

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 2017, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor so that I could be present for the birth of my daughter, Caroline. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call 407, yea on Roll Call 408, and yea on Roll Call 409.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIE EUBANKS,
2017 NFIB YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR FINALIST

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished accomplishment of a constituent in my district, Sophie Eubanks, on the occasion of her 2017 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award.

Miss Eubanks, of Raleigh, NC, is the founder and owner The PinkyGirl, a web based monogramming apparel company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Miss Eubanks on her outstanding achievements. We wish her nothing but the best for her future entrepreneurial and educational endeavors.

MEDICARE PART B IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3178, the Medicare Part B Improvement Act. This bill would make specific improvements to Medicare Part B programs, like protecting access to orthotics and prosthetics for Medicare beneficiaries who need them.

In particular, a provision within this bill, spearheaded by Representative GT THOMPSON, MIKE THOMPSON, and myself, would allow additional information provided by prosthetists and orthotists—the trained clinical experts who evaluate and fit the beneficiary—to be considered by Medicare to support documentation of medical necessity for orthotics and prosthetics.

This straightforward, bipartisan bill will improve the quality of life of beneficiaries, save jobs of orthotic and prosthetic suppliers, and provide a foundation to better meet the healthcare needs of our aging constituents.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3178, the Medicare Part B improvement Act.

COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES
THROUGH SANCTIONS
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3364.

I rise in support of the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act, to strengthen sanctions against Russia, North Korea, and Iran. These sanctions have been a long time coming.

Russian aggression towards the United States and our allies is at a level not seen since the Cold War. Although you wouldn't know it from the conduct of our president, Russia is unparalleled in its willingness to use illicit "active measures" to try to weaken the rules-based international order that has benefited the world for decades. Although the techniques in many ways aren't new—we saw similar tactics during the Cold War—the power of social media and the Internet have only amplified Russia's capabilities.

It's thought that Russia has been behind the hacking of the attempted hacking of campaigns, infrastructure systems, and government entities in many of our European allies, including Denmark, France, Georgia, the Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine, and Estonia. In Ukraine, Russia is thought to be behind a power blackout in 2015.

Many of Russia's attempts have failed, but in Russia's influence campaign in the 2016 presidential election, it was partially successful. Russia and its government-backed hackers have undermined the integrity of our democratic processes and our system of representative government, the foundation of our country, since its inception. It may not have succeeded in changing the outcome of the election, but it has accomplished one of its goals, to sow discord and mistrust in an already-divided country. We must not let it accomplish its other aims.

President Trump has often seemed more admiring of Vladimir Putin and Russian officials than he has of his own country. In many cases, he's been friendlier to the Russian government than to his own advisors. As president, astonishingly, he's talked about a joint cyber-security task force with our biggest cyber adversary.

This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that we make clear to Russia that we will not accept the meddling of foreign governments in our democratic processes or the endangerment or intimidation of our allies and our people. We must make sure that Russia is not emboldened by our president's apparent determination to improve relations with Russia at any cost, and that it does not continue to endanger our democracy, our infrastructure, or our allies.

Make no mistake—Russia poses a huge threat to the United States. If the U.S. government fails to respond, Ukraine's power blackout should serve as a warning of what is to come, to ignore at our peril. Russia's appetite for cyber and information warfare and its willingness to employ criminals and malicious hackers forsworn by other countries make it especially dangerous. We must protect our

people and our infrastructure, and this bill makes sure that Congress has the ability to do that.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL
DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE
SUBMITTED BY BUREAU OF CONSUMER
FINANCIAL PROTECTION
RELATING TO ARBITRATION
AGREEMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of House Joint Resolution 111 which would eliminate the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rule prohibiting mandatory arbitration clauses in financial services contracts. These clauses, which are buried in the fine print of banking contracts, strip consumers who are scammed, cheated, or defrauded by big banks of their constitutional right to seek justice in our nation's courts. Instead, they force consumers to go through a secretive non-judicial process overseen by an arbitration provider chosen by the bank. According to a study conducted by the CFPB, when these disputes are resolved through arbitration, consumers receive relief in only 9 percent of claims and even when consumers do win, they recover, on average, only 12 cents for every dollar claimed. I support the CFPB rule and oppose this effort to allow big banks to deny customers access to the justice system.

The elimination of the forced arbitration rule protects the special interests of Wall Street and hurts consumers. I therefore urge my colleagues to vote no on this Resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF EMILIO VARGAS, JR.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emilio Vargas, Jr., a civil rights activist, local historian, and community leader who recently passed away at the age of 83. The Goliad native's reach was immense as he helped both his neighbors and Hispanics throughout Texas gain recognition at the State Capitol.

Mr. Vargas joined the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and served until 1958 when he was honorably discharged. He also served on the Goliad school board and as Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace from 1995 to 2006. Vargas was then employed by the Texas Department of State Health Service for over 30 years.

Mr. Vargas made it his mission to educate and empower people in communities across the state of Texas. Realizing that only through education could Hispanics advance, he set out to influence many lives, especially those of Hispanic youth. An avid historian, he worked tirelessly to share stories of struggle and the proud traditions of those whose heritage he shared. Through his tireless efforts with the

Ignacio Zaragoza Society, one of the many nonprofits he served during his life, Emilio shaped the lives of countless people in his community.

Emilio Vargas will be missed for his tremendous heart, his sense of duty and his unwavering belief that this land is a land for all.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Emilio Vargas, Jr. I ask my colleagues to join me in carrying on his legacy.

SELFIDGE ANGB 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Selfridge ANGB is home to the Air National Guard 127th Wing, which operates KC-135 Stratotankers and the A-10 Thunderbolt II. The base is also currently home to more than 20 tenant units from all branches of the military, the Coast Guard, and Border Patrol.

Opened in 1917, the base, then called Selfridge Field, was one of only nine military air fields in the United States as we entered World War I. The field remained a training ground through World War II. In 1943, the 332d Fighter Group of the historic Tuskegee Airmen was garrisoned at the base.

After World War II ended, Selfridge expanded its borders to its current size and was renamed Selfridge Air Force Base. The base continued to train pilots and stand ready through the Cold War. For twenty years, Selfridge AFB provided ground-controlled interception coverage for interceptor aircraft and surface-to-air missiles. When the Air Force's mission at Selfridge ended in 1970, the base was transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard, becoming Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Today, Selfridge ANGB continues to be an important member of the southeast Michigan region, and a vital resource in the defense of our nation. The base works to bring aviation themed math and science education to our community through the STARBASE program. Selfridge ANGB also continues to excel at its mission, and was most recently awarded both the Carl A. Spaatz Award and the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the 100th Anniversary of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the men and women of the 127th Wing who continue to serve our country admirably. As a beacon of community involvement and military excellence, we look forward to Selfridge ANGB's continued service for many years to come.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
SAMUEL M. MORRIS

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of the Honorable

Samuel M. Morris of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey, and to express my sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones he has left behind, as well as to recognize his career of public service.

Samuel was known for his unwavering focus on his goals. His talent for advocacy started in high school where he was an active member of the Debating Club at Point Pleasant Beach High School. He was a talented athlete, and was a member of the 1953 "miracle gulls" football team, which won the Group I State Championship.

In 1954, Samuel responded to our nation's call by joining and serving in the armed forces with the Engineers of the 11th Airborne. With a passion for learning, specifically the law, he continued his academic studies while serving his country, taking courses in German and International Law in Munich, Germany. Among his return home to the United States, Samuel completed his Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science at Monmouth College and eventually received his Juris Doctor Degree from the Seton Hall University School of Law. Samuel went on to lead a successful legal career, first practicing for Mead, Gleason, Hansen, and Pantagesa Firm in Newark, New Jersey, specializing in Workers' Compensation Law. Samuel decided to open his own practice in his hometown of Brick, New Jersey. After years of establishing a successful private practice, Samuel was appointed to become the Brick Township Municipal Judge. He was so successful in that position, that he was called upon by other townships to help them establish their municipal court systems. He was known and well respected in every township that he presided over in the years to come.

Beyond his illustrious legal career, Samuel was a dedicated family man, who married his wife Lynn in 1956. Samuel enjoyed spending time with Lynn, their five children, and many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have had the Honorable Samuel M. Morris as a selfless and dedicated member of their community who devoted his career to bettering the world around him. It is with a heavy heart that I commemorate his veteran service, career, and life, and recognize the lasting legacy of public service that he has left behind, before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN CHINESE
COMMERCE ASSOCIATION
(HK)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, if it is my honor to recognize the American Chinese Commerce Association (HK) as they celebrate 20 years of exemplary service to the Asian American community.

Since it began, the American Chinese Commerce Association (HK) has been a voice for Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans living in New York City and around the globe. As one of the largest chambers of commerce in the United States, the association is com-

mitted to providing business opportunities in the American and Chinese business sectors. By assisting immigrants as they develop successful business enterprises, the association is a bold advocate for local small businesses and entrepreneurs.

When it comes to maintaining business and trade relationships between the U.S. and China, the American Chinese Commerce Association works to protect the best interests of both parties.

I sincerely congratulate American Chinese Commerce Association (HK) for its proud history and many achievements. The future is bright for many more years of successful and even life-changing work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 410, YEA on Roll Call No. 411, YEA on Roll Call No. 412, and YEA on Roll Call No. 413.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY
GREENE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize Mr. Larry Greene's retirement from the position of Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Greene and his outstanding dedication to cleaner air in my hometown of Sacramento.

Mr. Greene served our region for twenty-two years, helping to produce cleaner air, prolong lifespans, and protect the environment. He was a two-term president of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), and holds a permanent seat on its Board of Directors. Larry's public service also included a term as President of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies. Before he delved into clean air policy, Mr. Greene served our country in the United States Army for 25 years, specializing in logistics management. Clearly, Larry Greene is the epitome of a public servant.

Since 1990, the Sacramento region has benefited from a 66 percent drop in nitrogen oxides, largely thanks to Mr. Greene's efforts. He has been the main proponent for many clean air programs, including the "Spare the Air" and "Check Before You Burn" campaigns. His success can be attributed to his methods of working as a partner for elected officials and community organizations that seek out solid, incentive-based solutions for businesses. Communities across our country that wish to improve their air quality should look no further than Larry for the model of what a clean air advocate can do.

Mr. Speaker, I stand to honor Mr. Larry Greene today and to wish him the best of luck