

around the clock ready to save mariners in distress. Vessel examiners are inspecting commercial ships to keep them operating safely and ensuring the environmental stewardship of our waters.

The Coast Guard has a large presence in my district conducting missions vital to the safety and prosperity of the Great Lakes. I am proud to represent the Coast Guard men and women at Sector Detroit and adjoining stations, as well as Air Station Detroit which operates out of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. I know the boaters in Michigan's 10th district are in good hands.

Just two weeks ago, I met with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, a superb leader with a bold vision that makes me optimistic for the future of this great service.

The Coast Guard's values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty are seen day in and day out by the men and women who proudly wear the uniform. We are fortunate that they go to work every day ready to serve and protect the American people.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to commend the men and women of the Coast Guard for their many years of service and wish them a happy 225th anniversary.

Seper Paratus.

WASHINGTON TIMES ARTICLE: AN EXCUSE FOR CRUSHING KRATOM: THE FDA'S UNDUE SCRUTINY IS UNSCIENTIFIC

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit an article from the July 23, 2015 edition of the Washington Times entitled, An excuse for crushing kratom: The FDA's undue scrutiny is unscientific.

(By Lloyd Billingsley—Thursday, July 23, 2015)

Last year, Americans spent an estimated \$374 billion on prescription drugs, up 13 percent from the year before. These drugs include OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet and others that the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved for sale without regard to their potential for abuse.

Meanwhile, the "potential for abuse" was used for many years to block even a discussion of the possible medical benefits of cannabis. And now federal officials are using it again to attack another potential natural remedy, kratom.

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*), which derives from a tree that grows in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, has been found to reduce pain, lessen dependence on opiates (like OxyContin), and work as a mild stimulant.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration considers kratom a "drug of concern." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) calls it "dangerous."

Last year, U.S. marshals, at the request of the FDA, seized more than 25,000 pounds of raw kratom in Van Nuys, Calif. The action, explained Melinda Plaisier, FDA associate commissioner for regulatory affairs, "was taken to safeguard the public from this dangerous product." Ms. Plaisier called kratom "a botanical substance that poses a risk to

public health and has the potential for abuse."

Kratom's potential for benefit was of no apparent concern.

Edward Boyer, professor of emergency medicine and director of medical toxicology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, told *Scientific American* in 2013 that kratom blunts a patient's withdrawal from opioids "awfully, awfully well."

Dr. Boyer explained that kratom binds with serotonin receptors. "So if you want to treat depression, if you want to treat opioid pain, if you want to treat sleepiness," kratom "really puts it all together." It gives addicts access to a drug that effectively treats pain without causing respiratory problems.

Oregon resident Paul Kemp occasionally uses kratom, he says, to ease back pain, help him relax and gain energy. Last year Mr. Kemp told reporters it was "iludicrous" for the FDA to stop the importation of kratom on the grounds that it "may be" dangerous, when FDA-approved products such as OxyContin are known to be dangerous.

Likewise, FDA-approved Xanax and Valium are often abused, along with the "psychostimulant" Adderall, used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

What bothers the FDA, Mr. Kemp writes, is that kratom is being used very effectively as "a way for America's prescription drug addicts to break free without experiencing the usually traumatic withdrawal symptoms that stop most victims of OxyContin and other opioids from getting clean."

Edward Boyer, the toxicology professor, acknowledges that kratom can be abused, but "speaking as a scientist, a physician and a practicing clinician, I think the fears of adverse events don't mean you stop the scientific discovery process totally," he told *Scientific American*.

If big pharma isn't behind something, the attitude seems to be in Washington, legislators and regulators don't even want to talk about it. But talk and listen they should.

Scientific research should continue. Federal and state officials need to be open-minded, see where the scientific research leads, and consider all the evidence—including the testimony of people like Paul Kemp who swear that kratom has helped them.

Banning kratom or banning its ingredients, as Indiana has done, is the wrong message at the wrong time.

A better option at this stage would be to let the voters decide, as California did in 1996 with medicinal marijuana. Let voters decide if Kratom should be banned—without proof—as a dangerous menace, or whether individuals suffering from withdrawal pain and other maladies should be free to make their own informed choices.

HONORING MARGARET A. "ANNIE" LAUDICK

HON. LUKE MESSE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MESSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret A. "Annie" Laudick, a loving wife and the mother of my close friend, Andy Laudick.

Annie was a devoted wife to James, her husband of 47 years, as well as an adoring mother and grandmother to her two children and nine granddaughters. She was a woman of great faith, belonging to St. Mary's Catholic Church. She was also a member of the Ea-

gles Ladies Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Annie will be greatly missed by not only her family, but also by the Greensburg community. Her capacity for love and compassion is unrivaled, and I consider it a privilege to have known such a benevolent and sincere woman.

On a personal note, I will never forget Annie's smile. In high school, I remember going to Andy's house to swim at their pond. And, every time I visited, I would be greeted by his mom's big smile.

She was a remarkable woman who will truly be missed by everyone whose lives she touched. Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Margaret A. Laudick.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF GEORGE KUBOTA, SR., AND HIS SONS HERB AND GEORGE, JR.

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary life and career of George Kubota, Sr., as well as the lives and careers of his sons Herb Kubota and George Kubota, Jr. After decades of service as both small business owners and public servants, we celebrate and reflect upon their positive impact in Pend Oreille County, Washington.

George Kubota, Sr. was born in Japan in 1886. As a young man, he immigrated to the United States and settled in the small northeast Washington community of Newport, Washington, where he opened the first laundry in the area. His business, Kubota Steam Laundry, primarily served the mining, logging, milling, and railroad industries. As these industries grew to the north, he and his family moved to Metaline Falls, Washington, where they expanded and diversified their business. In 1929, he founded the Metaline Falls Trading Company, a hardware store that still operates today and is an integral part of both the community in Metaline Falls and the county.

In 1942, he was detained by the FBI and was due, along with his family, to be sent to an internment camp. However, due to his positive impact on the community, many residents throughout the northern part of the county made special efforts to prevent their internment. He became a citizen after the war. George was a true patriot, pioneer, and fixture of his community, serving the citizens of Pend Oreille County for decades. George died in 1988 at the age of 102.

George Kubota, Sr. also had two sons, George and Herb, who additionally deserve recognition for their service to the communities in northeast Washington. After receiving college degrees and serving their country in the Armed Forces, Herb and George joined their dad running the Metaline Falls Trading Company in the 1950s, and, like their father, became important fixtures of their community. Herb served for years as an EMT and devoted large portions of his life to help the elderly of the community. Both Herb and George served as volunteer firefighters until the mandatory retirement age. George Kubota, Jr. has also devoted significant time to public service, serving

several terms on the town council and as mayor of Metaline Falls. He has served on the boards of numerous community organizations and was instrumental in the construction and expansion of a medical clinic in Lone, Washington. Herb sadly passed away in 2005. George, now 84, continues to run the store their father founded. The massive contributions of these three men cannot be overstated—the scale and duration of their positive influence on the communities of Pend Oreille County goes beyond that of ordinary citizens.

So today, I rise to recognize George Kubota and his sons Herb and George for their dedication to family, community, and country. They have continuously gone above and beyond as citizens and public servants, and for all their accomplishments and service, we are grateful for their positive impact on Eastern Washington.

STOP DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING FOR WOMEN'S SERVICES ACT STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing, along with my colleague Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI, the Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act. This important bill protects the rights of women seeking family planning services.

Women deserve to receive comprehensive, impartial, and medically accurate information when making personal health decisions. Unfortunately, there are so-called Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) that deliberately misinform or mislead women seeking information on family planning services. They pose as sources of unbiased pregnancy counseling, using deceptive propaganda to dissuade women from considering comprehensive birth-control options or legal abortion. These fake reproductive health clinics entice women through their doors under the pretense of providing the full range of reproductive options and services, and this bill would expose their deceptive tactics.

The Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act directs the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate rules under the Federal Trade Commission Act, declaring it an unfair or deceptive act for an entity, such as a crisis pregnancy center, to advertise as a provider of abortion services if the entity does not provide abortion services.

Clearly, deception and intimidation have no place when a woman is seeking information about her pregnancy. Working together we can help stop the fraud and confusion these Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are perpetrating on the women of America.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation—because women deserve access to the best, most comprehensive healthcare information. Women need and deserve accurate and comprehensive information when making personal decisions about family planning, and so-called Crisis Pregnancy Centers provide neither. Our legislation would expose and stop deceptive and false advertising from CPCs.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD ALFRED THOMAS, LONGEST SERVING AND GREATEST PATROL OFFICER IN THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to retired Senior Police Officer Edward Alfred Thomas of Houston, Texas, one of the first African American police officers to integrate the Houston Police Department and the longest serving in the Department's history.

So well, so ably, and so honorably did Officer Thomas serve the citizens of Houston that last month the Houston City Council voted unanimously to rename the Houston Police Department headquarters building as the "Edward A. Thomas Houston Police Department Headquarters Building."

This honor is well deserved because, as Houston Police Chief Charles McClelland has said, Officer Edward Alfred Thomas "is the epitome of what every police officer should be" and that it is both fitting and proper that "a man of his stature, character and outstanding ethics and morals be given this honor.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Alfred Thomas was born near Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1920 and went on to attend Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he played football before being drafted to the military during World War II, where he saw action with the U.S. Army at Normandy, in northern Africa, and during the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war and his honorable discharge from the Army, Edward Thomas became one of the first African American police officers in the city of Houston when he joined the Houston Police Department on January 12, 1948 and where he remained for the next 63 years until his retirement on July 23, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Thomas' more than six decades of hard work and courage paved the way for the hundreds of additional African American and officers of color who followed, including the current Houston Police Chief, Charles McClelland.

Although Officer Thomas enjoyed a long and distinguished career, this is not to say it was easy or without challenges, especially given the fact that Officer Thomas joined the Houston Police Department in 1948, more than 15 years before the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

When he began his career Officer Thomas was assigned to foot patrol at night patrolling the African American neighborhoods of Houston, the Third, Fourth and Fifth Wards.

Because of his race, Officer Thomas was not allowed to drive a squad car or to arrest White suspects without obtaining permission from his supervisor and at one point in his career, he was disciplined for speaking to a White meter maid who asked him to walk with her in order to avoid the unwanted attention and advances of nearby construction workers.

In those early years, Officer Thomas was not allowed to congregate with his white counterparts, he could not attend roll calls with white officers, and he could not eat in the cafeteria.

But Officer Thomas persevered and helped pave the way for many other African American police officers, like Chief McClelland and the more than 1,000 African American police officers who today comprise about 20 percent of the Houston Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, naming the 26-story headquarters building of the Houston Police Department after Officer Edward Alfred Thomas is a fitting tribute to a man who is, unarguably, one of the greatest police officers in the history of the Houston Police Department and remains one of the most revered and respected.

During his years of service to the city of Houston, Officer Thomas was named The 100 Club's "Officer of the Year;" awarded a Chief of Police Commendation by former Chief of Police Lee P. Brown; and recognized twice by The 100 Club with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 and 2011, respectively; and has received many letters of appreciation from citizens and supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, the renaming of the Houston Police Department headquarters building in honor of Officer Thomas was supported by the Houston Police Officer's Union (HPOU), the African American Police Officer League (AAPOL), Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers (OSO), and the Houston Organization of Public Employees (HOPE).

Chief McClelland is absolutely correct in noting that there could be no finer tribute to any patrol officer than to name the headquarters building in honor of "a patrol officer for 65 years who underwent intense, systemic discrimination," and to have his name on the building as an inspiration and example for others to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POSTAL INNOVATION ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the United States Postal Service (USPS) provides universal connectivity all across the country and a low cost delivery service that not just individual families rely on, but businesses of all sizes.

However, the Postal Service faces growing financial problems attributable to burdensome mandates in existing law and the continued decline in mail service volumes. As a result, the Postal Service is hard-pressed to identify cost-saving initiatives that can alleviate their financial woes while at the same time maintaining their high quality of service.

That is why I have introduced the Postal Innovation Act of 2015, which will authorize the Postal Service to take simple, common-sense steps towards modernization such as updating its fleet of vehicles to align with updated environmental and safety standards, and broadening its services to reflect the evolving demands of today's consumers.

The Postal Service must be given the flexibility to innovate and provide its customers modern services. By offering basic financial services, internet connectivity, and the ability to ship beer, wine, and spirits, this Act will allow the Postal Service to not only raise revenue, but remain a cornerstone of American communities.