

# COMMENDING THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the city of Alexandria's first responders, the first to the scene of the shooting at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park in my district in Alexandria, Virginia.

Two weeks ago today, Wednesday, June 14, at 7 a.m., a man fired scores of shots at the Members of Congress who were practicing for the annual Congressional Baseball Game. The shooting wounded U.S. Representative and House Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE, Capitol Police Officers David Bailey and Crystal Griner, congressional staffer Zack Barth, and former congressional staffer Matt Mika.

The timely response of Alexandria's first responders almost certainly saved lives. Alexandria Police Officers Nicole Battaglia, Alexander Jensen, and Kevin Jobe arrived within minutes of the 9/11 call. Officer Battaglia came under fire upon arriving at the scene and immediately engaged the shooter. Her actions diverted the shooter's attention, allowing the other responding officers to neutralize him.

Medical care provided by the members of the Alexandria Fire Department, including Fiona Apple and Richard Krimmer, ensured these senseless acts of violence did not become a multiple-fatality event.

I am honored to commend these valiant individuals for their selfless service. I thank them for saving the lives of the victims and potential victims of this evil, mindless gun violence, and also for their daily positive impact on the extraordinary community of Del Ray and the exceptional city of Alexandria.

# HONORING MISS NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Greater Sampson County, Victoria Huggins, who won the 80th Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant this past weekend and will go on to represent our great State in the Miss America pageant this fall.

During the competition, Victoria also won first place in the Quality of Life Award which honors her dedication and work on her community service platforms.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and a native of St. Pauls, Victoria is a member of the Carolina in the Morning team with the NBC affiliate WECT in Wilmington, North Carolina.

During her tenure as Miss North Carolina, Victoria will focus on her work advocating for Alzheimer's disease awareness.

On behalf of southeastern North Carolina, congratulations, Victoria. We

wish you the best of luck as you represent our great State over the next year, compete in the Miss America pageant, and continue to enrich the lives of others.

# THE REPUBLICAN HEALTHCARE BILL

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, with the Congressional Budget Office reporting that 22 million people would lose healthcare coverage and premiums for those who keep their coverage increasing by more than 20 percent next year, it is not surprising that the Republican Senate bill was pulled due to a pervasive lack of interest and support.

Hit hardest under the pulled Senate bill were low- and middle-income Americans between the ages of 50 and 64 and people with preexisting diseases like cancer and diabetes.

The time has come for this Congress to use the leverage of a massive purchaser of healthcare—the Federal Government—and authorize a Medicare buy-in for Americans between the ages of 50 and 64.

With the leverage of 60 million-plus beneficiaries and low administrative costs, a Medicare buy-in option for the 50 to 64 population will drive down costs and drive up the quality of healthcare. We have an obligation to the American people.

# HONORING REPRESENTATIVE CHAFFETZ

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor my good friend, JASON CHAFFETZ, as he prepares to leave the House tomorrow.

On the day that I was first elected, the very first phone call I got was a number I didn't recognize. I picked it up, and it was Jason. He was the first person to call and congratulate me. He has become a close friend ever since.

But he has become more than a friend. He is a person who I trust. I go to him often for advice. I think he has the best political mind in all of Utah, and I am going to miss that.

I also appreciate his honesty and his integrity. Leaders take hits—we understand that—and Jason has taken his share of arrows by those who may not agree with his positions. But no one has ever questioned his honesty or his integrity.

There is a great old movie called "Grumpy Old Men." Jason will never be a star in that movie because he is one of the most optimistic, friendly, and positive people that I know. He always has a smile on his face.

So for those reasons, Jason, we are going to miss you. On behalf of all Utahns, I thank him for his service. On

behalf of millions of Americans throughout the country, we wish him Godspeed in his adventures ahead.

□ 1215

# PULL THE PLUG ON TRUMPCARE

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the Senate has postponed a vote on their TrumpCare bill, which would have deprived 22 million Americans of health coverage. The truly vicious nature of this bill is most clear when it comes to Medicaid.

Are you a working family relying on Medicaid for long-term care of an aging grandparent? Well, with TrumpCare, you will pay more out of pocket.

For a low-income working mom who insures her kids through Medicaid, TrumpCare takes dead aim at you.

How about a person with a disability? TrumpCare means potentially losing coverage.

Why did the Republicans make these cuts? To give billions of dollars in tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and corporations.

The President says the House-passed bill is "mean." It is. So is the Senate cold-hearted proposal.

A delay on this vote is not enough. Congress needs to pull the plug on TrumpCare, not the American people. Then we can work together on real, bipartisan healthcare legislation aimed at strengthening the system, not harming the most vulnerable among us.

# TRIBUTE TO FIRE CONTROLMAN 1ST CLASS GARY L. REHM, JR.

(Mr. JORDAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a courageous career Navy man, Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary L. Rehm, Jr., who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his fellow Americans.

Gary was born and raised in Elyria, in the Fourth District of Ohio. He followed in his grandfather's footsteps, joining the Navy straight out of high school and serving nearly 20 years, including a deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gary was on the USS *Fitzgerald* when it was struck by a container ship off the coast of Japan on June 17. Amid the chaos, Gary jumped into action, battling the raging water that flooded one of the ship's berthing compartments, risking his own life to bring his shipmates to safety.

The sailors who admire him so much might use words like "valiant," "heroic," and "noble" to describe Gary's actions that day, but the words he would probably use to describe himself are found in the Navy's motto: "Not for Self but for Country."

Gary is survived by a loving family, including his wife, Erin; his sister, Jessica; his niece, Margaret Neal; and his parents, Gary and Anita.

For his profound sacrifice, this Nation owes Gary L. Rehm, Jr., and his family a tremendous debt of gratitude. He will be greatly missed, but the strength of his character, his selflessness, and the courage he demonstrated through his service will live on forever.

#### BILL THREATENS OHIOANS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today, Vice President PENCE is expected to visit northeast Ohio for an appearance at a manufacturing firm. He will discuss the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and subsequently rip away healthcare for millions upon millions of Americans, as well as quadruple its cost to millions and millions more elderly.

Ohioans should know that the bill the GOP is trying to ramrod through Congress would threaten nearly 1 million Ohioans who gained coverage over the last few years through the Affordable Care Act. Further, seniors would see their insurance premiums rise by four to five times as much, with nothing being done to lower their cost of medicine.

Why is this administration making things worse for Ohio?

We need to maintain Medicaid for the treatment of those Americans who are sick, suffering, in nursing homes, those who are mentally ill, and those who are suffering from terminal illness. The Pence-Trump doctrine will hurt them all.

I hope the Vice President won't mislead our people about how many Ohioans will lose coverage.

In fact, is the Vice President aware healthcare jobs help drive our economy in Ohio. The TrumpCare bill, which is really a tax break for millionaires, will cause an Ohio job loss of over 80,000 healthcare workers over the next 5 years.

I urge the Vice President to meet with officials at Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, or the Sisters of Charity and hear what they have to say about the GOP's anti-life bill.

#### PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charlotte's Providence Presbyterian Church and in celebration of their 250th anniversary.

Founded by Ulster Scots in 1767, the church was named "Providence" to express the founders' firm trust in the faithfulness of God to work all things for His purpose.

Members of Providence Presbyterian were part of the combative North Carolina militia, the Hornet's Nest, which courageously opposed Lord Cornwallis during the Revolutionary War.

For over 140 years, the church sponsored all schools in the community and, in the late 1850s, established Providence Female Academy, which was one of the few schools for women in the South.

The church remains committed to service today. Part of the 250th anniversary celebration included making 250 dresses for young girls in Africa. Their motto is "Rooted in Christ, growing in the Spirit."

To Pastor Walt McCanless and the entire congregation, congratulations, and God bless this wonderful community of believers.

#### TORT REFORM

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today my colleagues will vote on H.R. 1215, the so-called Protecting Access to Care Act.

Disguised as a step toward healthcare affordability, in reality, this legislation tramples on the legal rights of Americans harmed in healthcare settings.

This bill would devastate the catastrophically injured by capping non-economic damages at \$250,000, a cap that applies even for loss of limb, permanent disability, or death of a child or spouse. These caps also apply to lawsuits that include accusations of reckless misconduct or violent crimes like assault or rape.

This bill further erodes the right to trial by jury by imposing a 3-year statute of limitations, which is shorter than most State laws.

Legal remedies often stand as the test of the last refuge of justice for the injured and aggrieved, regardless of wealth or influence. Powerful interests have many tools at their disposal to stack the deck against vulnerable populations. But the goal of the American court system at its purest is to provide equal consideration in the eyes of the law. As a nation, our responsibility is to work towards that ideal, not undermine it.

H.R. 1215 is a direct affront to this idea, and I encourage my colleagues to vote "no."

#### REMEMBERING GRANDMA EDNA

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, June 28, 1911, the day my dear grandmother, Edna Yoder, was born, has been a special day in my life. Each year, for the last 6 years, I have come to the floor to wish her a happy birthday. Last year, she celebrated her 105th birthday.

Sadly, today would have been her 106th, but Grandma Edna passed away recently, and I miss her terribly.

She was a sweet, loving, and strong grandmother. She had an infectious laugh, an enormous love of family, and a deep belief in her faith. She was a symbol of everything that was great about America's Greatest Generation.

She was also a true example of what makes America a strong and vibrant nation: working tirelessly every day on the farm, milking cows at dawn, and bringing in the wheat harvest in the hot Kansas sun. I like to say she had a front row seat on the journey that was the great American century.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want Grandma to know that we love her, we miss her, and we know that she is at peace with the Lord in Heaven.

#### GOP HEALTHCARE BILL

(Miss RICE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, people in my district and in districts all across the country have been making it clear that they don't want millions of Americans to become uninsured just to cut taxes for the rich. They don't want Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

What they want is for Democrats and Republicans to work together to make it better: to keep expanding coverage, reducing costs, and improving care. Now that the Senate has delayed a vote on the BCRA, we have yet another opportunity to do just that.

I urge my Republican colleagues to move past repeal and replace once and for all. Democrats are ready to work with you. So let's seize this opportunity and start solving problems for the people we serve.

#### STREAMLINING PERMITTING PROCESS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week, in the Natural Resources Committee, we passed my bill, H.R. 289, the Guides and Outfitters Act, called the GO Act. It will help people be able to access public lands, national parks, U.S. Forest Service land, and BLM land for recreational activities without the litany and long wait of having to get permits. This will streamline that process.

A couple of aspects include getting all the different agencies to work together to have a one-stop permitting process and shorten the length of time it takes to get these permits so that people can have events that are compatible with the use of these public lands and enjoy them. Indeed, no one is trying to hurt the environment, and we don't need a 6-month study every time somebody wants to have a bikefest or a jog through their public lands.