

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because nearly 9 million children are in danger of losing health insurance.

The Children's Health Insurance Program has reduced the uninsured rate among children from 14 percent in 1997 to 5 percent, today.

Nearly 30,000 children from my state, California, stand to lose their healthcare coverage this winter because of Congress's failure to reauthorize this vital program.

Healthcare is a human right, and working-class families need affordable doctors for their kids. This is especially true for Latinos. More than half of Latino children have Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

Congress must act immediately to pass a five-year extension for CHIP funding.

Every day we delay, we give families another reason to worry—that their son or daughter will fall sick and they won't be able to afford a doctor. That ongoing care for a chronically ill child will become too expensive. That hospitals will close their doors to them.

It's time to stop playing politics and get to work on a bipartisan reauthorization for CHIP.

HONORING DIANE GLASSER

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Diane Glasser, a committed public servant in South Florida who passed away on October 10th at 89 years of age. Diane served for over 40 years as an activist, Broward School Board member, City Commissioner, and Vice Mayor of the City of Tamarac.

From her childhood and career in Brooklyn to her many years in South Florida, her passion for activism made an impact on everyone she met. She was never shy about urging others to fulfill their civic duty by voting, even when she wasn't on the ballot. And she was always encouraging of my efforts, working with me on many initiatives to strengthen the community.

In addition to holding elected office, Diane served on several boards, including the Senior Advisory Task Force and the Broward Human Rights Board. She selflessly used her voice to advocate for those whose voices she felt weren't adequately heard.

Diane also had unique experiences representing the State of Florida as a delegate to the past six Democratic National Conventions and as an elector in the 1996 and 2000 Electoral Colleges.

Our community has lost a leader whose service will always be appreciated and remembered. I am honored to have called Diane Glasser my friend.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOU PARDINI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legendary career of Mr. Lou Pardini. Lou is a Grammy nominated keyboardist, vocalist, composer and Fresno, California native. For the last 8 years he has been a member of the legendary rock band Chicago. Lou has successfully worked alongside various high profile musicians throughout his career. He is a distinguished composer that has base fans all over the world.

Lou Pardini was born in Omaha, Nebraska and raised in Fresno. He attended local schools including my alma mater San Joaquin Memorial High School. Lou would go on to attend Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno. Eventually he enrolled at the renowned Berklee School of Music in Boston to follow in his favorite musician's footsteps. Lou met and married the love of his life Betsey and the two would eventually move to Los Angeles, where Lou could fully pursue his music career.

Lou's natural talent was apparent early on in his childhood. He could easily perform songs on the piano by ear. His parents took notice and enrolled him in private guitar and piano lessons when he was just five years old. As he grew older his taste in music progressed. Among his favorite artists were Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Marvin Gaye, Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, and Black Sabbath.

Lou is a remarkable multitalented artist. He is known for his work with Stevie Wonder, The Doobie Brothers, The Temptations, Elton John, Smokey Robinson, Earth, Wind and Fire, Patti Austin, Larry Carlton and many more. He has worked with artists in Rock/Pop, R&B, Jazz, Blues and Gospel genres.

Lou's biggest break came when his song "Just To See Her" was recorded by the legendary Smokey Robinson. The song won Smokey his first and only Grammy for "Best Rhythm and Blues Vocal". Lou has also recorded two solo albums which are fan favorites to this day.

In 2009, he got a call that would truly change his life. Following the departure of longtime member Bill Champlin, Lou was asked to join Chicago on a permanent basis. This was the culmination of a career marked by hard work and a true passion for his craft.

He continues to build his fan base around the world. As a member of Chicago, Lou tours the world, drawing sell-out crowds wherever they go. On April 8, 2016, Chicago was inducted into the 31st Rock and Roll Hall of Fame cementing their place in history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask that you to join me in celebrating the career of Lou Pardini as he makes his homecoming to the city of Fresno. We are honored to have Chicago performing today at the Big Fresno Fair. I ask you to join me in wishing Lou and his family continued success and prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LESTER MANDELL

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Lester Mandell, who transformed countless communities in central Florida through his work as a builder and transformed countless lives through his generosity as a philanthropist. Lester passed away recently at the age of 96, leaving behind a large and loving family, but his legacy will live on.

Born in a hardscrabble Brooklyn neighborhood, and a veteran of World War II, Lester did not graduate from college. However, neither his lack of formal education nor the anti-Semitism he frequently faced could stop Lester from achieving his professional goals, because they were no match for his talent, tenacity and toughness. Lester's life was a quintessentially American story of success earned through hard, disciplined, joyful work.

As one of Lester's grandsons said about his grandfather: "He believed that, if you did things the right way, you would get the right result." This is the essence of character.

Lester was a master builder, in both the literal and figurative sense. The homes, neighborhoods, and public parks he developed throughout central Florida over the course of many decades are his most visible legacy.

Lester also built bonds of a more intangible nature. He donated generously to many causes he cared about, from scholarships for inner-city children to support for the Jewish community he loved so much. Lester often donated anonymously and rarely spoke about his donations, even to his own family.

As his grandson recounts, Lester was a serious man who did serious work, but he did not take himself too seriously. He had a sense of humor and light-heartedness that disarmed friend and stranger alike.

Lester's greatest legacy, of course, is his family. He leaves behind his wife and partner for life, Sonia. They were married for 70 years. Sonia and Lester had four children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

I know they miss Lester. But I hope their loss is eased by the knowledge that Lester was a great man and, even more importantly, a good man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOCAL SOUTH FLORIDA ARTIST, XAVIER CORTADA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent and local South Florida artist, Xavier Cortada, and congratulate him on his inaugural art exhibit titled "Florida Is" at the Hibiscus Gallery at Pinecrest Gardens.

Throughout the years, Xavier's passion has been to generate awareness for our environment and global climate change through his art work.

His work is included at my alma mater, Florida International University, where he serves as Artist-in-Residence.

His current exhibit “Florida Is” truly allows viewers to immerse themselves in the beauty of Florida’s natural beauty.

His exhibition will be available until November 15th at Pinecrest Gardens where visitors will have the opportunity to connect with his incredible art while walking around the garden.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to congratulate Xavier Cortada and invite my fellow colleagues to celebrate our nation’s artists and their endeavor to change the world through the power of art.

HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MARKUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we heard yesterday in testimony from General Wald, the Iran deal “places Iran on a trajectory to become as intractable a challenge as North Korea is today—and very possibly worse.” The general noted that “while Pyongyang’s relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons has only deepened its isolation and driven it toward bankruptcy, the JCPOA is doing the opposite for Iran.”

It was clear from the beginning that this deal was deeply flawed. It was clear that it was based on a fundamentally misguided premise: that Iran’s manifest desire for a nuclear weapon could be considered separate from its development of a delivery capacity for that weapon or from the rest of Iran’s violent campaign for regional hegemony. It should be self-evident that a nuclear warhead without a delivery vehicle is not going very far very fast. Iran’s ballistic missile program is inseparable from its desire to impose nuclear blackmail on the U.S., Israel, and other regional allies.

Iran also exports its extremist revolution through proliferation of conventional weapons to terrorist proxies. The deal gave Iran an infusion of an estimated \$115 billion dollars in unfrozen assets—and as John Kerry said in an interview that was carried by CNN, we don’t know where that money is going and it will probably wind up in the terrorists’ hands—not to mention other financial sweeteners like the \$1.7 billion in small bills. As we heard yesterday, this money has helped Iran extend its malign influence to an unprecedented extent across the region—in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen.

I’d like to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on Iran these past several years, of which yesterday’s hearing was but one example. Today we are considering one key measure, the Chairman’s H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, which enjoys broad support in the House with 320 co-sponsors. This bill expands sanctions against organizations and individuals that facilitate Iran’s ballistic missile program as well as its trade in conventional weapons. This bill is critical to our national security and that of our allies in the region, especially our good friend and ally Israel. It’s time we start turning the tide back against Iran to guarantee that it never realizes its genocidal designs on the Jewish State or the other freedom-loving peoples of the region.

We help do that by passing H.R. 1698 out of committee. It is a bill I have cosponsored and I strongly support.

I also strongly support the Taiwan Travel Act (H.R. 535) and commend Chairman CHABOT for introducing this legislation, of which I am a cosponsor.

The Communist Party leadership in China has tried to isolate democratic Taiwan, pressuring countries to break diplomatic relations and bullying the UN and multi-lateral agencies, such as the World Health Organization and INTERPOL, to exclude Taiwan from membership. These actions have created needless blind spots in global anti-terrorism cooperation and hampered coordination on key global health issues.

Just this March, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed the first human fatality from the H7N9 avian flu in Taiwan. This is a pressing global concern, as we know that SARS virus spread from Mainland China and Taiwan in past.

The U.S. and Taiwan are cooperating in containing H7N9 virus, as we did 14 years ago to contain SARS. As such, China’s actions to exclude Taiwan from the WHO and other international bodies is dangerous and unacceptable. Taiwan should be allowed to join the WHO. It is not only an interest of Taiwan, it is in the interest of global public health.

Restrictions on the travel of Taiwanese officials to the U.S. and on high-level U.S. officials to Taiwan are self-imposed rules intended to placate Mainland China. In the current strategic climate, these rules are now counterproductive and the policy should be changed.

We should be expanding cooperation with Taiwan on a number of fronts, particularly now that Communist China has stepped up efforts to isolate and bully democratic Taiwan. If China persists in its efforts to exclude Taiwan from international bodies like Interpol and WHO and the International Civilian Aviation Organization, the U.S. should be sending cabinet level officials from HHS, Transportation, and the Justice Department to consult with Taiwanese officials—and to host their counterparts here in Washington. Such meetings will advance and protect American interests.

Under Xi Jinping’s leadership, China has become more repressive domestically, more protectionist in its trade policies, and more assertive globally. As documented by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC), which I cochair with Senator MARCO RUBIO, China’s domestic repression is the fuel for its international aggression, threatening American jobs and security, including in the South China Sea, in the Taiwan Straits, and in Hong Kong, where the “one country, two system” model is fast eroding. China has also imprisoned Taiwanese citizen and democracy advocate Lee Ming-che, whose wife Lee Ching-yu, sat in this very room in July at a hearing I chaired and asked the international community to work for her husband’s release.

China will never be happy with U.S.-Taiwan policy or the Taiwan Relations Act. Communist China will never be placated by our self-imposed restrictions on travel and consultations. We should not try. As China squeezes Taiwan’s international space and openly threatens it militarily, the U.S. must have more direct consultations with democratic Taiwan, not less.

HONORING EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE AND THE LEGACY OF CAPTAIN CHARLES E. YEAGER

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an integral component of California’s 23rd Congressional District and the U.S. Air Force—Edwards Air Force Base—and the life and legacy of Captain Charles E. Yeager, who played an essential role in achieving a critical milestone in U.S. aviation history.

This year, the United States Air Force observes its 70th birthday. Edwards Air Force Base, the second largest base in the Air Force, has long played an important role in the success and development of this branch and its weaponry. From the 412th Test Wing to the NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, Edwards has always been a leader in developing and testing new technology to ensure that our warfighters operate with the most advanced weapons systems and platforms.

Coincidentally, the Air Force also celebrates the 70th anniversary of the very first supersonic flight, which occurred at Edwards Air Force Base, this year. Captain Charles E. Yeager became the fastest man in the sky on October 14, 1947, when he flew faster than the speed of sound in the rocket-powered Bell X-1, high above Edwards and over Southern California’s famed Mojave Desert. Captain Yeager paved the way for a new era of air and space travel on that day and ushered in the development and eventual practical use of the X-Plane, an advancement that has greatly benefited NASA and the U.S. Air Force. I want to recognize Captain Yeager’s fearlessness and desire for adventure, which was pivotal in advancing American aviation.

Throughout its history, Edwards Air Force Base has always remained on the forefront of various scientific initiatives and discoveries. After Captain Yeager broke the sound barrier, pilots at Edwards were eventually able to fly at more than six times the speed of sound. Additionally, and among many other accomplishments, the very first space shuttle mission landed at Edwards on April 12, 1981. As we celebrate the Air Force’s 70th year, it is important to take a moment to recognize the rich legacy and history of installations like Edwards, which, having been established in 1933, predates the creation of the Air Force itself. Prior to the establishment of the United States Air Force in 1947, Edwards was the Muroc Army Airfield.

I am reminded of Edwards Air Force Base every time I get the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian’s Air and Space museum here in Washington, D.C. The very Bell X-1, in which Captain Yeager broke the sound barrier, is displayed in the main hall on the first floor of the museum. It serves as a reminder of the critical importance that Edwards has played to advance the greater mission of the Air Force.

I am incredibly grateful for the many men and women who have served and currently serve at Edwards Air Force Base. Their creativity, dedication, and sacrifice reflects the same spirit that Captain Charles Yeager exemplified 70 years ago. Edwards plays an important role in California’s 23rd Congressional District, and this is due to my constituents who