

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM "BILL"
GORDON

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. William "Bill" Gordon and recognize his contributions to the State of Connecticut and our shared hometown of Cheshire, Connecticut. Bill passed away on July 9, 2018 at the age of 85, after a long life of dedicated service to our community.

Bill was born and raised in Delmar, New York. It was here, at Bethlehem Central High School, where Bill fell in love with athletics. Bill would go on to be a star running back and track athlete in high school before receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Wesleyan University. After college, Bill was drafted into the Army where he served in post-war Korea. Bill continued to excel in athletics as a member of the Army football and track teams, and even returned to the U.S. early to participate in the All Army Meet.

Bill returned to Connecticut in 1958 and began his career at Traveler's Insurance in Hartford. He then went back to school, this time at the University of Connecticut, where he earned his Master of Business Administration degree and became a devoted Huskies fan. Bill went on to work at Colonial Bank before subsequently joining and leading Eastern Management Services. Even with his busy professional career, Bill was an active member of our Cheshire community, serving on various civic and town boards, with particular devotion over the decades to both the Cheshire Rotary Club and First Congregational Church on the Green in Cheshire. In every one of these organizations Bill sought to make a difference in the lives of his friends and neighbors.

As someone who has known and worked with Bill for nearly 25 years at First Church, I am enormously grateful for his friendship, wisdom, humor and judgement. Bill was one of those rare people who was admired by all who knew him and I count myself fortunate to have had the benefit of his guidance and good heart. I will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Gordon led a remarkable career and enthusiastically lent his talents to improve the Town of Cheshire and State of Connecticut. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his life and memory here today. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Marilyn Gordon, and all of his family. We mourn Bill's loss, but celebrate his extraordinary legacy.

COMMEMORATING 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 53rd Anniversary of the passage of Medicaid and Medicare, two of the most beneficial and consequential government programs ever launched.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act and in the process made good on the commitments made by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy to provide health security to Americans in their old age.

Medicare is a promise kept to those who have contributed a lifetime to our nation so they could enjoy their golden years with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high quality healthcare.

Likewise, Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the government and the people to provide a basic health care safety net for the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, 53 years later, the legacy of these programs have proven how effective and critical government action can be to the life and wellbeing of our nation's most vulnerable.

In 1965, almost half of all Americans aged 65 and older had no health coverage, living in fear that the colossal healthcare costs would drive them and their families into poverty.

Today, because of Medicare, over 98 percent of seniors have health insurance, which has led to a five-year increase in life expectancy for those over 65.

Today, 55 million Americans rely on Medicare for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

It is difficult for some to imagine what 1965 was really like, when today affordable, accessible and available health insurance is a reality for so many people living with disabilities.

Before Medicaid was enacted, children from poor families, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

When the legislation was first passed, many claimed that Medicaid would not live up to its promise; but today, because of expansion of Medicaid through passage of the Affordable Care Act, the program provides comprehensive coverage for over 70 million children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and people living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it cannot be seriously disputed that Medicare and Medicaid have changed our country and made it better.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the country, both programs have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best of American values.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured in the nation, and Texas' refusal to participate in the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care act puts the poor residents of my state in jeopardy.

So the 53rd anniversary of Medicaid is bittersweet for Texans because while we celebrate a program that has saved lives, helped people live longer, expanded care to marginalizes communities, and reduced disparities in access to healthcare, thousands of low income Texans still do not have the peace of mind that comes with access to affordable, quality health care enjoyed by low-income residents of states that have expanded their Medicaid program with funds made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas there are 195,400 persons with Medicaid and 74,704 with medical care provided by Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents favor the Affordable Care Act because they understand the insecurity and feeling of helplessness of being uninsured or underinsured.

Like Medicare and Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," was vehemently opposed and derided by its adversaries, who said it was too costly, would not work, was unnecessary, or would change the character of America for the worse.

Like the critics of Social Security, Medicare, and the G.I. Bill, all of whom are silent now, they are wrong.

The Affordable Care Act has been an unqualified success.

This historic legislation has extended affordable health coverage to tens of millions of Americans, and has helped to bring and peace of mind to many of those for whom relief seemed far out of reach.

The Affordable Care Act was driven by a simple premise: that citizens of the most prosperous nation on earth should not be forced to choose between their health and their financial security.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, the number of uninsured Americans has fallen by nearly one-third, or roughly 16 million people.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and persons with disabilities, who have saved an average of \$1,600 on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country's most at risk citizens; people who are working hard and struggling make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in my home state of Texas:

1. 10.7 million individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history;

2. 4.9 million uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the ACA Marketplace; and

3. 5.2 million persons on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the ACA has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade, and helped save taxpayers \$116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than \$5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the ACA's critics, private insurance companies have leaped at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remain obsessed with destroying this law, and with unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

Medicare and Medicaid also continue to drive innovation and are set the standard for coverage, quality, and innovation in American healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare and Medicaid continue to play crucial roles in providing equitable and affordable healthcare, leading innovation in payment and delivery reform, carrying out outreach to the most vulnerable communities, and reshaping the delivery of care for the future.

Because of these programs, more Americans have access to affordable, equitable health care today than at any point in our history.

And I am committed to making sure that number will continue to grow.

On this 53rd anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, we should remember that a healthy America is a prosperous America.

And as we look ahead to the next half century, we can celebrate that what was put in place in 1965 has given us the foundation for a healthy and prosperous future for all Americans.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF JAMES PERRY THURBER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary American, a true patriot, and one of the most highly re-

spected and beloved members of my congressional district, James P. Thurber.

Jim Thurber was born on June 3, 1928, and died on June 16, 2018, at the age of 90. He lived a full and exceptionally productive life, and he will be missed by all who were privileged to know him.

Jim Thurber graduated from Milton Academy, Stanford University and George Washington University where he received a Master's degree in International Relations. He also attended the National War College from 1973–1974.

Jim married the love of his life, Emily (Emy) Forrest in 1950, and together they raised four children: James Perry Thurber III (Debra McGibbon); Harriette Thurber Rasmussen; Alexander Forrest Thurber (Courtney Graham); and Mary Thurber Martin, and have 12 beloved grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Prior to his long Foreign Service career, Jim Thurber was a reporter and editor for the Wall Street Journal and worked at Stanford University as an academic administrator. He served with courage, dignity and effectiveness in the Foreign Service for 23 years. When he was serving in Islamabad, Pakistan, the U.S. Embassy was attacked, and Jim earned the State Department's Award of Valor for his actions during that crisis. He served as Director of the USIA's operations in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, and he retired as Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Canada in 1990.

Jim Thurber spent his entire life in service to his country. His public service included serving as Mayor of the City of Los Altos, and June 3, 2002 was designated by the City as Jim Thurber Day, for the Mayor who served the most consecutive years in that office. He served as President of the Los Altos History Museum; President of the Foothill-DeAnza Foundation; Director of the Campaign Ethics Foundation; and Treasurer of the Foreign Service Association of California. He served on the boards of many organizations, including the Los Altos Community Foundation; the Santa Clara County Airports Commission; the League of Conservation Voters; Goodwill Industries of California and many more. Jim was extremely active in the Democratic Party in California and was an elected member of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee and the California State Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our sincerest condolences to Jim Thurber's wife, Emy, and to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and in doing so, honor a great, good and gentle man who loved his country and served it with distinction.

Jim made our world better, and our country and our community stronger. How blessed I am to have known him and been inspired by his integrity and patriotism.

REMEMBERING OFFICER DIEGO MORENO

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Officer

Diego Moreno. An eight-year veteran of the Kent Police Department, Officer Moreno tragically passed away while in the line of duty last Sunday, July 22, 2018. He is survived by his wife Shelly and two children.

A dedicated public servant, Officer Moreno was doing what he had done tirelessly during his 8 years on the force: keeping his community safe. He was known for his kindness, bravery, and unrelenting commitment and dedication to the residents of his community. He has received multiple awards for his service, including one in 2011 for saving a child from drowning. In 2017, Officer Moreno once again saved a life by administering aid to a resident suffering from a drug overdose. These are just a few instances of bravery and dedication that Officer Moreno exemplified throughout his career.

Officer Moreno will forever be remembered as an active and caring member of our community. He served with immense integrity, earning the respect of his colleagues as he courageously gave his all to the City of Kent. His profound sense of duty will live on as an example for us all. Officer Moreno will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF MR. SAM SCHMIDT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Sam Schmidt, who is a former IndyCar driver and advocate for the disability community.

On January 6, 2000, Sam Schmidt crashed on a test run in Orlando, Florida while practicing for the season-opening Indy Racing League event. He endured a massive hit, severing his spine between his third and fourth vertebrae. Following the crash, he was placed on a respirator for five months, and life sentenced in a wheelchair, but he knew he was one of the lucky ones.

Sam vowed that when he was able to leave the rehabilitation hospital, he would not forget the less-privileged patients he had met. Shortly thereafter, Sam became a team owner with Rick Peterson, to head Schmidt Peterson Motorsports. He started the foundation with a firm belief that at end of the day, he would fight to find a cure for paralysis and help individuals overcome spinal cord injuries and other neurological disorders. He also formed the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, with the help of several of his closest friends, which is leading the charge to find a cure to paralysis by funding scientific research, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and technological advances.

Fast-forward, fifteen years later, when Sam finally began to feel like himself normal again, he traded in his wheelchair for a modified Corvette that he could drive at Indianapolis Motor Speedway once again. The breakthrough was the work of a team of engineers for seven months on a special car that many thought couldn't be built, but it turned out to be a vehicle that Sam could drive by just moving his head.

Sam Schmidt is not only a loving husband to his wife Sheila, and father to their two children, Savannah and Spencer, but he is determined to get back on his feet and is dedicated