

retrieve his beautiful Wimple, witness to the Shoah, a memorial to the great German Jewry. He was fortunate to arrive with his family to these shores of freedom and proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

I humbly stand before you as a member of the family of the surviving remnant miraculously plucked from the burning fires. At the mature old age of three and a half, I was already a veteran of Germany's Wetzlar Displaced persons camp in the American zone of occupation, but I am also a veteran of the Israel Defense Forces of a reborn nation. My father Yechiel, of blessed memory, served in the Russian Army's 118th Infantry Division decimated at Stara Rusa by the German onslaught which he survived.

Let the United States and its partners do their best on behalf of the present day multitude of refugees from war-torn countries, particularly Syria, who seek the shelter of a welcoming home. May Shalom's divine blessings of peace enable us to turn violence into vision, pain into promise, fear into faith, and darkness into light. Amen.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MANATEE COUNTY FAIR

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Manatee County Fair's 100th anniversary.

On October 21st, 1915 a group that eventually became the Manatee Chamber of Commerce approved a project that would draw members of the community together for festive celebrations and friendly competition. The Manatee County Fair was born, and opened its tents to the neighborhood for the first time on February 28th, 1916.

The 1916 Manatee County Fair started with a budget of just \$500. Year after year, the fair grew creating an economic boost for the community while providing fun and enjoyment for locals and visitors alike.

Eventually, the fair became so appreciated that the denizens of Bradentown (currently Bradenton, Florida) purchased over 60 acres of land so the fair could continue to thrive for generations to come. As time went on, the Manatee County Fair gave Floridians an opportunity to unite and celebrate in good times and bad.

The Manatee County Fair has fostered community pride for 100 years. Throughout the past century, the fair strengthened relationships between local business owners, shop keepers, vendors, artisans, and civic leaders. Community Members have shared in the pride of hosting such a well-loved event.

It is my honor to recognize the Manatee County Fair's 100th anniversary. This great event has strengthened our community and been a source of civic pride for the past century.

HONORING DR. JAN SONANDER,
M.D.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jan Sonander for his

leadership, commitment, and determination over a decade to update the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) system in California and abolish the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR).

Medicare's GPCI system pays physicians based on the cost of providing care in their geographic region. However, since 1997, the Medicare geographic payment localities have not been updated, leading many Sonoma County physicians to be underpaid. This problem was exacerbated by concurrent flaws in Medicare's SGR.

Since 2000, Dr. Sonander has been a tireless advocate for GPCI and SGR reforms. His proposed changes would have updated payment localities for physicians, and improved access to high-quality care for all Sonoma County residents. Dr. Sonander led a nationwide letter campaign, encouraging Congress to consider funding the proposed changes while writing articles to keep peers informed of his efforts. Those efforts ultimately paid off, as the geographic payment system has been updated and the SGR has been eliminated. Dr. Sonander was essential to that progress.

Leading by example, Dr. Sonander focuses a significant portion of his practice caring for the disabled, working as a hospitalist at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital while also serving as Chief of Staff. He has been active in the Sonoma County Medical Association (SCMA) and the California Medical Association for 26 years. He has served on several committees, including a stint as President of the SCMA Board of Directors in 2003. As a civic role model, philanthropist, medical professional, and political activist, Dr. Sonander's work has placed health care for all Sonoma County residents in safe hands.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Dr. Jan Sonander for his extraordinary work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 650, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

PRESERVE THE EITC FOR LEGAL
AMERICAN WORKERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, the Earned Income Tax Credit is one of our most successful welfare-to-work tax provisions. The EITC has helped millions of Americans move themselves out of poverty. But, the president wants to use it as a cash bonus for those who have been working in the U.S. illegally.

Under the president's unilateral amnesty, millions of illegal immigrants will get access to the EITC. They will then be able to claim tax refunds on previous earnings from unauthorized work. The refunds could be as much as \$24,000 for each claimant, which may restrict

the EITC's availability for legal American workers.

To ensure this does not happen, I have introduced H.R. 1657—the FAIRR Act. The bill prevents the EITC from going to recipients of the president's unilateral amnesty. This would strengthen the EITC for American families and save taxpayers almost \$9 billion over the next 10 years.

Our immigration system should not reward lawbreakers at the expense of taxpayers and legal American workers. Neither should the EITC.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEARBORN
OPTIMIST CLUB'S 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Dearborn Optimist Club on their 75th Anniversary. As a Member of Congress, it is an honor and a privilege to recognize the great work they have done for the City of Dearborn.

Founded on December 12, 1940, Optimist International chartered the Dearborn Optimist Club to serve the greater Dearborn Community. Since its founding, the Dearborn Optimists have devoted countless hours volunteering in the community by helping to expand access to quality education through its youth programs and scholarships. They have created collaborations between both the public and private schools and with numerous Dearborn public agencies, including the fire and police departments. Each year, the Dearborn Optimist holds art and essay contests to promote the creativity of our students, where the winners receive scholarship money for their college plans. They host the annual Dearborn Public Safety Awards to honor our fire and police departments and recognize extraordinary individual accomplishments.

At the heart of their mission, the Dearborn Optimists have devoted themselves to community service and providing opportunities to enrich the lives of our youth of Dearborn. Their work for the City of Dearborn is truly appreciated and I know that we will see more of the same over the next 75 years of the group and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Dearborn Optimist Club on their 75th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651 and 652. Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote number 646, 647, 650, 651 and 652 and aye on 648 and 649.

HONORING THE STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ste. Genevieve County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and its volunteers before the United States House of Representatives. This group was awarded the Auxiliary of the Year Award by the Missouri Hospital Association at the MHA Annual Conference this year.

These selfless individuals have accumulated over 15,000 volunteer hours this year, with over 11,000 hours in hospitals and over 3,500 hours volunteering in the community. This auxiliary of more than 90 volunteers has also donated more than \$58,000 to the hospital, resulting in seven new hospital beds for their patients. The auxiliary provides services to the community through community health education projects and scholarships to students pursuing health careers.

It is my pleasure to recognize these generous individuals before the United States House of Representatives.

KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL ARTICLE BY FRANK CAGLE—RUMORS OF THE GOP'S DEATH EXAGGERATED

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, almost every week, Frank Cagle writes a thoughtful, intelligent, even courageous column for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

In his column of December 2nd, he wrote: "Some of us don't think it's a bad thing that people who are here illegally and are not citizens cannot vote."

I admire Frank Cagle for his willingness to speak out on matters of national importance, and I would like to call to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers this and other columns he has written for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

RUMORS OF THE GOP'S DEATH EXAGGERATED

Last week Hillary Clinton announced she would no longer use the term "illegal immigrants." I can understand a Clinton's aversion to the word illegal, but it will be hard for a president to get control of the border if she doesn't recognize that unauthorized entry into the country is against the law. During the Democratic debate she refused to say the words "Islamic terrorism." It's hard to see how a commander in chief can win a war against our enemies when she's too timid to call them what they are.

I spent Thanksgiving with a houseful of young adults. They are all voting for Bernie Sanders in the primary. What do they do in the general when Clinton is the Democratic nominee? I suspect they will stay home. If the Democrats think they will turn out the young people who voted for President Barack Obama to vote for Hillary, they are delusional.

I keep reading about how the Republicans are doomed. Republicans can't govern. De-

mographics will make the Republicans a minority party in the future.

Did you notice the recent election in Kentucky? Obama has done to the Kentucky Democratic Party what he has done to the Tennessee Democratic Party—damaged it almost beyond repair. A tea party guy, behind in all the polls, defeated a popular Democrat by 10 points. And Democrats down ballot got hammered. Tennessee Republicans have a supermajority in the Legislature, the governor, two U.S. Senators and seven of nine Congressmen.

Tennessee and Kentucky are not alone. Since Obama has been president, the Democrats have lost over 900 seats in state legislatures, 11 governorships, 13 Senate seats and 69 House seats. Tell me again about the demise of the Republican Party.

Democrats believe that if the Republicans nominate Donald Trump, then Clinton is the next president. Why? Who is closer to the majority opinion of the American people? Trump's bellicosity on immigrants, his anti-Muslim rants and calling for bombing the (you know what) out of ISIS? Or Clinton, who can't bring herself to even identify the perpetrators?

The dire predictions about the Republicans becoming a minority party because of the growing Hispanic vote? If you don't grant amnesty and make all illegal immigrants citizens, they can't vote. Some of us don't think it's a bad thing that people who are here illegally and are not citizens cannot vote.

Go down to the courthouse sometime and watch legal immigrants being sworn in as citizens. Talk to them about the hoops they jumped through in order to become a citizen. Then ask them how they feel about people who want to jump the line.

Americans are tired of political correctness. In the words of the crazy anchor from the movie "Network," they are mad as hell and they aren't going to take it anymore. It's the kind of attitude that fuels the Trump phenomenon. With the fading of Jeb Bush, the establishment seems to be turning to Marco Rubio to stop Trump. The author of an amnesty bill.

Good luck with that.

HONORING DR. BRAD DREXLER, M.D.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Brad Drexler for his leadership, commitment and determination over a decade to update the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) system in California and abolish the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR).

Medicare's GPCI system pays physicians based on the cost of providing care in their geographic region. However, since 1997, the Medicare geographic payment localities have not been updated, leading many Sonoma County physicians to be underpaid. This problem was exacerbated by concurrent flaws in the SGR.

Since 2000, Dr. Drexler has been a tireless advocate for GPCI and SGR reforms. His proposed changes would update payment localities for physicians, and improve access to high-quality care for all Sonoma County residents. Dr. Drexler led a nationwide letter campaign, encouraging Congress to consider

funding the proposed changes while writing articles to keep peers informed of his efforts. Those efforts ultimately paid off, as the geographic payment system has been updated and the SGR has been eliminated. Dr. Drexler was essential to that progress.

Leading by example, Dr. Drexler has been active in the Sonoma County Medical Association (SCMA) and the California Medical Association (CMA) for 29 years. He has served as chair of the government relations committee, as a member of the board of directors at the SCMA, and as a delegate to the CMA. As a civic role model, philanthropist, political activist, and medical professional, Dr. Drexler's work has placed health care for all Sonoma County residents in safe hands.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Dr. Brad Drexler for his extraordinary work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 1, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 646, the previous question providing for consideration of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 647, the rule providing for consideration of the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 648, the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Reauthorization Act.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 649, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 650, final passage of Senate Joint Resolution 24.

I would have voted "no" on Roll Call 650, final passage of Senate Joint Resolution 23.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 651, the motion to go to conference on the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,827,322,966,908.80. We've added \$8,200,445,917,995.72 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.