

This spring I met with Jumaane Cook from Parma Heights and his 5-year-old son James. Jumaane is 34 years old and has lived in Ohio for most of his life. He became insured for the first time in his adult life just last year when he purchased insurance for himself and his son on the Federal exchange.

Jumaane was a college athlete but he tore his ACL in 2007. His injury left him unable to play sports, and his lack of insurance left him unable to afford treatment. Jumaane came to Washington to tell us how important the Affordable Care Act and his subsidy are to him and to his son. Because his employer doesn't offer health insurance, without the Federal subsidy Jumaane would be forced to go without insurance again and his son would have to go on public assistance.

Jumaane is not alone.

Rachael in Cincinnati wrote to me when the Supreme Court decided to hear the Burwell case. She and her husband "have insured ourselves through individual insurance since 2008. It has been difficult and, at times, we have had to go without insurance simply due to the incredibly high cost of insurance in our area. We have paid our premiums every month. I will be fit-to-be-tied if I have to look for health insurance again. I was disappointed with what I could afford on the Federal exchange. And, I fear I will not be able to afford any insurance if I lose my subsidy."

Lisa in Athens wrote:

I have been reviewing plans on Healthcare.gov. At my age—over 60, but not Medicare-eligible—the premiums are high, even for the Bronze plans. It concerns me that a court may rule that the subsidies are not available to those who access the Federal exchange.

That is why these subsidies exist—to help people such as Lisa afford coverage, regardless of where they live.

Jim from Streetsboro, near Akron, wrote, saying that he is "62, drawing a pension, on Social Security, and paying COBRA health care to the tune of \$1,200 a month." Jim is looking forward to buying cheaper insurance coverage through the Federal exchange, which he should be able to afford. He wrote: "At least that was the plan until someone decided to try and derail the ACA for the umpteenth time. If things go bad with this decision, please do all you can to remember those who have worked their entire lives"—to remember those who have worked their entire lives.

What the Supreme Court could do, and what clearly most Republican Members of this body and the House of Representatives want the Supreme Court to do, is to strike this part of this law down so that 161,000 Ohioans will either lose their insurance by losing their subsidy or pay increased fees—taxes in the years ahead.

Connie in Cincinnati wrote to me after the lower court decision came down. She said the ACA has been "a Godsend" for her. Connie wrote:

I believe strongly in the importance of having health care and have recently qualified for a catastrophic health plan with tax credits on healthcare.gov.

As you know, Ohio is one of those States that opted out of establishing its own State plans. That was not a problem until yesterday. Now, facing a plan that may be ineligible for the federal tax credit, I face a dire financial situation.

Connie says:

I have willingly paid my fair share of taxes throughout my life. My tax dollars helped bail out banks and automobile corporations. I need my government to look out for me.

The Supreme Court needs to hear from people such as Connie and Jim and Jumaane and Lisa and Rachael. These are hard-working Ohioans, most of whom have worked their entire life, but, unfortunately for them, have not worked for a company that has provided affordable health care. They have spent large chunks of their paychecks on health care, even with Federal subsidies. The Supreme Court should remember that before it takes away affordable coverage. That is a lifeline to these Ohioans and to so many millions of Americans.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MS. SENIOR NEVADA PAGEANT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Senior Nevada, Inc., on the organization's 30th anniversary.

Since it was founded in 1985, Ms. Senior Nevada, Inc., has honored the talents and accomplishments of senior women throughout the State of Nevada. The first Ms. Senior Nevada Pageant was held in 1986 at the former Sahara Hotel and Casino. At the time, only one contestant from each county was able to compete in the pageant. Today, the Ms. Senior Nevada Pageant is open to all women in Nevada who are age 60 or older, to celebrate the "age of elegance."

The contestants in the Ms. Senior Nevada pageant must demonstrate their strengths in four areas: talent, evening gown, philosophy of life, and an interview. The winner of the pageant represents Nevada on the national stage at the Ms. Senior America pageant. During her reigning year, Ms. Senior Nevada travels throughout the State to discuss a variety of issues affecting senior citizens and promotes her platform. Past Ms. Senior Nevada platforms have included "for the good of seniors" and "responsible pet ownership."

I commend Ms. Senior Nevada, Inc., on recognizing exceptional senior women in the Silver State for 30 years,

and I applaud their service to the State of Nevada.

RECOGNIZING WENLIANG WANG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize entrepreneur and philanthropist Wenliang Wang for his commitment and dedication to restoring one of the world's most impressive wetlands, the Dandong Yalu River Estuary Wetland in China.

Mr. Wang is well-known in his country as the founder and chairman of the China Rilin Construction Group, which is among the largest private construction companies in China. Rilin is also the owner and operator of the Port of Dandong, a vital trading hub in Liaoning Province located in northeast China. Though Mr. Wang has important business ties to this region, it is his private efforts and personal connection to the area that has influenced him to invest millions of dollars in the restoration of the Dandong Yalu River Estuary Wetland.

Not far from Dandong Port, sit the Dandong wetlands. Bird watchers, scientists, and outdoor enthusiasts travel from around the world to Liaoning to study the area and watch the native species and migratory birds, including those that fly from New Zealand to Alaska each year. Mr. Wang recognized the significance of safeguarding and enhancing these wetlands. With his support, restoration work to revitalize the fields, shrimp pond, and tidal basin has made this important migratory destination a sanctuary for all of the species that depend on the wetland.

Today, the Dandong wetlands are among the most inhabited wetlands in the world, which includes feeding and resting areas for hundreds of thousands of migrating and wading birds, such as the rare saunders' gull. It is my understanding that there are approximately 14,000 of these birds left in the world and more than 1,300 have made the wetland their home.

I applaud Mr. Wang for his commitment to protecting the internationally significant Dandong Yalu River Estuary Wetland and wish him the very best in his continued efforts to protect our environment and restore these important sites.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS POWER LINEMEN

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize 12 Arkansas power linemen who recently traveled to Guatemala as volunteers with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation to put into action cooperative principle number 6—cooperation among cooperatives. On their recent trip, Doug Evans, Kyle Metcalf, Andy Caywood, Michael Counts, Andy Ward, Brent Hufstedler, Kirk Kempson, Kris Rankin, Joey

Burk, Paul Garrison, Ryan Hayes, and Will Glover donated their time and expertise to help those less fortunate.

Over 19 days, these men built an electric distribution system that extended 4 miles to the agricultural communities of Jolom Ijix and Zapotal. Their work connected homes to an electric grid powered by a small hydroelectric plant, helping bring electricity to these communities for the first time. Electricity plays a critical role in providing health care, education, access to clean water, and economic opportunity, and I am proud to have these Arkansans help the people of Jolom Ijix and Zapotal along the path towards long-lasting growth.

These 12 men and the many other volunteers from electric co-ops in Arkansas have traveled to Guatemala for rural electrification projects in recent years. Their compassion and spirit represent the best of our State. As a result of their efforts, the residents of these Guatemalan communities will see an immeasurable improvement in their quality of life. These volunteers, like others before them, have created a lasting impact on regions that need help the most.●

NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize four American heroes who exemplify the best Montana has to offer: Samson Birdinground, Cyril Not Afraid, Barney Old Coyote and Henry Old Coyote.

These men selflessly served our country during World War II by offering up the Apsaalooké Crow language as part of a national “code-talk” program. This program used the unique style of several Native American languages to transmit and receive military intelligence, providing crucial communication to forces overseas.

These four brave gentlemen sacrificed much to defend their homeland during the war. Using skilled knowledge of the Apsaalooké tongue, they worked closely with American defense forces. The beautiful complexity of the Crow language allowed it to be processed without fear of enemy breach, leading the program to successfully save countless lives.

All four heroes were recently awarded Congress’ most prestigious honor: the Congressional Gold Medal. Their families will ceremoniously accept the medals on behalf of their forefathers this week.

Apsaalooké, or Crow, Nation has a rich heritage of members going above and beyond the call of duty, and these men are decidedly no exception. We Montanans are proud of our diverse heritage, and it is truly an honor to celebrate individuals who so humbly embody the spirit of patriotism.●

RECOGNIZING DR. PAUL HOMMERT

• Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Dr. Paul Hommert on his

retirement. I have had the pleasure of working with Paul on a number of occasions during his tenure with Sandia National Laboratories. I greatly appreciate and respect his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication as the director of Sandia National Laboratories and president of Sandia Corporation. Paul has given a great deal to this Nation and to its defense. The importance of his work directly involves the complex threats facing our country focusing on national security and technology innovation.

Paul began his career with Sandia as a member of the technical staff in 1976 and then gradually moved to positions of increased responsibility in a broad range of programs and management assignments. He initially led programs supporting energy research, and from the mid- to late-1990s, he was director of engineering sciences. Later in his career, Dr. Hommert became the Director of Research and Applied Science at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in the United Kingdom, where he led the science and engineering organization responsible for the United Kingdom’s nuclear deterrent. From 2003 to 2006, Dr. Hommert led the Applied Physics Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The division was responsible for nuclear weapon design and assessment, weapon performance code development, and weapon science support. Dr. Hommert returned to Sandia to become vice president of Sandia’s California site, a position he held until 2009, when he transitioned to Sandia’s main site in Albuquerque to become Executive Vice President and Deputy Laboratories Director for the Nuclear Weapons Program. In July 2010, Dr. Hommert became the Director of Sandia National Laboratories and President of Sandia Corporation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Paul has received numerous awards, such as the Outstanding Alumnus Award for Professional Excellence from Purdue’s School of Mechanical Engineering, and a Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from Purdue’s College of Engineering. In addition, Dr. Hommert was named Laboratory Director of the Year in 2013 by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for his support of Sandia’s technology transfer activities. This award recognizes federal laboratories and their industry partners for outstanding technology transfer efforts and has become one of the most prestigious honors in technology transfer. Paul has represented our country with integrity and honor, and it is my privilege to thank him for his contribution to our nation’s security. I wish him best of luck, continued happiness, and offer my congratulations on his retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 160. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 160. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1973. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9928-20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1974. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Di-n-butyl carbonate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9928-63-OCSP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1975. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reserve Account” (RIN0575-AC99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1976. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Michael J. Connor, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1977. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of