

also the impression our citizens have of the mainland.

We hope for expansion of cross-strait exchanges and mutual benefits. The two sides should move quickly to deal with issues that are currently still under negotiation, including the trade-in-goods agreement, reciprocal establishment of representative offices, and flight transfers in Taiwan for mainland Chinese travelers. We are currently applying to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and hope to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in the future. Because these two mechanisms would account for approximately 70 percent of our external trade, we cannot afford not to participate in them. We believe there should be no issue as to which side joins first and which side later.

We proposed establishment of a cross-strait hotline to handle important or urgent matters. There is no contact mechanism between the heads of MAC and TAO. We should take this opportunity to establish one. Of course, further adjustments could be made to raise the level of contact should the need arise in the future. It will be beneficial for both sides to be able to promptly handle important unexpected or crucial matters.

Joint cooperation leads to cross-strait prosperity. I want to reiterate that the people of both sides are Chinese, descendants of the emperors Yan and Huang, sharing a common lineage, history, and culture. The two sides should cooperate to promote cross-strait prosperity. History has bequeathed the two sides a convoluted relationship, and cross-strait exchanges have led to new problems. These issues cannot be resolved overnight. In exchanges and consultations, the two sides need to face the issues squarely, move forward step by step, and build mutual trust.

The peace and prosperity achieved over the last seven years is proof that the two sides have beaten their swords into plowshares, becoming models for stability in the East Asia region as a whole. The two sides need to be confident of this. We hope the mainland Chinese side fully understands this, and realizes that cross-strait relations should be built on the foundation of dignity, respect, sincerity, and good will, for only this will lead to deeper mutual trust, and enable us to go the distance.

Mr. Speaker, there is much to be done to ensure peace and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and in the Taiwan Strait. But, this historic meeting will go a long way towards a peaceful future for East Asia and for the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on March 23, 2015, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote numbers 130 and 141. If present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 360 and H. Res. 162.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROC ARNETT,
PRESIDENT OF EAST VALLEY
PARTNERSHIP

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Roc Arnett, (Roc) President of the East Valley Partnership, a coalition of business and community leaders dedicated to the sustainable development of the East Valley of the Greater Phoenix Area—one of the fastest growing areas in our great nation. For the past 11 years, Roc has been the anchor and backbone of this important organization and at the end of 2015, Roc retires from his official role as President and CEO of the East Valley Partnership.

Roc is a visionary leader, whose belief in the potential of the East Valley has helped shape the vibrant business and residential communities that now flourish in the area. Roc is a native Arizonan who has lived and worked in the East Valley for his entire life. His love for the area and belief in the unique character of each community within the East Valley has been the motivation behind his work. Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Tempe, Ahwatukee, Apache Junction, Queen Creek, San Tan Valley, Guadalupe and Scottsdale are all part of the East Valley; each has its own distinct character and all have benefited from the ingenuity and vision of the East Valley Partnership, under the leadership of Roc Arnett.

It has been my honor to work with Roc for several years. His generosity, his infectious enthusiasm, tenacity and genuine belief in the good in people inspire everyone he touches. He is a master of negotiation and has built enduring business and community partnerships throughout the years. Members, please join me in thanking Roc Arnett for his many years of service to the diverse communities of the East Valley, as President and CEO of the East Valley Partnership. His many contributions have helped to create the East Valley of today and have laid the groundwork for the East Valley of tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MEGAN CLUBB,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
BAKER BOYER NATIONAL BANK
ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Megan Clubb, the Chief Executive Officer of Baker Boyer National Bank for her years of service to Eastern Washington. As a banking executive, Mrs. Clubb faithfully served Walla Walla, Washington and the entire Inland Northwest for twenty-five years as part of the team at Baker Boyer. Mrs. Clubb is retiring at the end of December and I am pleased to recognize and celebrate her accomplishments and contributions to our great community in Eastern Washington.

As the state's oldest community bank, Baker Boyer has been a distinguished institution in

Eastern Washington for more than one hundred and forty-six years. During her notable career, Mrs. Clubb served for fourteen years as President and thirteen years as Chief Executive Officer at Baker Boyer National Bank. Under her leadership, Baker Boyer has ranked in the top two hundred community banks for financial performance each of the last six years, including being ranked at number fourteen this year. Additionally, she led the bank through an innovative new branding transformation and guided Baker Boyer to be honored for 11 straight years as one of the best companies to work for by Seattle Business magazine.

Named one of the 10 Women of Influence by Seattle Magazine, outside of Baker Boyer National Bank, Mrs. Clubb is a recognized leader across the state and spends countless hours mentoring fellow women in the banking industry. She currently serves as a trustee at Whitman College, and is completing a three-year term as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Mrs. Clubb has also served on the Portland branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. Pioneers in the Washington state wine industry, she and her husband, Marty Clubb, are co-owners of L'Ecole No. 41 Winery, and continue to build upon their family's legacy. Even after her retirement, she will continue to devote herself to these important endeavors.

Mrs. Clubb is a passionate advocate for small businesses and a champion for all of Eastern Washington. Following her retirement, Mrs. Clubb will continue to serve as chairman of the Baker Boyer Bancorp Board of Directors. A devoted member of our community, Mrs. Clubb truly redefined what a community bank can accomplish, and profoundly demonstrated the impact one person can have on the lives and legacies of customers and families in those communities.

I would like to thank Mrs. Megan Clubb for her years of dedication and service to Walla Walla and to all of Eastern Washington. I applaud her commitment to our citizens and to the banking community, and wish her the best of luck in the next chapter of her life.

IN HONOR OF THE 5TH
ANNIVERSARY OF JILL'S HOUSE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 5th Anniversary of a truly great institution in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, Jill's House.

Jill's House is a home away from home for children with a variety of disabilities. It gives the hard-working and caring parents of children with disabilities an overnight respite in order to provide parents the time to focus on their marriage and family, rest, and get ahead on work and refresh their lives. Their children spend the night at Jill's House, where they have highly trained staff to provide care.

Lon and Brenda Solomon were two caring parents who had three children and were living a normal life. Brenda then became pregnant with their fourth child, Jill, the daughter they had always wanted. When Jill was just three months old, she began to have seizures. As the seizures grew more and more frequent

and severe, Lon and Brenda were becoming overwhelmed. At their wit's end, they received what appeared to be a sign from God, a call from a woman named Mary. This woman, whom the Solomon's had never met, organized caregivers for Jill in order to allow Lon and Brenda time to rest and renew themselves. They were able to catch up on sleep, spend quality time with their other children, and improve the quality of care Jill received. From this respite grew the idea for Jill's House, a special residential facility where parents of children with special needs can bring their children to stay in a safe and secure environment with professional care.

Jill's House currently serves over 500 families raising children with disabilities. Their facility offers a range of activities for the children including having an on-site moon bounce, a handicapped accessible playground, and a handicapped accessible pool. I have been privileged to work with Jill's House since they opened in 2010 and they have enriched our community and given peace of mind to many parents. This year marks the 5th year Jill's House has been open to help those who need it and I hope there will be many more anniversaries celebrating this blessed place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on January 12, 2015, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote numbers 17, 18 and 19. If present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 203, H.R. 33 and the Journal.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRIA FUND FOR FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today is the 10th anniversary of the Bria Fund for Feline Infectious Peritonitis. The Bria Fund is a worthy organization created on November 18, 2005, by two of my constituents, Susan Gingrich and James Shurskis, who worked together with the Winn Feline Foundation.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a disease that is considered to be the predominant cause of death for young cats under the age of two, but it can affect cats of any age, including senior cats. FIP remains a terminal disease, with no effective vaccine to prevent it, or treatment to cure it.

Despite these ongoing obstacles, the work of the Bria Fund has resulted in new interest and research into the little known disease of FIP. Since 2005, the Fund has supported 16 FIP research projects, leading to important knowledge in multiple aspects of FIP. The information gained about the FIP virus has led to improvements in testing, diagnosis, and treatment, and better understanding of caring for cats with FIP.

This is an exciting time for FIP research. Despite the lack of a definitive cure, better

testing and treatment methods are helping some cats live well despite having FIP. There are also more opportunities for veterinary professionals to learn about FIP in their continuing education programs.

Ms. Gingrich and Mr. Shurskis were inspired by personal experiences to establish the Bria Fund. In early 2005, they lost their nine month old Blue Lynx Point Birman kitten Bria to suspected FIP. They had never heard of FIP before Bria developed it. They soon learned that little was known about this disease, that there were no clinical trials involving FIP, and no treatment for it, except for steroid prescriptions to somewhat ease the pain and suffering of cats with the disease.

After Bria's passing, they were determined to do everything they could to spare future cat owners from the experiences they and Bria had to endure. The Gingrich family is well known for its love of animals. Ms. Gingrich's sisters, Candace Gingrich and Roberta Gingrich Brown, worked hard with their sister to establish the Bria Fund. Her brother, former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, encouraged the organization he created, the Center for Health Transformation, to provide a generous contribution to the Fund.

The Gingrich's could not have picked a more worthy ally in the Winn Feline Foundation. The WFF was established by the Cat Fancier's Association, Inc., to support health-related research benefiting cats. To date, Winn has funded over \$5 million in health research for cats at more than 30 partner institutions worldwide. Since the WFF was established in 1968 feline medicine has become a major veterinary specialty. Cats are no longer viewed as small dogs. Today, cat owners expect and receive state-of-the-art medical care.

As the Bria Fund celebrates its 10th anniversary, I encourage my colleagues to pause for a moment in honor of National Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) Awareness, Research, and Education Day and think of all the pets and pet owners in this Nation, especially cats such as Bria.

THE UNAFFORDABILITY OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans—including many in my home state of Louisiana—who are being forced to bear the cost of president Obama's flawed healthcare law.

The negative impacts of the so-called affordable care act have been felt by people of all walks of life. In many cases, the law has disproportionately hurt the very people it claimed it would help—hardworking, middle-class families.

Five years of Obamacare implementation has produced higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher co-payments and reduced access to care for those who need it most.

In fact, a study published just last week revealed that increases in 2016 premiums for health insurance coverage will once again be in the double digits, exceeding last year's double digit hikes. At least one state could see as much as a 130 percent rate hike next year.

Across the board, the projected hikes for the lowest-priced options in each tier of coverage—bronze, silver, gold and platinum—will surpass the increases we saw last year.

The median cost of the bronze plans, one of the most popular offerings because of its relatively low premiums, will rise by 13% in 2016. As for the high-end insurance coverage options, gold's median premium will jump 15% and platinum's rate will rise by 12%.

Mr. Speaker, these cost increases are simply unworkable for the majority of Americans. I'd like to share the situation of a constituent of mine who recently reached out to me, begging Congress to take action to fix this broken law.

Unable to afford the \$1200/month it would cost him to get the family plan through his employer, he turned to the exchange in search of a high deductible plan to provide health insurance for his wife and girls.

He recently received a renewal notice in the mail informing him that his monthly bill will increase 21% in 2016. 21 percent. Despite the fact that he provides 95% of his household's income as his wife finishes school, he is above the income threshold to receive any subsidy to offset the cost.

The first \$11,000 of his pre-tax income will go toward government mandated health insurance in 2016—coverage that will still require him to pay a copay and coinsurance on a very high deductible to use it. His alternative is to pay the 2.5% fine and to have no coverage in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I am now going to ask you what this man asked me: what's his incentive to work harder? What's his reward for working since age 15, for spending 6 years pursuing an advanced degree in college?

All he can show for it is an irresponsible and unaccountable government that takes a larger portion of his income every year to pay for government programs that punish those who work hard and reward those who don't.

It's time for the president to acknowledge that his signature legislation is fundamentally flawed. It's time we turn the page on Obamacare and provide better solutions. Americans deserve a healthcare system that drives efficiency through competition and places healthcare decisions in the hands of consumers and taxpayers—not the federal government.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JEANETTE LAMAR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have never known a more gracious, generous, efficient, engaged, well-liked, admired, respected and beloved person than Ms. Jeanette Lamar.

She and her family became known to me when I was a young block club organizer and they lived in the community of North Lawndale in Chicago, a neighborhood undergoing change. Their home was always immaculate, a place for block club meetings, for neighborhood discussions and a place where you just simply enjoyed being.