

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Bonnie Wood's dedicated service to her community and to the citizens of Potter County and the surrounding region and, certainly, to the residents who make their home at Sweden Valley.

AMERICA NEEDS A STRONG AND SMART COMMANDER IN CHIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a matter of critical and immediate importance to our national security.

As we combat the growing threat of terrorism both at home and abroad, it is absolutely critical that we elect a Commander in Chief who will be strong and smart when it comes to our national security, a Commander in Chief who will work with our allies, employ diplomacy across the globe, and be thoughtful when it comes to using military force to defend the United States.

Time and again, the Republican nominee has shown that he completely lacks the temperament to lead America on the world stage. Our Commander in Chief must support our men and women in the military and our veterans. Instead, our servicemembers and veterans have weathered verbal attack after verbal attack since the Republican nominee began his campaign.

Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform deserve better. Those of us who have children who can be called up deserve better. For those who put themselves in harm's way, they deserve better. For Americans who rely on the Commander in Chief to make reasoned, well thought-out, balanced decisions, they deserve better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward nominees for the Office of the President.

A TRUE MINNESOTA HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life of General John W. Vessey Jr.

Just 16 years old when he lied about his age and enlisted as a private in the Minnesota National Guard, John Vessey quickly found himself on the front lines in World War II. It didn't take long for John to distinguish himself as a war hero, and, in 1944, he received a battlefield commission.

General Vessey's military career didn't end with his service in World War II. More than two decades later, he also served in Vietnam.

In 1982, General Vessey was chosen as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Ronald Reagan, due

to his impressive reputation for high integrity and strong character.

Some of us might remember General Vessey for becoming our Nation's longest serving active soldier, but most of us will remember him for the work he did for his fellow soldiers.

President Reagan once called him a "soldier's soldier," which he undoubtedly was, as he never forgot about the men who stood next to him in battle, including the ones who never made it home. This was proven by his advocacy for MIA/POW issues, for which he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992.

General John W. Vessey Jr. was a true Minnesotan hero and he is a legend. We were lucky to have him; and while he will be missed, he will never be forgotten.

□ 1045

MINNESOTA'S OWN BEST BUY TURNS 50

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Minnesota company that has reached a major milestone. This past month, Best Buy turned 50 years old.

Best Buy was founded in 1966 by Richard Schulze. Originally named The Sound of Music, this store sold stereo equipment to college students in the Twin Cities area. When the stereo market began to decline, the store eventually expanded its merchandise to offer other popular products, ultimately leading to major future success.

Like any business, Best Buy has faced highs and lows. In 1981, a tornado destroyed the main store in Roseville. Instead of letting the disaster win, Schulze and his employees banded together to continue to sell great products at a great price and provide excellent customer service along the way.

Today there are now 1,600 stores located throughout North America, proving that both determination and hard work can pay off. Their success is widely recognized, so much so that Forbes magazine even named Best Buy the company of the year in 2004.

Congratulations to Best Buy on 50 years of business. Thanks for representing Minnesota so well. And here's to the next 50 years.

PROOF OF TRUE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew C.G. Boucher of Ramsey, Minnesota. Matthew recently received a Veterans' Voices Award meant to highlight the incredible contributions of Minnesota's veterans.

Matthew is a veteran of the Army National Guard and spent 12 years courageously serving our Nation. Today he continues his service to our country and to the State of Minnesota through his work as a middle school principal.

Matthew's love for the military and his fellow veterans is a large part of what inspires him in his current position.

At Fridley Middle School, he started a Veterans Day program to teach students to recognize the many sacrifices

that the members of our military make. He also works to promote the belief within every one of his students that anything they set their minds to is possible. He is especially dedicated to helping his students pursue their education beyond high school.

Thank you, Matthew, for your brave service and for continuing to better our Nation. Our Nation and our State is a better place because of you.

A VOICE FOR VETERANS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jolaina Falkenstein of Carver, Minnesota, for receiving a Veterans' Voices Award. These awards are meant to honor the outstanding contributions made by Minnesota's veterans.

Jolaina is an Army Reserve veteran who serves as a senior noncommissioned officer in the 88th Regional Support Command.

In her primary role as a lead training officer for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Jolaina strives to help military members prepare for deployment as well as for what they will need when they return home.

Additionally, Jolaina works as a licensed therapist for Lutheran Social Services, working with our military members and their families.

We are truly thankful to have an individual like Jolaina in our community. Not only has she served in the Armed Forces, but she continues to serve by providing our Nation's veterans and their families with the care that they not only deserve, but they so desperately need.

ZIKA FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there was such expectation, as Members returned from their work recess in August. Many times, the American people are quizzical, inquisitive about the structure of our work.

We are constitutionally mandated; and, in fact, we have major responsibilities of oversight; but we also are the umbrella on a rainy day. The Congress must rise to the occasion in time of war. It is our authority to declare war. We must rush to the aid of those Americans in need by our oversight over executive agencies, such as Homeland Security and FEMA, as we watched the suffering of our fellow Americans in the terrible storms of Baton Rouge, of the hurricanes up and down the east coast, of what happened on 9/11 or Sandy or Katrina or Rita or Hurricane Ike and many others. Hurricanes and others, it is up to us to do our work.

Well, we are not doing our work.

We left this place having had the Senate pass a \$1.1 billion Zika funding bill—not what the executive asked, but a reasoned response to the crisis and emergency that we are facing. It is devastating in Puerto Rico, which is part of the United States. It is devastating

to the people there. They are suffering greatly. Now we have found cases in parts of Florida, including areas that my colleague, Congresswoman WILSON, represents, and areas around Miami Beach. More importantly, there are 2,000 Zika cases in the United States, 600-plus are pregnant women, babies not yet born; and 35 cases have been found to have been transmitted here in the United States—and yet fiddling is going on. Unnecessary riders are being included in something that should simply pass because it is an emergency.

Shame on those who would cloud legislation with preventing the health clinics that women need, run by Planned Parenthood, from getting money. Shame on those who would try to undermine the executive order about confederate flags in veterans cemeteries on official flagpoles. You have every right to put it at your personal grave, or the family does. How ridiculous, how undermining of our authority, our constitutional responsibility to govern this Nation.

I am saddened because the image that is being perceived is that we cannot do our job. We can. We have to be Americans united together, facing the emergency.

Many Americans are not focused on the Zika virus. I understand. It has been a time of summer and frolic and time with family. But most infectious disease doctors—the regional task force that I have organized: Dr. Hotez, an infectious disease doctor at Baylor who is well renowned; and Dr. Persse, a well renowned medical professional in public health; along with OB/GYN and State officials. I want to thank them for their work.

They are asking me: Where are the resources for mosquito control, for the research, for the vaccine?

Just so you know, the cost of a baby that has been impacted by this terrible disease is \$10 million.

IRS COMMISSIONER

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, and then on the question of our duties, why would there be any discussion to impeach or to suggest the impeachment of a public servant like the IRS commissioner, who I know has done nothing wrong, including the words of the inspector general who can find nothing wrong that this retired private citizen, who came to help turn the IRS around, who came way after the trouble was raised about targeting different groups—he had nothing to do with it. And yet someone is suggesting he should be impeached.

What are you going to do with Americans who sacrifice and say, I want to serve, and then you abuse them and abuse the power of this Congress and suggest some kind of an impeachment?

I have gone through impeachment proceedings. Read the Madison papers. There is no suggestion of misconduct or treason by this individual.

We can't impeach people because the IRS is some entity that most of us would find not a welcomed guest at our

dinner table. And then again, they do great work. They are a part of the structure of this government.

So I would ask the question: Why?

That is not oversight; that is abuse.

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF THE CHIBOK SCHOOLGIRLS

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate the return of the Chibok schoolgirls. Many of you know that 200-plus girls were taken back in 2014, in Nigeria, snatched out of their beds, snatched out of a boarding school, abused, and taken by Boko Haram. Boko Haram, of course, is an ISIS cousin.

I want to acknowledge that FREDERICA WILSON, LOIS FRANKEL, and myself, we went to Nigeria when they were taken. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to celebrate those girls are back. But we are going to fight Boko Haram in every way that we can possibly fight.

Finally, congratulations to the University of Houston football team that beat Oklahoma.

MEDICARE PART B PROPOSED PLAN FOR DRUG REIMBURSEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of seniors in the First Congressional District of Georgia. Many seniors in the First Congressional District of Georgia and across the Nation battle medically complex diagnoses, including cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, severe immune deficiency, epilepsy, and macular degeneration. These Medicare patients face significant complexities in their care and treatment options.

This spring, I joined over 240 of my colleagues in sending a letter to CMS that expressed our deep concerns with a sweeping, nationwide experiment that the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation has proposed.

Patients and physicians in my district told me with no uncertainty that the CMMI experiment with part B drug payment will have negative consequences for millions of Medicare patients who depend on access to life-saving treatments to live better lives. Under the part B drug experiment, in many cases, Medicare payment for certain drugs would be significantly below a physician's acquisition cost for the drug. This will put patients at tremendous risk, potentially forcing them to abandon treatments for other treatments that have shown less success. Ultimately, CMS will manipulate choice of treatment for Medicare patients using heavy-handed reimbursement techniques that undermine any efforts by medical professionals who have dedicated their lives to treating complex conditions like cancer.

To make matters worse, CMS sought little to no stakeholder input, and has provided little turnaround time before medication treatment will be based on

cost, rather than what is best for the patient.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I trust clinically trained medical professionals to determine the best treatment for patients, not an unaccountable bureaucrat. Adding to the outlandish nature of this part B drug pilot project, there is nearly no escaping it. CMMI proposes to force nearly 75 percent of the country to participate in this Medicare drug experiment. 75 percent of the country is not a pilot project. It is near full implementation of a new program.

Just last week, CMS responded to the letter we sent them and simply thanked us for sharing our opinion. Such a brief and dismissive response is indifferent to the risk posed to our Nation's sickest patients and to this congressional body.

For all these reasons, I applaud my colleague from Indiana, Dr. LARRY BUCSHON, for sponsoring H.R. 5122 to prohibit CMS from moving forward with this dangerous, misguided experiment with seniors' lives. I proudly join him in his effort as a cosponsor of H.R. 5122 and encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING GEORGE KOMELASKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, George Komelasky of Northampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was a friend and political colleague. His passing last month at the age of 66 was a personal loss that also leaves a gap in the township government where he served for 31 years. He was first elected in 1985, and he successfully was reelected just last year to another 6-year term.

At all times, George viewed his responsibilities in elective office as public service and performed intelligently and honorably term after term. Those with whom he served know he was conscious of his responsibilities to the taxpayers while providing necessary services that enhanced the quality of life in his hometown.

He was a leader who left his partisanship at the door and was viewed as a role model and also a mentor. Most of all, our friend, George Komelasky, will be remembered for his good nature and the values that guided his public and his private life.

MARGARET R. GRUNDY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the 50th anniversary of the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library in the borough of Bristol, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, we also acknowledge the legacy of United States Senator Joseph R. Grundy, who established this beautiful library on the banks of the Delaware River in the name of his sister Margaret.

This remains a privately funded public library with an ongoing mission: