

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL RICK HARNEY, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Colonel Rick Harney, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. Throughout his 37 year career, Col. Harney has selflessly served our country and community; namely, during the time he spent as Director of the United States Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) at the Carlisle Barracks, which I am honored to represent. USAHEC is a tremendous institution within my congressional district charged with educating members of our Armed Forces and honoring soldiers—past and present.

Col. Harney enlisted in the Army in August of 1978. In 1987, after matriculating from the United States Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia as a Distinguished Military Graduate, he received his commission as a Field Artillery Lieutenant. He has undertaken many notable assignments, including Assistant Commandant and Chief at the United States Army Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Virginia, and Commander of the Defense Distribution Center at the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama. Such roles have enabled Col. Harney to positively influence his colleagues, as well as the future strategic leaders of our military.

A Magna Cum Laude graduate from Hawaii Pacific University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, he also holds an impressive number of advanced degrees, including a Master of Business Administration from Webster University, a Master of Military Arts and Science from the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College. In addition to his academic success, Col. Harney has received an extensive amount of awards and decorations. These include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Meritorious Service Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Superior Unit Award, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Parachute Rigger Badge. Such accolades are indicative of the high caliber of his dedicated service to our nation.

On July 7th, 2014, Col. Harney assumed duties as the Director of the USAHEC at the Carlisle Barracks in my congressional district. As an instructor and educator, Col. Harney has significantly improved the experiences of his fellow instructors and students. The initiatives and programs he has implemented have shaped the lives of the future leaders of our military, and have enhanced the effectiveness of the United States Army War College. Even though he will no longer be present at USAHEC on a day-to-day basis, his legacy will inevitably carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to congratulate Col. Harney on the culmination of a distin-

guished, 37 year career in the United States Army. I hope that he will celebrate the occasion in the company of his wife, Leslie, his children, Dominick, Aerin, Marc, and Ashley, and his grandchildren, Izumi, Eugene, Marc, Marvelo, Mecca, Ayrielle, and Ash'kelon. I wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life.

IN HONOR OF EMMA HARRIS ARMSTRONG

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Emma Harris Armstrong. Throughout her 99 years, Mrs. Armstrong has experienced important moments in history and has also continuously striven to improve the lives of her family, friends, and community.

Mrs. Armstrong's hardworking and independent attitude grew out of her childhood and subsequent life experiences. Growing up as the third child of twelve siblings, she, like her siblings, helped with household chores and sharecropping, while worshipping at the Mount Olive Baptist Church and attending school. At the Brunswick Courthouse in Georgia, Emma Harris Armstrong married John "Jackie" Armstrong. During their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong traveled across the United States to accommodate Mr. Armstrong's military career. During and after World War II, Mrs. Armstrong resided in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mrs. Armstrong often passed the time playing tennis with other Army wives, eventually becoming quite good at the sport. Through her and her husband's travels, Mrs. Armstrong cultivated a love for travel and the beautiful sites of this country.

Mrs. Armstrong has seen an incredible amount of change during her lifetime. During her life, Mrs. Armstrong has seen the devastating effects of the Great Depression, the desperate times of World War II, and the landing of the first man on the moon. Mrs. Armstrong lived through the painful effects of discrimination, however, despite everything, she always approached the evils of segregation with love in her heart. Through her independence and strong will, Mrs. Armstrong raised two children in the midst of these turbulent times while still finding time to be actively involved in her church, the community, and politics. Mrs. Armstrong worked on the Senate campaigns for both Senator George McGovern and Senator Tim Johnson.

On most days, Mrs. Armstrong can be found attending church activities, spending time with family, and devoting her time to the community. Throughout her years, Mrs. Armstrong has always treated all her family, friends, and visitors with graciousness and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible perseverance and steadfastness of this woman. Mrs. Emma Harris Armstrong is a great lady whose love and dedication inspires numerous people around her. I ask my colleagues to join me in venerating this distinguished individual.

HONORING SHARON P. PEARCE, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sharon P. Pearce, CRNA, MSN, of Lexington, North Carolina. Ms. Pearce's term as president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) will soon come to an end.

Throughout her presidency at the AANA, Ms. Pearce has been a strong advocate for patient safety and the practice of nurse anesthesia. She has worked tirelessly to advance policies that modernize the industry and meet the unique needs of patients. Ms. Pearce has also been a vocal advocate for veterans' access to quality healthcare.

Ms. Pearce has served as a CRNA for more than 20 years and has made great contributions to the healthcare system in North Carolina. She has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to professional development having received her Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia from Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Davidson County Community College.

Ms. Pearce has been an active member of numerous AANA committees and has previously served in AANA leadership positions including President-Elect, Vice President, and Region 2 Director. She has even served as President of the North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Ms. Pearce produced the AANA Public Relations award winning video, "The Best Kept Secret in Healthcare," and is nationally recognized as a distinguished speaker on anesthesia topics.

Equally as impressive to her leadership in her official capacity as a CRNA has been her involvement in philanthropic endeavors. Among other charitable acts, Ms. Pearce has served on the board of directors for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, where she started and led a "Walk to Cure Diabetes" that raised nearly \$500,000 for research.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Sharon P. Pearce, CRNA, MSN, for her notable career and her esteemed service as the most recent president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

A SACRED TRUST: CELEBRATING MEDICARE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity today to mark the 50th anniversary of Medicare and to express my strong support for the programs that provide health coverage for older Americans.

Fifty years ago, our country made a commitment to our seniors. A commitment that said

if you worked hard and paid into the system you would have access to quality healthcare in retirement. To this day, Medicare continues to provide health insurance coverage for millions of Americans age 65 and older, and adults with permanent disabilities. Medicare, along with Social Security, is a sacred trust that I have consistently fought to preserve and one that we must continue to protect for the 54 million Americans enrolled in Medicare today—and those who will enroll throughout our nation's tomorrows.

Amended and improved throughout the years, Medicare has come to play a key role in providing health coverage to millions of Americans. The Social Security Amendments of 1965, established Medicaid to ensure low-income families have access to healthcare; Social Security Amendments of 1972, extended Medicare eligibility to individuals under age 65 with long-term disabilities; then later the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2006, established the Medicare Advantage program and a new landmark prescription drug benefit known as Medicare Part D.

In addition to large scale changes to the program, I have supported and worked on policies that address specific aspects of Medicare to both raise the quality of life for beneficiaries while also saving the program money in the long run. For example, I authored legislation that was signed into law (PL 100-203) to provide Medicare coverage for therapeutic shoes for seniors with severe diabetic foot disease. At the time, Medicare covered costly amputations—which an estimated 25,600 seniors received annually—but not the therapeutic shoes that would prevent the need for those amputations. The American Diabetes Association estimated that my bill would save Medicare over \$100 million in one year alone, while the affordable and available foot care would spare seniors the trauma of an amputation.

And my work to sustain and protect the program continues. Earlier this year I was pleased to lend my support to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (PL: 114-10) which finally repealed the flawed SGR—the statutory method for determining the annual update to the Medicare physician fee schedule. Previous temporary patches to the SGR were unsustainable and unproductive, leaving seniors questioning if they could visit their own doctors if the so-called patches were not extended.

A final repeal of the SGR modernizes the formula for determining Medicare reimbursements and will help the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid transition to a new system intended to incentivize quality of care and overall health improvements. This law allows seniors to retain access to quality healthcare, establishes predictability for the doctors who treat Medicare beneficiaries, and continues to give seniors the security and confidence they need when making healthcare decisions.

With that work successfully accomplished, we can and must do even more to strengthen Medicare and ensure the healthcare needs of all seniors are met, now and into the future.

Accordingly, yesterday, I introduced the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Innovation Act. My new bill, introduced with a group of bipartisan cosponsors—including the lead Democratic cosponsor Rep. EARL BLUMENAUER, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health Chairman

KEVIN BRADY and Ranking Member JIM MCDERMOTT—will allow CMS to test models that bring PACE's effective care plans to more seniors as well as individuals with disabilities.

By way of background, PACE is an effective, integrated and community-based program that works to raise quality of life of senior citizens, while keeping them in their homes and supporting their independence. It delivers the entire range of medical and long-term services including: medical care and prescription drug services; physical or occupational therapy; day or respite care; and medical specialties, such as dentistry, optometry, and podiatry.

Currently, participating in a PACE program is limited to those aged 55 and older who meet state-specified criteria for needing a nursing home level of care (LOC). However, many populations—including younger individuals, people with multiple chronic conditions and disabilities, seniors who need comprehensive care but do not yet meet the nursing home LOC standard—could benefit from the all-inclusive nature of the PACE model.

Having worked to bring the first PACE program to New Jersey, St. Francis Medical Center's Living Independently for the Elderly (LIFE) in Trenton, I've personally visited seniors who are enrolled in PACE and witnessed how this important program works to raise the quality of life of its enrollees. Today over 100 PACE programs are serving seniors throughout the country including four, soon to be five, centers in my home state of New Jersey. This bill is important to build on the success of the program and make it better, offering better comprehensive care and preserving the dignity of those most deserving of our care and attention.

To further strengthen the Medicare system and aid those individuals and families who are facing the reality of Alzheimer's disease, I also recently introduced the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (HR 1559). My HOPE Act would provide for Medicare coverage of a care-planning session for newly diagnosed patients and their family caregivers or legal representatives.

Mr. Speaker, my Alzheimer's legislation will fill an important gap in current Medicare services. Take for example an experience of one of my constituents, Mary Gerard of Ocean New Jersey. Mary was one of the 15 million family members and friends who act as unpaid caregivers to Alzheimer's and dementia patients across the country every year.

When her mother Helen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Mary took charge and was there with her mother day in and day out—faithfully and lovingly—until she passed. She is a trained critical care nurse. She was equipped with knowledge and resources that many first time caregivers do not have. Yet even with a medical services background, she still struggled with the challenges of her new life as a caregiver.

Alzheimer's caregivers provide an estimated 17 billion hours of unpaid care every year. The emotional and financial toll can be immense. Many are untrained and offered little guidance to function in their new role. Navigating the long-term care system is a daunting task and can appear overwhelming, particularly for those who have only recently received the news that a loved one has Alzheimer's disease.

Upon receiving this diagnosis, patients and their families—like Mary's—are frequently at a loss for how to effectively plan for the next

stage of their lives. Passage of my legislation will empower individuals with much-needed information to outline their future treatments and care—giving patients HOPE, and a plan for their future.

As our population ages, it is imperative that we preserve and expand access to the services that enable senior citizens to live healthy and productive lives, and give seniors the security and confidence they need when planning for their future medical care.

Strengthening and preserving Medicare is a promise that every preceding generation has made and kept. It is our duty to continue to honor the senior citizens in New Jersey and around the country who have worked hard to provide for their families and help build our communities and deliver on promises made, for—at a minimum—another 50 years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. KERI LEE SMITH OF ROSEVILLE, CA

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Keri Lee Smith of Roseville, CA, as she celebrates her 50th birthday today, July 29, 2015.

A fourth generation Californian, Keri Lee is an active member in the community of Roseville. Keri graduated from CSU Chico in 1988, earning a BS in Business with a minor in Recreation Administration. She received her teaching credentials from CSU Chico in 1991. She later earned a Masters of Education from the University of LaVerne and received a G.A.T.E. certificate from UC Davis. Keri has been teaching for over a decade in the greater Roseville area, and currently teaches math and life sciences at Western Sierra Collegiate Academy in Rocklin and educates future teachers as a professor at Chapman University.

Agriculture has long been a part of Keri Lee's life. She was born in Chico and raised on a family farm her great-grandfather began in 1918 in Clarks Valley, part of the California coastal range. Later, the farming operation moved to Butte City near the Sacramento River, where her siblings continue the enterprise today. When she's not teaching, Keri finds time to be an active member of the California Women in Agriculture.

Keri Lee is a loving wife to her husband Scott and a dedicated mother to their three children: Emma, Garret, and Maddox. Keri spends much of her time shuttling the children between sports and scouts, cheering them on at ball fields, and shaping them into confident future leaders. Her role as a mother also includes service as the President of the Roseville High School Parents Club, a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and a member of the Parent-Teacher Council. In her limited spare time, Keri enjoys to read, bake, and travel.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Keri Lee Smith on this special day, and in wishing her a happy 50th birthday.