2999, the Fair VA Accountability Act, legislation that will bring real accountability to the VA while maintaining constitutional due process protections for civil service employees.

Last year, we were horrified to learn of widespread mismanagement at the VA. We all felt outraged that VA employees whose actions may have harmed veterans remained in their jobs or sat at home for months on paid administrative leave. There have been other bills introduced that seek to bring greater flexibility to the VA to remove problem employees, but I believe that many do this by destroying the bedrock principles of our civil service, limiting due process to an extent that runs counter to the constitutional protections we enjoy. I think these bills have another failing—they likely would result in outcomes far different than their sponsors and proponents intend. By violating the due process rights of our

federal employees, these bills could very well ensure that if followed, VA may never be able to effectively remove bad employees when a court finds them unconstitutional.

The Fair VA Accountability Act increases accountability by allowing VA to immediately suspend without pay any employee whose misconduct poses a direct threat to veterans' health and safety. VA currently has the authority to fire employees with adequate pre-termination notice—usually 30 days. I agree that VA needs to do a better job of utilizing this authority. But the only realistic reason a VA employee should be fired on the spot would be if his or her conduct threatened veterans' health and safety.

I believe my bill provides the proper balance between the needs of the VA and the rights of VA employees. I also believe it provides sufficient due process rights to meet constitutional requirements and provide accused employees with a fair chance to tell their side of the story. Keep in mind that over 30 percent of VA employees are veterans themselves—the largest percentage of veteran employees among civilian agencies. I am proud to promote a policy that protects these employees' constitutional right to due process before losing their federal job.

In addition to the immediate removal provision, my bill increases accountability at the VA by addressing the “revolving door” problem, prohibiting senior VA executives from receiving VA contracts for at least a year after they leave the VA. It also limits the use of paid administrative leave to 14 days, to ensure employees don't continue to draw paychecks while sitting at home for months.

Finally, the Fair VA Accountability Act protects whistleblowers by requiring mandatory back-pay for any employee who proves that dismissal was a result of whistleblower retaliation. My bill also requires the IG to report on the percentage of employees fired who claimed whistleblower protections, and retains existing Title 5 protections for VA employees.

As stated in a letter of support by the American Federation of Government Employees, this language establishes “highly effective mechanisms for increasing VA accountability while preserving the due process rights of front-line employees so that they can still make lifesaving disclosures about patient harm and other mismanagement without the fear of immediate job loss as at-will employees.”

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE OLDE FORGE-SURREY
SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Olde Forge-Surrey Square on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Fairfax County and the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, the Olde Forge-Surrey Square subdivision is set in a beautiful location, surrounded by large parks and streams. The residents take great pride in their community and are willing and eager participants in the community's civic association.

The Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association is dedicated to promoting a high quality

of life for all of the residents. There is an active Neighborhood Watch program, which helps to ensure the area remains safe and that neighbors stay connected. The Brandywine Pool is a local gathering place for all, and there are frequent barbecues and other community events. Recently the civic association took on a large project to renovate its playground. Through the generous contributions of the residents, as well as support of the local business community, the civic association was able to raise enough money to qualify for a grant from Fairfax County for a complete playground renovation.

As the former president of my own civic association, I understand that when residents invest their time, care, and energies in their communities, it benefits all. Fairfax County is considered one of the best places in the nation in which to work, live, and raise a family, largely because of the willingness of so many to become actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association on its 50th anniversary and in thanking all of the residents for their tireless efforts and dedication to the community and region.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN REECE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Reece of Osceola, Iowa, on receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

This program, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes exemplary teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of math and science. Each award recipient will be receiving a certificate signed by the President, along with a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Each recipient will travel to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony at a later date.

Brian has been teaching mathematics for the past 19 years. Nine of those years have been spent at Central Academy, a public high school in Des Moines listed in the top one percent of educational programs by the College Board. He has taught in a number of Iowa school districts, as well as at the Des Moines Area Community College. Brian received his B.A. in Mathematics from Central College in Pella, Iowa, and furthered his mathematics education with a Master's of School Mathematics from Iowa State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Brian Reece who display dedication and pride in developing Iowa's next generation. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Brian for receiving this prestigious award and wishing him nothing but success in the future.

WELCOMING CHARLOTTE BETH
STONE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, it is my pleasure to announce the birth of Charlotte Beth Stone on June 3, 2015 at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, VA.

Charlotte is the daughter of Kevan Stone, my Special Projects Director, and Alexis Rice. Friends since High School in West Palm Beach, Florida, Alexis and Kevan married years later in Washington, D.C. at the historic Willard Hotel in May of 2014.

On this happy occasion, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our warmest congratulations and wishes to the Stone and Rice families for continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on Friday, July 10 as I was attending the memorial services of a dear friend in my congressional district.

Had I been present, I would have cast my vote in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, even though I am disappointed that the Republican Majority included last minute and unnecessary policy riders. I am cosponsor of the underlying bill which would encourage biomedical innovation and the development of new treatments and cures (Roll Call #433).

I would have also cast my vote in support of the amendment introduced by Representatives BARBARA LEE, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and YVETTE CLARKE to H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act. This amendment would remove harmful policy riders that aim to undermine women's access to reproductive health services from this otherwise noncontroversial, bipartisan effort. As a longtime supporter of a woman's right to access comprehensive reproductive healthcare, I oppose the inclusion of these unnecessary policy riders in this important bill (Roll Call #432).

I would have cast my vote in opposition to the Brat/McClintock/Garrett/Stutzman/Perry Amendment to H.R. 6, which would have turned the NIH and Cures Innovation Fund into a discretionary spending program, leading to immense uncertainty which would undercut the Fund's effectiveness and NIH's ability to maximize its work (Roll Call #431).

CONGRATULATING MARY AGEE ON
HER RETIREMENT FROM NORTH-
EAST VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Agee of Fairfax, Virginia

on her retirement after 43 years at Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS).

Since its founding by community volunteers in 1924, NVFS has addressed the growing needs of communities throughout our region. NVFS works to improve the lives of its clients through a variety of programs in five mission initiatives: housing, child and family enrichment, health access, emergency assistance, and workforce development.

Ms. Agee began her career with the organization as a Family Counselor in 1972 and since 1988 has served as Executive Director and then Chief Executive Officer. Four decades of service to our community cannot be fairly summarized in one statement, but just a few examples illustrate the tremendous impact Ms. Agee's efforts have had on the lives of Northern Virginia families.

When she was named Deputy Director in 1978, NVFS had 11 staff, five of whom were full-time, and a budget of \$187,000. Today, the nonprofit organization has 350 employees, approximately 3,600 volunteers, an operating budget of \$32 million and offices in Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties, as well as the cities of Alexandria, Manassas and Manassas Park. NVFS is now the largest private, nonprofit human service organization in Northern Virginia. Each year, nearly 34,000 individuals and families turn to NVFS to find housing and emergency services, early childhood programs, health & mental health services, workforce development programs, legal assistance, anti-hunger programs, and intervention and prevention programs.

Additionally, NVFS has played a role in stabilizing families affected by national crises. After the tragedy of 9/11, NVFS led the Survivors' Fund Project, providing direct assistance and long-term case management services to local victims, their families, and first responders. Ms. Agee considers this her proudest moment. In partnership with the Red Cross, NVFS led the Katrina Project for evacuees from New Orleans who relocated to our region. The success of this first-ever collaboration led the Red Cross to establish similar contracts across the nation.

Through Ms. Agee, NVFS has earned a reputation as a leader in the community by supporting community partnerships, taking a leadership role in multi-agency service delivery for clients, and working collaboratively with other human services agencies on advocacy issues. On an individual level, Ms. Agee has served as an inspiration and mentor to many in the human services community. She carefully works with colleagues to develop their strengths and to nurture relationships that benefit the community and people in need, rather than any particular organization. I had the great pleasure of collaborating with Ms. Agee during my 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Her leadership was invaluable when the County launched homeless prevention and affordable housing initiatives during my tenure as Chairman, and she, along with the entire team at NVFS, was an invaluable partner for the County's many human service programs to assist our neighbors most in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mary Agee for a lifetime of service to our community and in congratulating her on her retirement. When I was Chairman of the County Board, we often joked when retirement announcements like this were made that we

should pass an ordinance not allowing such talented and dedicated people to leave public or community service, and I certainly wish that was the case here. I wish Mary and her family all the best in this next chapter of her life.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, on a personal level, I have family members who have suffered with Parkinson's—I witness this debilitating disease through them. It is hard to see. Few things in America are truly ubiquitous—diseases, sadly, are one of those things.

In addition to the struggle chronic and rare disease patients face, physicians, researchers, clinicians, and medical device companies (among others) deal with an outdated and overly burdensome regulatory structure. These regulations stifle the development of new cures and treatments, whether they are drugs, biologics, or devices.

Given the reality, we have to ask: how can we get cures and treatments to the people who desperately need them?

That is the question the 21st Century Cures Initiative was created to answer. The 21st Century Cures Initiative is a bipartisan undertaking by members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to help our healthcare innovation infrastructure thrive and deliver more hope for all patients. This is a tremendous undertaking, and is much easier said than done.

It is about finding new ways to drive innovation. In addition to adequate funding and resources, we need to think critically about structural changes to streamline and modernize our health care system. We need to rethink what we have been doing and how we are doing it for the 21st Century.

This is what 21st Century Cures Initiative is giving us: an opportunity to address some of the structural barriers to new cures and promote new ways to incentivize developments. The 21st Century Cures Initiative has examined and seeks to accelerate the complete cycle of cures—from discovery to development to delivery and back again to discovery. This has resulted in the 21st Century Cures Act—a culmination of over a year's worth of engaging with patients, researchers, physicians, government, and private entities.

This year included numerous hearings and roundtables in Washington D.C. As legislators, we worked tirelessly to engage all stakeholders from across the spectrum. The only way we can answer the question—how do we get better cures and treatments?—is to work with everyone involved in the American health care system.

I am proud that I was able to have several provisions that were included in the final version of the Cures Act. These provisions will help to change the lives of patients in small to larger ways. I want to take a moment and highlight some of the provisions and some of the people that helped shape the policy.