

\$1 trillion a year for one disease. Yes, we need to focus on finding cures.

And there are other disorders and diseases that need that attention. Take autism, diabetes, ALS, cancer, the list moves on.

It is time for us to encourage and support young scientists, to put the focus on our most challenging health conditions, and we want the regulatory agencies to be there to encourage this effort, and I encourage support for the 21st Century Cures Act.

RECOGNIZING NHTI, CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to underscore the importance of increasing access to higher education, including crucial workforce development programs that help our students gain the high-tech skills they need to succeed in our 21st century economy.

In New Hampshire, we are blessed to have some of the very best community colleges in the country, and I am proud to have visited every single community college in my district.

Today I would like to recognize one institution, the New Hampshire Technical Institute, the community college in our capital of Concord, which was just ranked number one in the country for value added by the Brookings Institution. That means that NHTI students are meeting and surpassing expected outcomes after graduation, and many of them are going on to extremely successful careers.

Every student should have access to this type of opportunity, and I am pushing for a number of initiatives that will help business partners join with community colleges to provide specific job training. Let's all join together to make sure that students across the country can access the kind of value-added programs offered at NHTI. And together, we can move forward so that every American can realize the American Dream.

□ 1215

VETERAN HEALTH CARE, FIGHTER ACES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of my top priorities is standing up for our servicemen and -women. That is why I am proud to reintroduce the Help Veterans Save for Health Care Act, because right now the IRS makes a veteran choose between receiving VA care or continuing to fund their health savings account. That is wrong. My bill fixes that.

In addition to this bill, today Congress will recognize America's fighter

aces with its highest honor—the Congressional Gold Medal. Last year, Congress passed this resolution honoring these patriots who are simply the best of the best.

We are the land of the free because of all our troops and veterans who have put their lives on the line for us, and I salute them today as we remember their sacrifices on this Memorial Day.

DAVID LETTERMAN

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this occasion to thank David Letterman for 33 years of late-night television and giving his genius to America. I want to thank him on behalf of my friend Warren Zevon for being the best friend his music ever had, and for helping so many other musicians get an opportunity to play for America; as a Memphian who attended the Andy Kaufman-Jerry Lawler match, for Dave giving Andy Kaufman the opportunity to give his zany sense of humor to America, and so many other comedians that he gave a forum to.

Dave was in the Ed Sullivan Theater, but he should have been in the Steve Allen Theater, Ed's rival, because he was more like Steve Allen, the first late-night host. The "Man on the Street" interview with Steve Allen was like "Stupid Pet Tricks."

Dave Letterman was a genius. Tonight I will be watching his last show—we all will—the 6,028th. We will all watch it.

Dave, don't stay away. Come back. We thank you for all you have given us.

HONORING MONTANA VETERANS

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Montana veterans and all the men and women who have fallen in defense of our great Nation.

I would like to recognize one in particular, Private 1st Class Nicholas Cook, from Hungry Horse, Montana, who was killed in action in Afghanistan. He bravely sacrificed himself to save his fellow paratroopers by exposing his position, providing suppressive fire. His valor earned him the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, no veteran should ever be forgotten. Today I would like to also recognize the following Montana veterans for their service to our Nation:

James Dighans, Carl Nordberg, Kenneth and Christopher Bogner, George Lacher, Charles Pickard, Michael Kallas, James and Gary Jacobson, Benjamin Balduke, Nicholas Cook, Williard Purkett, James and John Hantz, Robert Emrick, Dennis Morkert, and Edward Kinney.

God bless the United States, and God bless the troops that defend her.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program.

Head Start is near and dear to my heart. I began my career as a Head Start teacher in the Chicago public schools. I have never forgotten how the program made a monumental difference for its students, and this Congress should not forget those kids either.

Since its inception, Head Start has served 32 million children in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. Last year, in my home State of Illinois, there were 130 early Head Start and Head Start providers providing quality teachers.

And there is an economic impact. Head Start accounted for more than 7,950 jobs in Illinois last year. Yet sequestration cuts have done serious damage to the programs in Illinois and around the Nation. In my State alone, more than \$16.5 million in funding has been cut, 1,900 children went unserved, and 549 jobs were lost.

Certainly none of us was elected to keep young children in need from getting an education. We should celebrate the 50th anniversary by fully funding Head Start and eliminating the sequester because every child in our country deserves a quality education and a good start.

VETERANS DESERVE ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, an internal report from the Department of Veterans Affairs revealed that the Department annually spends \$6 billion on illegal contracts and out-of-control spending. This fraud is unacceptable, an insult to the men and women who have risked their lives in service to our country. Unfortunately, this lack of accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs is all too common under President Obama's failed leadership.

Our veterans deserve the best care, and I will continue working to give our veterans the treatment they have earned as promoted by Veterans' Affairs Chairman JEFF MILLER of Florida. Congress has worked to promote change at the VA. For example, this week, we passed the Ensuring VA Accountability Act, sponsored by Congressman RYAN COSTELLO. This bipartisan effort clearly demonstrates meaningful reforms for our veterans and military families.

I hope President Obama can live up to his commitment to end delays and denial of services to our veterans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that this week marks the 50-year anniversary of the Head Start program, a momentous achievement in our Nation's fight to break the cycle of poverty and open the windows of opportunity for low-income families and children.

Now, I don't want to date myself, actually, but I was in the first class of Head Start, and today I bring with me my original certificate of completion from that program. I am proud to say that, if it were not for Head Start, I wouldn't be here today. You see, as the daughter of poor immigrants from Mexico, not many people would think I would graduate from high school, let alone college, or get my MBA and eventually make my way to the House of Representatives.

Head Start has served over 32 million children, and, more importantly, it has helped families know how to navigate the school system. My hat is off to the teachers, to the community volunteers, to the healthcare coordinators, and to so many who helped to implement Head Start programs in their communities. Your work is transforming our Nation. It is giving that head start to our children because they are the future of this Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say today, "Happy birthday, Head Start."

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN DUSTIN LUKASIEWICZ OF ALMA, NEBRASKA

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Third District constituent Captain Dustin Lukasiewicz of Alma, Nebraska. He and five fellow marines were killed in a helicopter crash last week while providing humanitarian aid to earthquake victims in Nepal.

Captain Lukasiewicz made the ultimate sacrifice while trying to assist victims no one else could reach. His service reflects the goodness of America, accepting the call to help those who need it most.

When I spoke with the captain's mother yesterday, she told me how her son called to wish her a happy Mother's Day just days before the crash. His attention to loved ones is a reflection of his life of service and devoting himself to the care of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praying for the captain's mother, father, wife, daughter, unborn child, and all others who lost loved ones in this terrible tragedy. As Memorial Day approaches, we must make it our priority to honor and remember our military heroes, and Captain Lukasiewicz is certainly one of our heroes.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, as Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY and Congresswoman SANCHEZ just pointed out their involvement in Head Start, I want you to know I directed a 19-unit Head Start program up in north central Minnesota in my youth, and so I am proud to join them in celebrating this 50th anniversary that served over 32 million children, because I was able to see firsthand how this impacted children's lives. And what a testimonial it is to see one of the first participants go on to become a Member of the United States Congress and running for the United States Senate.

Clearly, Head Start is so critical to our national commitment to every child, regardless of their circumstances at birth, to have an opportunity to succeed in life, developing that wonderful spark for learning that sets kids up for success.

So once again, hats off to the educators, to the directors, to the faculty, and to the parents, all those who have made this program such a wonderful, great success for children all across America.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

Today I would like to applaud the thousands of families who open their homes to foster children. It takes a special kind of caregiver to foster a child, someone who can drop everything on a moment's notice and, without hesitation, bring a child into their home.

In Pennsylvania alone, there are 15,000 children in foster care. That means we have thousands of amazing families with hearts big enough to provide love and care for children who need a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, foster children become an irreplaceable part of the family. Indeed, the most telling statistic is that in Pennsylvania 65 percent of families end up adopting their foster children. We need families willing to open their hearts and homes unconditionally to

children who have been abused and removed from their homes. This is what so many dedicated foster families are able to provide.

Mr. Speaker, during National Foster Care Month, I would like to celebrate the resiliency of foster children who overcome great obstacles at such a young age and recognize the dedicated foster families who support them.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, today I stand here to recognize May as National Foster Care Month. More than 40,000 of our Nation's youth are currently living in the child welfare system. More than 23,000 youth age out of the foster care system when they turn 18, putting them at risk for homelessness, criminal exposure, and mental illness. These statistics paint a grim picture.

Today I stand here to recognize a young woman who aged out of the foster care system, Kamille Tynes, a success story. Kamille spent 5 years in the Michigan foster care system. Her experience fostered a tireless advocacy for foster care and resources that our children need. She has been given awards and recognized for her amazing leadership, such as the foster care Outstanding Young Leaders Award. She is now creating her own consulting firm to address those needs. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask my colleagues to please continue to understand the importance of recognizing and funding our foster care program.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate May as National Foster Care Month and welcome many of the foster care youth who are visiting the House of Representatives today.

This year's theme is "Get to Know the Many Faces of Foster Care." The goal of this special month is to celebrate the experiences of the more than 400,000 youth in the child welfare system and raise awareness about their needs.

Mr. Speaker, the foster care system has and always will hold a special place in my heart. When I was 11 years old, my family welcomed a foster care child, Bob, into our home. Bob, throughout the years, has taught me so much and will be my brother for life.

Today I have the honor of being shadowed for the day by Nyeelah Innis of Newnan, Georgia. Nyeelah has been in foster care for 8 years, with her first foster care setting starting when she was 10 years old. Mr. Speaker, in just