

IN HONOR OF SHERRY HABER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sherry Haber, a remarkable community leader and tireless advocate for children, who is being recognized as the Hillsborough Citizen of the Year by the Associated Parents' Group. This award honors a resident who has made a sustained and significant contribution to the community, especially to the education and well-being of our children. Sherry is truly deserving of this honor. There is no task too big or too small for Sherry to handle and if you want to get something done, you hand it to her.

Sherry served as Parent Group President for North Hillsborough School from 2009 to 2010. It was on her watch that the lower playground was installed and the hot lunch program was implemented. In her role as Art in Action Chair, she established the tradition of hosting an art show during North's annual open house, expanded Art in Action from 3rd through 5th grade to include K through 5th grade, was instrumental in launching the school's first talent show and choreographed multiple group performances. She also led efforts to renovate the library, chaired the 5th grade promotion and worked on the year book committee for eight years. For six years, she opened her home for the annual teacher appreciation lunch.

When Sherry's two children Ben and Cami moved on to Crocker Middle School, she again served as Parent Group President from 2012 to 2013 and repeated many of her contributions. She implemented a hot lunch program, established the Crocker Art Show and coordinated the Janet Chun Mural project. She also was graduation chair and organized the first Flash Mob.

From 2013 to 2015, Sherry served as communications chair of the Hillsborough Schools Foundation and hosted many successful fundraisers. For the last two years, she has served as the President of the Burlingame High School Music Boosters which means she has been supporting 150 students in band and choir. She even organized the band's first performance trip to Anaheim in over 20 years.

In addition to her deep involvement in the schools, Sherry found time to be a Den Leader for the Boy Scouts and Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts for a total of ten years. For six years, she was a volunteer for Hillsborough's Memorial Day Parade. In 2015, she served on the Israeli Art Show Committee at Peninsula Temple Shalom. Sherry Haber has an inexhaustible reservoir of energy and passion for children, our community and the arts.

Sherry is originally from Sacramento. She went to Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii and earned her BA in English at Stanford University. She and her husband of 24 years, Scott Haber, live with their two children in Hillsborough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring an exemplary citizen, a dedicated community leader and a devoted mother and wife. Sherry Haber never stops giving of herself and she does it with enjoyment of life (*jolie de vivre*), I join with all Hillsborough residents in

saying we are very fortunate to have her as a neighbor and friend.

**RECOGNIZING DOMINIC BARANDICA****HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dominic Barandica, who will soon be named California's Young Man of Distinction by Youth Focus, Inc.

Dominic is deserving of the highest commendation for his dedication to the advancement of safety in high school football. Using helmet sensors, Dominic has extensively researched the consequences of repetitive head impacts by high school players. Since starting, he has obtained a sensor for every football athlete in the Modesto City High School system and has been a featured speaker on the issue at the Doctors Medical Center Sports Medicine Symposium. An accomplished athlete himself, Dominic has already accepted an early decision offer to play football for Case Western Reserve University.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Dominic has proven to be an incredible leader, serving as Gregori High School's Freshman Class President and Commissioner of Community Service, the President of the Inter High School Council of ASB Presidents of Modesto City High Schools, and as student representative to the Modesto City School Board, representing over 40,000 high school students.

He's shown his dedication to academics as an active member of the Mock Trial and Science Bowl Teams, and has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction for his continued scholastic achievements. Finally, Dominic has embodied an unwavering commitment to community service as an Eagle Scout, a recipient of the President's Volunteers Service Gold Award and the American Red Cross Youth Hero Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dominic Barandica for his recognition from the Youth Focus Group as California's Young Man of Distinction. His outstanding achievements and dedication to our community deserve to be commended.

**JAZZLYN WILSON****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jazzlyn Wilson for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jazzlyn Wilson is a 7th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jazzlyn Wilson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their edu-

cation and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jazzlyn Wilson for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**JESSICA WICKERSHEIM****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Wickersheim for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jessica Wickersheim is a student at Adams City High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Wickersheim is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Wickersheim for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DR. STEPHEN OSTROFF****HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 3, 2017*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, together with Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, we rise today to thank Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Stephen M. Ostroff, and his team for their efforts to assist Congress and the Administration in improving patient enrollment, retention, minority participation and equitable access in cancer clinical trials, especially among underserved and underrepresented populations.

Patient participation is the single most critical ingredient to successful cancer trials being completed on time and on budget as well as bringing life-saving cancer drugs to market.

Unfortunately, most cancer clinical trials only provide for the cost of the trial drug and require the patient to cover all other costs affiliated with participation including but not limited to travel, lodging, and ancillary medical costs.

The result of this has been abysmally low cancer participation rates. Overall, only 6 percent of eligible cancer patients participate in clinical trials and a mere 5 percent of those participants represent the Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American and Pacific Islander populations combined. According to Tufts Research, 38 percent of all clinical trials fail to finish on time or within budget due to lack of enrollment, and an astonishing 11 percent of trials fail to ever enroll a single patient, primarily due to the financial burden on patients to participate.

Joined by over a dozen of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle, we sent a letter to the FDA regarding possible misperceptions surrounding the regulatory meaning of inducement and coercion and asked for its assistance in providing clarity.

The FDA's letter in response we include in the RECORD today, helps provide this needed clarity, explaining that reimbursement is neither inducement, coercion, nor even a so-called "benefit" but rather fair compensation creating parity and equality in cancer trial access. The letter also states the FDA's commitment to further addressing our concerns when it finalizes guidance on this issue.

Accordingly, we, along with our colleagues, will continue our dialogue with national stakeholders, patient advocacy organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and the Administration to continue to improve patient enrollment, retention, minority participation and equitable access in cancer clinical trials, especially among underserved and underrepresented patients.

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
Silver Spring, MD, March 22, 2017.

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SESSIONS: Thank you for the discussion on September 21, 2016, with Dr. Robert Califf, the former Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) and Dr. Richard Pazdur, regarding the improvement of patient participation, enrollment, retention, and equitable access to oncology clinical trials. In a follow-up letter dated October 6, 2016, you asked the Agency to confirm that it views reimbursement for travel expenses to and from clinical trial sites, including reimbursement for travel costs such as parking and lodging, as permissible and suggested that such reimbursement should not be construed as coercion or inducement.

As discussed with you on September 21, 2016, FDA generally would not consider reimbursement for such expenses to be undue influence or coercion intended to induce participation in a clinical trial. FDA has stated in the past that it is not uncommon for subjects to be paid for their participation in research, and has provided guidance on how those payments should be addressed during Institutional Review Board (IRB) review of a proposed clinical trial. When appropriate, the informed consent would identify any additional costs to the participant that may result from participation in the research and whether such expenses would be reimbursed.

In July 2014, FDA issued a draft guidance entitled, "Informed Consent Information Sheet Guidance for IRBs, Clinical Investigators, and Sponsors," which provides recommendations on informed consent content and the informed consent process. In this draft guidance, the issue of additional cost and payment to research participants is briefly addressed. For example, we recommend that, beyond the costs directly related to participation in the research, it may be appropriate to identify additional costs that the subject may incur. Additional costs may include the loss of income when the subject takes time off from work to participate in the clinical investigation and transportation costs. The consent form would also make clear whether and, if so, how funds for reimbursement will be made available to subjects, or the form would provide direction to subjects regarding how to obtain further information. The draft guidance also states that FDA considers payment to subjects for participation in clinical investigations to be

compensation for expenses and inconveniences, not a benefit of participation in research and that if payments are provided, the consent process should not identify them as benefits. Further guidance on when payments to research participants may be considered coercive or an exercise of undue influence is available on FDA's webpage "Payment to Research Subjects—Information Sheet."

As we finalize the draft guidance, we will look for ways to address your concerns about reimbursement of these types of expenses so that the final guidance will be more useful to patients and our stakeholders. We will also take advantage of our educational outreach activities to clarify this issue with the research community.

Thank you again for bringing this important issue to our attention. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. OSTROFF, M.D.,  
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

## RECOGNIZING ARNOLD SMEENK

### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arnold Smeenck on his retirement and recognize his distinguished career in the field of mortgage banking.

Mr. Smeenck joined First Maryland Mortgage Corp. in December 1993. He built an impressive portfolio of clients and projects, which directly contributed to the company's successful merger with M&T Realty Capital Corp. In recognition of his excellent work, Mr. Smeenck earned the prestigious President's Council Award in three consecutive years. In 2007, he was promoted to National Production Manager and Group Vice President. In these positions, Mr. Smeenck was responsible for managing the company's origination platform and supervising employees in nine states. Under his leadership, the sales team originated almost \$16 billion in deals. Mr. Smeenck will retire on April 3, after more than 23 years of service to M&T Realty Capital Corp.

Even more impressive than Mr. Smeenck's professional resumé is his commitment to serving his community. Arnold and his wife, Anne, have opened their home and their hearts to those in need. From taking in foster children and providing assistance to troubled youths, to repairing inner-city homes and building a school for deaf children in Mexico, Arnold and Anne have worked tirelessly to help people overcome difficult circumstances. Through the Smeenck Family Foundation, they have financially supported countless Christian ministries and charitable organizations, including the Charles Finney School and the new Pregnancy Resource Center in Corning, New York.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Arnold Smeenck on an impressive career and wishing him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

## KENDALL WILLS EARNS BOY SCOUT EAGLE RANK AWARD

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kendall Camilo Wills of Sugar Land, TX, for earning his Boy Scout Eagle Rank Award.

Eagle Rank is the highest achievement a Boy Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Kendall had to achieve the Life Scout rank, earn a total of 21 merit badges, and develop and provide leadership to others in a service project. The Boy Scouts of America will also award Kendall with the Catholic religious award, Ad Altare Dei. Kendall is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts national honor society.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kendall Camilo Wills for earning his Boy Scout Eagle Rank Award. We are confident he will have continued success in his future endeavors. We are very proud.

## HONORING JUANITA WINSTON SMITH-OWENS

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a dedicated servant, Mrs. Juanita Winston Smith-Owens.

Mrs. Smith-Owens, who was the seventh child of sixteen children, was born to the late Johnnie and Ruby Winston on December 6, 1917 in Pickens, MS. After aging and a short period of illness, Juanita completed her earthly journey while at Westminster Terrance Healthcare Center on August 4, 2016. It was a peaceful passing when she took her Savior's hand and transcended into eternity.

Mrs. Smith-Owens received her early childhood education from the Little Red Schoolhouse formerly known as Richland High School in Pickens, MS.

Mrs. Smith-Owens was married to the late Fred Smith, and this union was blessed with eight children. After the death of her husband, she later married Jerry Lee Owens and to this union no children were born, but she gave her wisdom and love to three stepchildren.

Mrs. Smith-Owens confessed a hope in Christ at an early age and was baptized at Crossroad Missionary Baptist Church, currently known as Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Pickens, MS under the pastorate of Reverend Don Sutton. In later years, she joined and united with Newport Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend J.L. Cross where she served in several capacities: Mother's Board, Church Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, President of the Usher Board, and a member of the Choir. She also served for many years as the Treasurer of the Lebanon District Association and Vice President of the District Rose Hill Convention. Mrs. Smith-Owens served faithfully. She later moved to Jackson, MS with her children and