

Bryanna had a friend who died from carbon monoxide poisoning just a few weeks before Christmas. She turned her grief into action, reaching out to two friends to help her so others would not be lost to this killer. They formed a group and went door-to-door raising donations to buy carbon monoxide detectors for local families. These detectors cost only about \$20.00 each, but within a short span they formed Hopes of Faith to handle the donations. To date, they have raised more than enough money to buy 200 detectors and then received 100 more from Safe Kids Minnesota and Kiddie, a company that makes the units.

Bryanna recently spoke at a school assembly and told her classmates, "We didn't think we could do this much at first. We're just fifth-graders. Regular fifth graders, but we reached out and wanted to take a chance."

How many times do we look around our communities and think something should be done and wait for others to lead the way? Bryanna, Alexa and Ani are exceptional young students we can look to as leaders. They saw a need, stepped forward and did something about it. I am so very proud of them.

HONORING LUCY COFFEY

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucy Coffey, the oldest living female veteran who passed away last week after 108 vibrant years. Originally from Indiana, Ms. Coffey was working in a Dallas, Texas supermarket when she learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Putting country before self, Ms. Coffey quit her job and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She bravely served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, earning two bronze stars and ascending to the rank of sergeant.

For 13 years after her discharge in 1945, Ms. Coffey worked as an Army civilian in Okinawa, Japan. She ultimately settled in my hometown of San Antonio, where she worked in the procurement office at Kelly Air Force Base until her retirement in 1971.

Last year, Ms. Coffey visited the nation's capital on an Honor Flight. While in Washington, she not only visited the women's memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and the National World War II Memorial, she also met with both Vice President Biden and President Obama.

Ms. Coffey leaves behind an abundance of admirers who have sung her praises since her passing. President Obama cited Ms. Coffey's pioneering spirit and the inspiration she has provided generations of patriots since her service. Vice President Biden celebrated her legacy and said he was honored to have met her. Bexar County veterans service officer Queta Marquez highlighted Ms. Coffey's liveliness and spunk.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer Ms. Coffey's loved ones my sincere condolences for their loss and echo San Antonians' deep gratitude for her exemplary service and unwavering patriotism. She was a remarkable American who will be greatly missed.

HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN ANDY BLOMME

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a proud son of North Carolina, Captain Carlyle "Andy" Blomme, as he prepares to retire from the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Blomme has served as the Coast Guard Chief of Congressional Affairs since June 2012, where he has been an excellent representative of the Coast Guard here on Capitol Hill. Captain Blomme has worked diligently to ensure the Coast Guard has the resources and authorities necessary to not only keep our nation safe, but to be a steward of its natural resources. His deep knowledge of Coast Guard operations, acquisitions, and strategic priorities has been invaluable to the members who work closely with the Coast Guard, which I came to appreciate as Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee of Homeland Security. This has been especially true as we have worked to recapitalize the Coast Guard's aging fleet in a time of shrinking budgets.

There has been no better advocate for, or representative of, the Coast Guard than Captain Blomme and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with Andy during this time. My staff and I have often relied on him and his staff's knowledge and understanding of the missions, challenges and responsibilities of the Coast Guard.

Captain Blomme comes from a distinguished family of seafarers from North Carolina. His great, great grandfather was First Mate on the SS *Ella* and *Annie*, a Blockade Running Steamship in the Civil War. *Ella* and *Annie* ran the Federal blockade on behalf of the Confederacy until November 1863, when she was captured by USS *Niphon* off New Inlet, North Carolina. Demonstrating his pride as the son, of the son, of a sailor, Captain Blomme came back to the same proud roots decades later as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Diligence*, homeported in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Captain Blomme is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. He has served at sea and ashore in a variety of operational and staff tours throughout his distinguished career, including serving in Command of Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, as well as Coast Guard Cutters *Diligence*, *Nantucket*, and *Point Huron*. He also rounded out his nearly twelve years of sea duty with tours aboard Coast Guard Cutters *Gallatin* and *Chase*. Aside from an impressive record of sea service, Andy has also served ashore as a controller in the Coast Guard's Fifth District Command Center in Portsmouth, VA, as the Operations Officer at Coast Guard Group Miami and as Military Assistant to the Secretary of Homeland Security during the tenures of Secretaries Michael Chertoff and Janet Napolitano.

This week, Captain Blomme will depart his post on Capitol Hill and retire after 30 years of honorable service. During that time, he has embodied the spirit of the Coast Guard and its motto, *Semper Paratus, Always Ready*. We thank him and his family for his service to the

United States Congress and to the country. On behalf of the House of Representatives, we wish Captain Blomme, his wife Peg, and their two sons, Matthew and Alex, the best in their future endeavors. We congratulate Captain Andy Blomme on his retirement and wish him fair winds and following seas.

PLATTE VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Platte Valley Medical Center for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. The Platte Valley Medical Center built their first off-site medical office building in the Reunion Marketplace area expanding their service to northern Commerce City. This provides critical service from medical providers to a community that has had limited access at this new location while ensuring access to quality care and support to the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Platte Valley Medical Center for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

HONORING CONOR DEVLIN

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Conor Devlin attends Tompkins High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Our government has evolved far beyond its original parameters. It now regulates entire economic industries, healthcare, going so far as to regulate the types of things we can and cannot buy. Our government has left its original designation as a *Laissez-Faire* Democratic Republic to a borderline Socialist country like the rest of the European and the EU. Our government is an overgrown bureaucracy that costs us—the American people—trillions each year, and yet it fails to accomplish its task when its people are spiraling into debt and unemployment is skyrocketing. The job of the American government is to protect its citizens with an up to date military comprised of the most advanced arsenal. Secondly, the government

needs to protect the welfare of its citizens and by that I mean low taxes that are not crushing small business and forcing Corporations to locate to other places like China and Japan because it is cheaper there, and a dissolution of the current welfare state which would put millions of American back to work if they no longer receive a monthly check for not being productive. The government needs to defend the rights of all its citizens by preventing foreign nations from infringing on our rights or any companies and agencies from infringing on our rights. The government also needs to stimulate the economy by providing a workplace that will foster economic growth in the private sector and not continually grow the bureaucracies in the public sector wasting the revenues generated by its citizens. Additionally, the government needs to step back and change its role in the healthcare system it should not waste taxpayer's dollars providing for other people's healthcare, which is that individual's choice not to be insured by the government. The government shouldn't waste money on useless agencies that can be easily cut down such as the EPA, the IRS, the USDA and many other branches that are full to the brim with useless employees wasting the American taxpayer's money. The American government's job is to protect the American citizens and their welfare. This does not include regulating major economic industries, driving companies and small businesses out of business and out of America, infringing on American's God-given rights and becoming a major player in an American citizen's life.

HONORING CAPTAIN LAWRENCE R. VASQUEZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Captain Lawrence R. Vasquez, Installation Commander of Naval Base Ventura County, on the special occasion of his Change of Command.

Since February 2012, Captain Vasquez has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and service as Commanding Officer of Naval Base Ventura County. His exemplary tour as the senior ranking officer in charge has been marked with distinction and remarkable success.

Under his dedicated command, Naval Base Ventura County became the first and to date only military installation to operate manned and unmanned aerial systems in FAA-controlled airspace. Naval Base Ventura County is also the only Navy installation tapped to support the Department of Health and Human Service's mission to house and process unaccompanied minors apprehended crossing the border into the United States.

During the Springs Fire of May 2013, Captain Vasquez's exceptional leadership enabled a joint city, county, and federal response to the fast-moving blaze, which threatened homes, California State University Channel Islands, and valuable military assets near the Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County.

Captain Vasquez has been a staunch supporter of community engagement, personally participating in over 250 public meetings, and hosting tours and events to bring a better understanding of the Navy's mission and better

collaboration among community partners, including government organizations, schools and business entities.

Captain Vasquez is the embodiment of an extensive and distinguished career of service to our country in the United States Navy. As a Naval aviator with over 26 years of commendable service, Captain Vasquez led a 12-aircraft helicopter squadron, the HSL-45 "Wolfpack." Additionally, he served as the Flag Aide to Commander of the Naval Coordinator Mid-South Region, as well as personal administrative aide to the Secretary of the Navy.

Captain Vasquez is recognized for his outstanding leadership and served as Commander of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Farah, Afghanistan, a joint military and civilian team charged with extending the reach of the government in Afghanistan through reconstruction, development, governance, and security.

Captain Vasquez's exemplary work has earned him numerous accolades and awards to include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action ribbon and various unit and campaign awards. Additionally, he was awarded the 2004 League of United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) "Excellence in Military Service" award.

Captain Vasquez's remarkable career and many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to his country and community. As he embarks on a new chapter in his career as the Chief of Staff for the Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia in Naples, Italy, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Captain Vasquez's honorable and selfless service to our community and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CIERAH KELLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cierah Kelley for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cierah Kelley is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cierah Kelley is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cierah Kelley for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE PRESERVATION OF ANTI-BIOTICS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT ACT OF 2015—H.R. 1552

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have introduced H.R. 1552, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2015. This legislation would preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics by ending the unnecessary non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in healthy food-animals.

The discovery of antibiotics literally transformed modern medicine, but their effectiveness is now being threatened by the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Recently the World Health Organization warned that the crisis is "so serious that it threatens the achievements of modern medicine."

Already the CDC has told us that these superbugs cause two million infections and kill at least twenty-three thousand Americans every year. We spend twenty- to thirty-five billion dollars fighting these infections—sometimes in vain, as there are now strains of bacteria which have become completely untreatable. The scale of this problem worldwide is truly staggering—each year, seven hundred thousand people die unnecessarily and the global cost could be as high as \$1.2 trillion.

Unfortunately this problem is our own doing. Despite warnings from the very scientists who discovered antibiotics we have utterly failed to use them wisely. Overuse in medicine and rampant misuse in food-animal production has caused widespread resistance and led to the current crisis.

Food-animal production currently uses 80% of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. The majority of these are routinely given to healthy animals for "growth promotion" or "disease prevention." These non-therapeutic uses are not only unnecessary, but they also create the perfect environment for bacteria to evolve resistance, resulting in antibiotic resistant superbugs. Right now, we are allowing the greatest medical advancement of the 20th century to be frittered away, in part because it's cheaper for factory farms to feed these critical drugs to animals rather than fix the stressful, overcrowded or unsanitary conditions which allow disease to spread.

By the 1970's the dangers of misusing antibiotics in food-animals were well known and in 1977 the Food and Drug Administration sought to end sub-therapeutic uses of penicillin and tetracycline in food-animals. However, no substantive action was ever taken, antibiotic use has steadily increased and the problem is now worse than ever.

The FDA's recent decision to ask pharmaceutical companies to voluntarily remove "growth promotion" uses from drug labels is an inadequate response which fails to address routine non-therapeutic uses, often called the disease prevention loophole. A recent analysis by the PEW Charitable Trust clearly shows that this loophole can be exploited as many drugs have overlapping approvals for disease prevention and growth promotion and can be given to animals with no limit on the duration of use.

The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act would phase out the use of the