

HONORING SERGEANT DAVID CHAMBERS AS SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Sergeant David Chambers from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 3rd Calvary Regiment on being named 2019 Soldier of the Year in the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

The annual competition tests soldiers physically and mentally, as they compete in urban warfare simulations, fitness challenges, warrior tasks, written exams and formal board interviews.

Sergeant Chambers represented the Brave Rifles, Fort Hood, III Corps and United States Army Forces Command with the highest honor and integrity.

He also represents the very best of America, and we should all look to his example of patriotism, selflessness and dedication.

Fort Hood, or 'The Great Place,' is one of the largest military installations in the world, where soldiers like Sergeant Chambers represent the gold standard for the United States Army.

The men and women who are stationed there truly remind us of what it means to be an American.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 25th District of Texas, I want to thank Sergeant Chambers for his service, and congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

May God bless the United States of America, and those who fight for our freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JANE DUNDAS SMITH

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of my constituent, Jane Dundas Smith—a dedicated educator who uplifted and inspired her students. Jane was an extraordinary leader both inside and outside the classroom who sought to better the lives of students in our communities and across the country.

After graduating from the University of California Davis, Jane began her career as a ninth-grade English teacher at Vallejo Unified School District. From there, she launched a more than 30-year career in education—eventually supporting educational programs for the largest county in the nation in the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office.

Jane's passion for improving the lives of others through education extended beyond the classroom. As a consultant and education specialist, she worked with school districts across the country, designing programs to support underserved schools and communities.

Even after her retirement, Jane continued to shape the lives of students in our communities, serving on the Board of Education in

the Yucaipa-Calimesa School District and on the Nominating Committee for the California School Boards Education Association.

Jane's devotion to her students and education was unshakable. On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, we join together with her loved ones to grieve her loss. Jane's valuable contributions will be felt for generations to come, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the countless lives she touched.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALTAMED HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate AltaMed Health Services Corporation on its 50th anniversary. Over the past half-century, AltaMed has become a leader in delivering quality health care and empowering communities, and stands today as one of America's largest independent federally qualified health centers.

When AltaMed was founded in 1969 as the East LA Barrio Free Clinic, it relied entirely on grants and donations. The clinic provided critically needed care to predominantly Latino and underserved individuals and families who had little to no access to medical services.

Today, AltaMed is California's premier community health network, encompassing more than 50 service delivery sites throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and staffed by a culturally and linguistically competent workforce of more than 3,000 employees. It provides care to more than 300,000 individuals and families in one million annual patient encounters. In addition, AltaMed has expanded beyond primary care to deliver a full continuum of care that includes pediatrics, dental care, women's health, senior services, youth services, and HIV/ AIDS services. To this day, AltaMed is committed to providing quality care without exception and working to address health disparities in our communities.

In 1982, AltaMed began offering senior services by opening its first Adult Day Health Care Center in East Los Angeles, providing medical and rehabilitative care to older adults. In 1996, AltaMed made the transition to PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), a world-class managed-care program that uses a unique team-based approach to provide frail older adults with medical, social, nutritional, and rehabilitation services. This program makes it possible for those who meet nursing home eligibility requirements to remain at home, enjoying the comfort and reassurance of familiar surroundings while receiving the care they need. AltaMed currently serves nearly 2,700 older adults at eight PACE locations in Los Angeles County.

With the passing of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, more than 20 million uninsured Americans gained access to comprehensive health coverage. AltaMed led widespread efforts through its service delivery sites to enroll and provide resources to newly eligible individuals, becoming California's top certified enrollment entity for several years in a row, and earning a grant through the state's Navigator Program.

In addition to its role as a leading health care provider, AltaMed leads advocacy efforts to protect critical safety net programs and expand access to services in order to grow healthier communities. This is made possible through strong partnerships with elected officials and community organizations. AltaMed's advocacy includes championing California's historic Health for All Kids Act (SB 4) which granted an estimated 170,000 undocumented children access to health care coverage under Medi-Cal. AltaMed has also advocated to protect vital federal funding for community health centers.

With a commitment to social justice and the understanding that health centers play a significant role in helping to achieve health equity, AltaMed launched the AltaMed Institute for Health Equity in 2017. Through innovation, education, research, and community engagement, the institute works to inform and support the elimination of health disparities that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities.

In 2018, AltaMed launched a first-of-its-kind effort to mobilize low-propensity voters to make their voices heard at the ballot box in the brand-new "My Vote, My Health" campaign. Drawing on best practices from Get Out The Vote research, and leveraging organization and community assets, AltaMed worked to inform, motivate, and mobilize patients and employees to protect access to their healthcare services through the power of their vote. AltaMed's effort resulted in increases in voter participation of as much as 432 percent in some of the hardest-to-reach voter precincts.

On November 8, 2019, AltaMed will commemorate its 50th anniversary. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating AltaMed on achieving this historic milestone as an exceptional health care leader, advancing quality care for Latino, multi-ethnic, and underserved communities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 596 due to a meeting with constituents. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted: on roll call vote number 596, I would have voted NO.

CONGRATULATING HENRY DESROSIERS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the retirement of Henry Desrosiers after many years of service to our nation and community.

Mr. Desrosiers has been a leader in the Jim Thorpe community and has a long history of

service to our Commonwealth and nation. Mr. Desrosiers was born in Naugatuck, Connecticut and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force shortly after graduating from high school. During his four years of service, Mr. Desrosiers served as a law enforcement specialist in countries around the world, including in Japan and the Philippines, earning both the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

After serving our country, Mr. Desrosiers returned home to serve and protect his community as a police officer for over 25 years, being promoted to sergeant before his retirement in 2003. Furthering his dedication to serve, Mr. Desrosiers joined Carbon County as the Director of Veterans' Affairs in 2008. Following a decade of dutiful service to Carbon County's veterans, Mr. Desrosiers will retire later this year.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Desrosiers on his retirement and thank him for his many years of brave and honorable service.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DRUG DISCOUNTS AND REAL-TIME BENEFICIARY DRUG COST ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2115, the "Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act."

H.R. 2115 requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to publish certain payment information regarding pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and prescription drugs.

Specifically, the CMS must publish certain information, as reported by PBMs, relating to generic dispensing rates, drug discounts and rebates, and payments between PBMs, health plans, and pharmacies, in accordance with specified confidentiality requirements.

Commercially available drug pricing comparison platforms can, at no cost, help patients find the lowest price for their medications at their local pharmacy.

Such platforms should be integrated, to the maximum extent possible, in the health care delivery ecosystem, while also protecting patient privacy.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding sensitive health care information.

H.R. 2115 will provide patients with access to drug prices information while also protecting patient health privacy.

Pharmacy benefit managers should work to disclose generic and brand name drug prices to such platforms to ensure that patients can benefit from the lowest possible price available to them; and overall drug prices can be reduced as more educated purchasing decisions are made based on price transparency.

Diabetes is a life-threatening disease that disproportionately affects communities of color.

Diabetes is associated with serious health problems, including heart disease and stroke, kidney failure, and blindness.

In 2017, diabetes contributed to the death of 277,000 Americans—and was the primary death for 85,000 of those individuals.

That same year diagnosed diabetes cost the United States an estimated \$327 billion—including \$237 billion in direct medical costs and \$90 billion in productivity losses.

Diabetes drugs, including insulin and oral medications that regulate blood sugar levels, play a critical role in helping people with diabetes manage their condition and reduce the risk of diabetes-related health complications.

After the Democrats took control of the House in January we got to work on a report on the high cost of insulin and we determined that the Americans' with diabetes are in crisis.

Even though analog insulin has been on the market for nearly 30 years, it has no meaningful generic competition.

Over the past two decades, manufacturers have systematically and dramatically raised the prices of their insulin products by more than tenfold—often in lockstep.

These prices dwarf manufacturing costs.

One study found manufacturers could charge as little as \$7 to \$11 per month for insulin and still make a profit.

In recent years, the high prices of diabetes drugs have placed a tremendous strain on diabetes patients as well as the federal government, which provides diabetes medications to more than 43 million Medicare beneficiaries.

These high prices lead many people to ration or stop taking their medications, which can result in serious health complications and even death, as the Energy and Commerce Committee heard in direct testimony earlier this year.

The prices of diabetes medications—and insulin in particular—are far higher in the United States than they are overseas, in part because certain federal programs lack the authority to negotiate directly with drug manufacturers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2115 to require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to publish necessary payment information regarding pharmacy benefit managers and prescription drugs.

FIGHTING HUNGER AT MINES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Fighting Hunger at Mines for receiving the Golden Mayor's Gold Mine Award for Excellence.

Fighting Hunger at Mines is a unique campus group that is dedicated to improving the physical and mental health of students at Mines and the Golden community. Their programming addresses food insecurity that's pervasive on college campuses, while raising awareness to local food resources and educating students on healthy eating habits. By working with the Golden Backpack Program, GoFarm and other partners, Fighting Hunger at Mines distributes healthy food to nearly 150 students each week and has made a substantial difference on campus and in Golden.

I congratulate Fighting Hunger at Mines for receiving this well-deserved honor by Mayor

Marjorie Sloan. I thank them for their contributions to our community.

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS W. O'BRIEN, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2019

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Norfolk County Commissioner Francis W. O'Brien, in recognition of his over sixty-five years of dedicated public service, on behalf of the Town of Dedham and Norfolk County.

The son of Annie and John O'Brien, Fran is the youngest of seven children. A true son of East Dedham, Fran was born in 1929 and spent his entire childhood and young adult life at 236 Bussey Street in East Dedham. Fran attended the Avery Elementary School and graduated from Dedham High School in 1949. While in high school, Fran excelled in football, baseball and was the captain of the hockey team. He went on to play semi-pro football for the Canton Town Club and St. Mary's of Brookline. In 1951, Fran enlisted in the United States Navy during the Korean War era and served honorably until he was discharged in 1953.

On January 20, 1951, Fran had the tremendous good fortune to marry his longtime high school sweetheart and classmate, Nancy Kennedy, at St. Mary's Church in Dedham. They were blessed with four children, Francis M., Marlene, Jacqueline, and Cynthia as well as seven grandchildren: David, William, Jeffrey, Gregory, Amanda, and twins Patrick and Sean. He is also the proud greatgrandfather to Annabelle, Sophia, Evan and Aiden.

Fran began his career in public service at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Dedham as a photostat operator, soon after being discharged from the Navy. From 1953 to 1958, he was employed by Whiting's Milk Company as a milkman. Fran served his community as a Dedham firefighter, joining the department in 1958. During this time, Fran also owned and operated O'Bie's Variety store in East Dedham. Always one to help those in need, there were countless times Fran allowed customers to purchase necessary items such as bread or milk on credit, knowing full well they would be unable to pay him back.

Madam Speaker, Fran ran for public office becoming the first firefighter in the Town of Dedham to serve on its Board of Selectman. Fran proudly served as a Selectman from 1962 to 1976; he also served the Town of Dedham as a Town Meeting member, a member of the Board of Recreation and a member of the Board of Assessors. He instantly connected with the citizens of Dedham and continued to serve as Selectman for more than twelve years. Subsequently, he was hired at the M.B.T.A. as Liaison of Governmental Affairs. His compassion and understanding have earned him the deep and abiding respect of the residents in the cities and towns all over the state.

Fran continued with the M.B.T.A. until his retirement in 1993. In 2002, he was appointed, then elected, as a Norfolk County Commissioner, serving on a threeperson board. In