

In addition to serving as the Commander for the State of Connecticut Disabled American Veterans group, Dennis also was a member of the Veterans Council of Enfield, the Amvets Post 18 of Enfield, the American Legion Post 0114 of Ravena, NY, and an honorary member of Veterans Who Care. He received the Patriot Award in Enfield in 2012. In addition to these accomplishments, Dennis served as an active member of the Enfield Fire Department from 1972 to 1981, and he was elected as a Fire Commissioner for the last 18 years.

Dennis was a beloved member of the Enfield community, and he will be missed greatly by all of those who benefited from his loyalty and service to helping those in need, especially Connecticut veterans. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Diane, as well as his two daughters and their husbands, and four grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sorrow to Dennis's family for their loss, and to the eastern Connecticut region who lost a loyal community member.

HEALTH INSURANCE TAX

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I recently sat down with several small business owners in my district for a roundtable discussion in Lincolnshire, Illinois. The roundtable discussion focused attention on the Health Insurance Tax on small businesses. These local business owners are extremely concerned about the consequences of a \$500 per employee per year insurance expense they will have to incur.

One business owner at the roundtable, Rick, reiterated that politicians in Washington need to understand that each new tax or expense isn't just some exercise in congressional budget scorekeeping—these are a real-world burdens that harm businesses and make it difficult to keep the doors open and workers employed. This business owner wasn't talking about it as an abstract economic theory; rather, he was worried that his business cannot handle the influx of new expenses. Rick asked me to make sure that leaders in Washington are fighting for Main Streets across the nation. Rick is right. As a small business owner myself, I believe that we need to continue to remind Members of Congress that small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and that we need to encourage a healthy environment that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship.

According to research by the National Federation of Independent Business Research Foundation, the Health Insurance Tax, also known as the HIT, will jeopardize between 152,000 and 286,000 private-sector jobs across the U.S. by 2023.

The harmful and misguided Health Insurance Tax will add a new strain to small businesses on Main Street. Illinois is home to more than 1.1 million small businesses, which employ more than 2.3 million workers. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 928 and why I encourage my colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

HONORING SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS EULA JETT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen, Specialist 5th Class Eula Jett for her dedicated and honorable service. She is an exceptional American in both the military and civilian worlds.

Enlisting in the US Women's Army Corps in 1967, SP5 Jett served as a Medical Records Technician where she achieved her rank of Specialist 5th Class. During her 9 year tenure, she completed two tours in Bad Cannstatt, Germany before ending her career at Fort Hood. While there, SP5 Jett worked in the Coding Section and served on the Medical Records Committee at the Darnall Army Hospital. Recognizing her dedication, she received numerous Letters of Appreciation from the Darnall Army Hospital as well as a Letter of Commendation. SP5 Jett is a decorated U.S. Army Veteran whose awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal among others.

SP5 Jett was honorably discharged from the Army in 1976 after 9 years, but that did not stop her from continuing to support the Army she loves. Upon leaving the service, she remained an active supporter of the Army and continued to work at Darnall Army Hospital as a civilian employee. A few years later SP5 Jett would return to support our Veterans as a civilian employee at the Olin E. Teague Veterans Center in Temple, TX.

Continuing in her selfless service, SP5 Jett showed her dedication and love to the Temple, Texas community after her retirement. She currently serves as Chair on the Salvation Army advisory board and the Advisory Council of Safe Kids Mid-Texas coalition. As a woman of faith, she involves herself in numerous capacities in the Church Women of the Temple Area, including serving as the President in 2011–2012.

SP5 Jett's devotion to our country is matched only by her commitment to serving others in her community. I commend her for her service to the nation, United States Army, and her community in Temple, Texas. I wish her all the best in the years to come.

CONFLUENT DEVELOPMENT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Confluent Development for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Reinvestment Award. The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses who play an active role in improving the City of Wheat Ridge.

Confluent Development brought its diverse expertise in office, industrial, retail and multi-family/senior housing development to the 38th and Kipling development, transforming a blighted area into a retail and housing destination for Wheat Ridge residents. The new de-

velopment is home to Sprouts Farmer's Market, a soon-to-be Morning Star Senior Living and a newly updated Starbucks.

I applaud Confluent Development for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the City of Wheat Ridge, and I congratulate them on their success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 25, 2015, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote. I would have voted "Yes" on roll call vote Number 387 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1615, as amended).

HONORING JOHN MILTON THOMAS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of John Milton Thomas of Shelbyville, Indiana.

Born in Fairland on Oct. 1, 1926 to Milton and Carris Thomas, John lived a long and full life. Last month, at the age of 88, he passed away surrounded by his loved ones. John is survived by his loving wife of 68 years Mary "Jean" Kerr, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. I had the pleasure of knowing John through both his work with my wife for the town of Morristown, Indiana, and my friendship with his son J. Mark Thomas. I am honored to speak of his accomplishments today.

Mr. Thomas was a member of the greatest generation. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served as a first sergeant during World War II. Just last month, John came here to Washington, D.C. on an honor flight to see the World War II Memorial and pay tribute to those he fought alongside, who didn't make it home.

John loved to serve his community. He was a former member of the Shelby County Council and at one time was the Shelby County Clerk. His other memberships included the Indiana National Guard and Sugar Creek Masonic Lodge No. 279 F & AM. John attended First United Methodist Church, where he also volunteered and held many leadership positions.

John was also a referee for both high school and college basketball, and he was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame for officiating a ballgame with a record-setting nine overtimes, a record which he still holds.

John was a true friend and a great man with a big heart. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Thomas family during this difficult time. It is my hope that their fond memories of John will comfort them during this difficult time.

HONORING PLANNED PARENTHOOD HUDSON PECONIC

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic (PPHP). For years, PPHP has been an instrumental partner in keeping my constituents both healthy and educated about their reproductive health.

Operating 11 health centers in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Suffolk Counties, PPHP served over 33,000 men and women in 2014 alone. In addition, last year PPHP provided 13,113 HIV tests, 81,941 individual STI tests, 5,896 breast examinations and education and training programs to over 42,000 participants.

While these figures alone are laudable, it is important to note that PPHP affords these invaluable services to our area's most vulnerable patients. In 2014, 76 percent of PPHP patients had incomes at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit. For low-income New Yorkers, care is already too hard to come by. I am so pleased to know that these New Yorkers can rely on PPHP.

In recent months, Planned Parenthood has faced prolonged, politically-motivated attacks. It is during times like this that it is most important for us to remember not only the work that Planned Parenthood does, but the people Planned Parenthood serves. PPHP is keeping thousands of New Yorkers healthy, many of whom might have nowhere else to turn. I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank PPHP and its allies for their work. As a Member of Congress, one of my primary responsibilities is to ensure the well-being of my constituents. I am honored to call PPHP a partner in that goal.

On October 21, 2015, PPHP will honor Jill Scheuer, Keith Pattiz and the St. Faith's House Foundation during its Empower Gala. I commend these partners for championing Planned Parenthood's mission. It is only with the aid of allies like Ms. Scheuer, Mr. Pattiz and the St. Faith's House Foundation that Planned Parenthood can continue to provide those most in need with quality, accessible care.

COLORADO ACTS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colorado ACTS for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Cultural Commission Award. The Cultural Commission Award recognizes local businesses or organizations actively contributing to the enrichment of the culture of Wheat Ridge.

Colorado ACTS is a theater school open to children from four to eighteen. They strive to bring drama and arts education to the local community, and they currently serve about 200 families. The organization teaches confidence, discipline and an appreciation for the arts, while strengthening community ties.

Since its inception 15 years ago, Colorado ACTS has produced more than 100 shows.

I applaud Colorado ACTS for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by the City of Wheat Ridge, and I congratulate them on their success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote. I would have voted "No" on roll call vote Number 221 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 255).

HONORING DR. J. RANDALL O'BRIEN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Dr. J. Randall O'Brien is one of the most respected educators in the Nation.

He took over the reins of Carson-Newman University at a real low point in the school's history.

In fact, just a few years ago, the University had such difficult financial problems that some people thought it could go under.

Under Dr. O'Brien's leadership, the University has undergone a major turnaround, increasing its enrollment, adding new programs, and becoming the most forward-looking small university in the Nation.

Dr. O'Brien recently wrote a lead column for the Knoxville News Sentinel concerning the proposed new college scorecard put forth by the White House and Department of Education.

Because this issue has ramifications for colleges and universities all across the Nation, I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers.

J. RANDALL O'BRIEN: SCORECARD FOR COLLEGES UNFAIR AND DAMAGING

There are so many fatal flaws in President Barack Obama's recently unveiled New College Scorecard it is difficult to know where to begin our nation's imperative critique. For starters, how shocking it is to see that our educational leaders housed within the U.S. Department of Education could prove so inept in collecting, interpreting and providing our president reliable data.

College educators fully agree with current public opinion that evaluation and reform of higher education is overdue. To be sure, college accessibility, affordability and accountability are critical issues that rightfully belong on our nation's agenda. Assessment, however, formulated on the basis of incomplete questioning and misleading data may prove far more damaging than having no published assessment at all.

The New College Scorecard notes the annual cost of attending each college, the graduation rate of the school and the average starting salary of its graduates. However, the scorecard includes only data of federal student-loan borrowers. All other students are excluded from the report.

Moreover, the starting salary numbers fail to take into consideration the geographical region hosting the institution. A New York or California salary, for example, would be expected to be significantly higher than an Appalachian one. Should not per capita wealth and cost of living in the institution's region be noted?

In addition, no consideration is given to the correlation of salary and field of study. Teachers, social workers and ministers, for instance, do not expect to earn salaries commensurate to business graduates in metropolitan areas.

Do we wish to undermine and imperil the vitally important work of our nation's service sector, and its college providers, by placing value on salary alone? Do we really wish to discourage the graduation of relatively low-income teachers? Moreover, should not a premium be placed on a broad-based liberal arts education, and the intellectual (and holistic) transformation of the student, which prepares the student remarkably well for any job, including corporate, legal, political, church, community, scientific and educational leadership? Dare we risk reducing the college experience to little more than participation in an elite job training program?

Lastly, despite the White House's insistence on access to higher education for all, the new scorecard fails to acknowledge accessibility of lower socio-economic students to each college. Research clearly shows the correlation in retention and graduation rates to a student's socioeconomic status, family finances and support, and proper academic preparation and encouragement. Should we not value accessibility and accurately factor in its consequences?

I fear the Department of Education, with encouragement from the White House, will seek to employ the New College Scorecard in determining the amount of financial aid for which a student would be eligible at each college. Students attending one school may qualify for 100 percent of available federal grants, while students attending another school may qualify for only 75 percent. This, I fear, would have the unintended consequence of closing hundreds of colleges, which are vital to regional economic well-being and to the attainment of our nation's educational needs and goals.

I regret to say I find the New College Scorecard, however well-intended, seriously flawed, patently unfair and exceedingly disappointing. Can we please do better?

J. Randall O'Brien is president of Carson-Newman University.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILL COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th Anniversary of the Will County Community Health Center in Joliet, Illinois.

Since 1995, the Will County Community Health Center has been serving uninsured and underinsured patients as well as providing a crucial safety net for families and individuals struggling to afford adequate health care. As the oldest Federally Qualified Health Center in Will County, the Community Health Center has maintained its commitment to patient-centered care for the medically underserved in our community.