

the association's fifth president in 1991. During that time, over four decades of service, Jim and the PMTA have worked on behalf of the Pennsylvania trucking industry, fighting to preserve and strengthen the industry, and protect and promote its jobs. Whether that meant impacting legislation before the Pennsylvania General Assembly, or marching through the halls of Congress to meet with members and staff of the Pennsylvania delegation, Jim and the PMTA's voices were always respected. Without question, during my time representing the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and serving as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Jim has been the face of trucking and a trusted advisor on the safe and efficient operations of the industry.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to work with Jim, and I thank him for his decades of service to the PMTA. While he will be truly missed, the Pennsylvania trucking industry will be forever grateful for his tireless leadership and service on their behalf. I wish Jim and his wife Linda the very best in whatever their futures may hold.

**URGING IMMEDIATE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER PROGRAM**

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge immediate reauthorization of the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program before it expires at the end of this fiscal year. Simply put, this program has proven to save the lives of children. My colleague and dear friend from North Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and I have introduced legislation that would make it permanent. Last July, thanks to the leadership of Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON and his staff and advocates like Nancy Goodman, who is the founder and Executive Director of Kids v. Cancer, this Chamber passed an amended version of this initiative as part of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act. This program is a crucial incentive—in addition to the Orphan Drug Act—for drug manufacturers to make the significant investment in developing therapies for rare pediatric diseases, including pediatric cancers and lysosomal storage disorders.

When we were considering H.R. 6 last July and again in recognition of National Neuroblastoma Awareness Day last September, I came to this Floor to speak about the positive impact the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program has had on children with neuroblastoma. Because of the limited market incentives available prior to the creation of the program, biopharmaceutical companies had been unwilling to risk investing in research and development for a therapy that treats this extremely rare and devastating pediatric cancer. The Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program proved to be the necessary incentive for United Therapeutics to satisfy this unmet need with the development of Unituxin. In March 2015, this therapy received Food and Drug Administra-

tion ("FDA") approval for children with high-risk neuroblastoma. Unituxin was the first drug that FDA approved for this condition and only the second FDA-approved therapy for pediatric cancer. Upon its approval, FDA awarded Unituxin the second voucher from this program.

As the chairman of the Childhood Cancer Caucus, I recognize the importance of this therapy to the community, especially to children like four-year-old Rex Ryan from Austin in the 10th District of Texas. Diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma at 17 months old, Rex's parents Leslie and Casey enrolled him in the clinical trial for Unituxin at Children's Blood and Cancer Center at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas in Austin. Rex is a neuroblastoma survivor because of this new drug, which would not have been developed without the voucher program. After witnessing the direct impact Unituxin has had on Rex and his parents, it would be unconscionable for Congress to allow this program to expire. As I have previously described, the hope afforded by the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program extends to other conditions as well.

Nearly two years ago, I came to this Floor to speak about the value of the program just after BioMarin Pharmaceuticals sold the first voucher from this program for \$67.5 million, which the company immediately reinvested to build a clinical laboratory on its campus in San Rafael, California. The laboratory is a critical component of its development of a gene therapy platform for hemophilia A, which is showing promising early data in eight patients. BioMarin received this first voucher for developing a therapy for Morquio A syndrome, which is also known as mucopolysaccharidosis ("MPS") type IV. Unfortunately for the millions of children affected by one of the nearly 7,000 rare diseases without a treatment, such as several of the other types and subtypes of MPS, including Sanfilippo syndrome and Sly syndrome, politics have hampered Senate negotiations on its larger innovation package, which is putting the program in jeopardy.

Patients like eight-year-old Beckett Weldon, who is from Cypress in the 10th District of Texas, cannot afford for Congress to allow this program to lapse. Beckett suffers from SYNGAP1-related intellectual disability, which is an ultra-rare and severely disabling, genetic neurological disorder. Approximately two-thirds of the children with this condition have some form of epilepsy. Other symptoms include hypotonia, behavioral disorders, language impairment, and oral dyspraxia. Beckett began his four-year diagnostic odyssey at 4 months old, when he began missing milestones his twin sister Pyper was meeting. After visiting 19 specialists and several diagnostic tests, Beckett received his diagnosis.

Only recently identified, SYNGAP1-related intellectual disability has no FDA-approved treatment. Beckett's parents Monica and Chris hope to change that for this community. Less than two years after Beckett's diagnosis in 2012, Monica Weldon—with the help of Global Genes—founded Bridge the Gap-SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation, which is a member of the National Organization for Rare Disorders ("NORD"). Due to Monica's efforts, the Foundation was one of twenty rare disease patient organizations selected in April to develop natural history studies with the as-

sistance of NORD and supported in part by a cooperative agreement with the FDA. The Bridge the Gap-SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation is also hosting the first ever SYNGAP1 International Conference November 30–December 1, 2016 at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston in an effort to bring together families, researchers, and clinicians to foster a collaborative environment that will lead to the development of treatments and ultimately a cure for the condition.

As the SYNGAP1 community initiates these efforts toward treatments and a cure, it is critical that the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program be available as an incentive for manufacturers to consider investing in therapies for this condition. Congress must continue to help sick children and their families find treatments by extending this valuable program.

**TRIBUTE TO MINERVA CRANTZ ALLEN**

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Minerva Crantz Allen, a bilingual Native American educator, linguist, and poet. It is my pleasure to commend Minerva for her lifelong commitment to preserving the Assiniboine (Nakoda) tradition, heritage, and culture. Her civic accomplishments for the Native American people truly make her the embodiment of leadership and service.

Minerva was born in the spring of 1934 on the Fort Belknap Indian reservation, in North-central Montana. Her grandfather instilled in her at an early age the importance of education for her future. The daughter of a French Chippewa father and an Assiniboine-Gros Ventre mother, Minerva spoke her native languages, but also taught herself English by singing songs with the Presbyterian ministers' wife. Minerva's grandmother, aunts and uncles still conversed in the Sakoda language, because of their culture and belief system.

Growing up was hard, not only because of the Great Depression. Minerva hid her language, culture and religion, and was scared of being turned into the law. Minerva thrived on following her passions, despite the sacrifices. At thirteen years old, she was sent to attend Indian Boarding School at Flandreau, South Dakota. Minerva was a very outgoing member of the student body—a cheerleader, Homecoming Queen, playing football and basketball. Despite the death of her grandfather and her parents' divorce, she went on to obtain a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University, a master's degree from Northern Montana State College, and completed additional coursework at a Weber State College.

Minerva has proven herself time and again, holding various critical positions with the Hays' Lodge Pole school system. As the Head Start director for eight years, Minerva helped to establish the first Foster Grandparent Program, bringing grandmothers and grandfathers into the classroom to teach the students their language and culture. She has written several books that translate Indian history and folklore into English, and she has published two books of her own poetry which are used widely in Montana.

Minerva is very active in her community, reservation, and state. Minerva has been invited to numerous schools in Montana, served as President and Vice-President of the Montana Association of Bilingual Education (MABE), as well as Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA). She is an Ambassador for Indian Education for All, telling stories about how all people can learn the truth about Native American history, culture and philosophy into their classroom, bridging the gap of racism and teaching about the richness of indigenous people's history and culture.

Rarely does a single personal history reflect so vividly an individual's struggle and determination to make life truly meaningful. Minerva's strength and inspiring spirit match her drive to make the world a better place for her people. Today, as a widowed ranch woman, she still lives on her grandfather's land after three generations, next to the Little Rockies Mountains, where she was born.

IN HONOR OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE  
EDUCATION CLUBS OF AMERICA

**HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) chapter and the success of similar chapters throughout the country. Through teaching methods focused on development in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management, students participating in DECA are effectively prepared for their future careers.

The Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's DECA chapter successfully equips emerging entrepreneurs with goal-setting, consensus-building, and project-management skills. By tapping into its students' varying interests and learning styles, DECA's adaptive business-development program engages students in a hands-on environment, including entrepreneur activities such as operating school stores, organizing fundraising events, and participating in business simulation competitions with other DECA chapters. DECA encourages its students to learn and practice smart business strategies, opening doors for students to develop and influence the business sector.

The Western Sierra Collegiate Academy successfully engages its students in business practices and has been named a Gold-level School-Based Enterprise (SBE). In earning this award, Western Sierra Collegiate Academy has completed a detailed written description of how its chapter adheres to select business model standards in the above methods. Chapters are categorized into three SBE levels: bronze, silver, and gold. Western Sierra's Gold-level placement qualifies them to participate in the exclusive SBE Academy competition, held at the International Career Development Conference.

Throughout secondary and post-secondary education, it is essential to instill in students common-sense principles utilized by today's businesses, and the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy's chapter reaffirms this notion. The teaching methods and interactions that DECA applies allows students to learn the signifi-

cance and importance in one's ability to make choices and experience real-world business practices. The highly interactive nature of DECA allows students to understand the free market's benefits. The ability to teach these principles to students throughout high school and college is critical to our country's future free market drive and initiative.

Knowledge and practice of entrepreneurship coupled with interactive applications of smart business strategies in an educational environment not only teaches students how to engage in business with the necessary skills required, but also allows students to develop their own well-informed career goals. Currently, DECA chapters are in over 3,500 high schools and over 275 colleges, engaging over 215,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy DECA chapter for its tireless efforts to inspire and train successful entrepreneurs and look forward to following their successes.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES G. SCHLICHTER, JR. FOR HIS DEDICATION TO CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA'S SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOTEMBA, JAPAN

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles G. Schlichter, Jr. for his dedication to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's Sister City relationship with Gotemba, Japan.

Since 1958, when the Gotemba City Assembly voted to establish a Sister City relationship with Chambersburg, PA, the two cities have enjoyed a strong and fulfilling bond, as illustrated by the many citizen exchange visits that have occurred over the years. While much credit is owed to those responsible for establishing this relationship, I believe it is just as important to recognize those, like Mr. Schlichter, who have helped maintain this meaningful connection. What's more, I would like to highlight the 30-year commitment Mr. Schlichter has made to helping guide and maintain Chambersburg's Sister City relationship with Gotemba.

As a trusted member of the local business community, Mr. Schlichter was a natural choice to represent our area in this international relationship via the Chambersburg Sister City Committee. The Sister City Committee was established by Chambersburg Borough Council, however it remains committed to raising its necessary funds through donations and contributions from local organizations and businesses. Thanks to Mr. Schlichter's stewardship, our community continues to reap the benefits of this longstanding Sister City relationship.

Today I am proud to celebrate the 30 years that Mr. Schlichter has given to upholding this 55-years-and-counting bond, and on behalf of the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I say thank you.

IN HONOR OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELGIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Second Baptist Church of Elgin on its 150th anniversary.

Since it was formally organized in 1866 by a group of men, women and children who had escaped slavery and established Elgin's African-American community, the Second Baptist Church has served the Greater Elgin Community through ministry and outreach.

In its 150 years, the church has grown in both size and membership and remains an important part of our Eighth District Community.

From its humble beginnings, the Second Baptist Church of Elgin has expanded to include a soup kitchen, young adult ministry, prison ministry, bus ministry, couples ministry and street ministry.

The church has partnered with local schools to help at-risk students, donated funds to the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin and in 2003 hosted a young State Senator by the name of Barack Obama as he introduced himself to our community.

I've met with their members when their League of Military Veterans came to visit Washington, DC, and I'm so proud of the connections they have forged that help keep our community connected and strong.

I am proud to honor the Second Baptist Church of Elgin as they celebrate their 150th anniversary and I look forward to their continued contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LATE SMITH  
BRETT LAWRENCE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2016*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the late Mr. Smith Brett Lawrence of Keene, New York, who was extremely dedicated to his family, his community, and his country.

Mr. Lawrence, known as Brett to most, served during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine. He was an Adirondack Guide and lived the majority of his life in Keene, New York, located in New York's 21st Congressional District. Brett will be remembered by his family and friends as a loyal and dedicated man, with a wonderful sense of charity and a deep faith.

Brett devoted many years to organizations in his community including the Keene Valley Rod and Gun Club, the American Legion Post 1312, and the Keene Valley Congregational Church. Brett also drove sleds at the Lake Placid Bobsled-Run for 18 years, served with the Keene Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, and also served as the chair of the Town of Keene Republican Committee.

However, what may have been Brett's greatest service to his community was his role as Keene's Santa Claus for the past 40 years. Dressed as Santa Claus, Brett would visit the