

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the preeminent privilege and singular honor of paying tribute to a great American institution. I do so with H. Res. 760, commemorating Houston Methodist Hospital for 100 years of service, 100 years of world-class healthcare, 100 years of saving lives, 100 years of groundbreaking research.

Houston Methodist Hospital, the world's first multiorgan transplant hospital; first coronary bypass, grafting with the patient's leg vein; ranked the number one hospital in Texas for 8 consecutive years and a national honor roll hospital by U.S. News and World Report.

Houston Methodist has eight hospitals, employing more than 23,000 persons, 1.3 million patient encounters last year alone, acknowledged for their outstanding specialties in neurology, neurosurgery, pulmonology, orthopedics, cancer, cardiology, heart surgery, and urology.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to say that all of my colleagues in the Houston area are cosponsors of this resolution—original cosponsors, I might add. This would include the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the Honorable LIZZIE FLETCHER, the Honorable PETE OLSON, the Honorable SYLVIA GARCIA, the Honorable MICHAEL McCaul, the Honorable RANDY WEBER, the Honorable BRIAN BABIN, the Honorable DAN CRENSHAW, and the Honorable KEVIN BRADY.

Houston Methodist has a great president who not only responds to congressional inquiries, but also to the patients themselves. I know. I have known of patients who have actually had the opportunity to see the president of the hospital. Dr. Mark Boom is the president. He is a medical doctor himself, and he is the chief executive officer.

This great institution is one that I am proud to have in my congressional district, I am proud to represent, and I am also proud to say is a part of the great institutions in the United States of America.

Houston Methodist Hospital is celebrating its centennial, 100 years of faithful service and saving lives, not only in Houston, Harris County, in the State of Texas, but across the world.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTY ELITE GIRLS BASKETBALL PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks County Elite Girls basketball program and those who were recently recognized by the Monroe Foundation for Youth and presented awards for their service to our community as well as for their athletic and their academic achievements.

Over the last year and a half, the team has won 11 tournaments. This is

an incredible achievement that speaks to their teamwork, their coaching, and their dedication. Moreover, many of the team members are also honor students, and many more are active community volunteers throughout our region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Bucks County Elite Girls basketball program for this amazing accomplishment, and we look forward to their future success.

KEYSTONE FOOD DRIVE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of the students, the staff, and the families of Bristol Township's Keystone Elementary School.

This holiday season, the Keystone community came together to help 27 local families in need. The students and staff at the school donated non-perishable items throughout November, and Oldcastle Infrastructure of Croydon, Pennsylvania, provided turkeys and pies to accompany the meal baskets.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third consecutive year that Oldcastle Infrastructure has partnered with the Keystone families. It is great to see our communities come together to help those families who have fallen on hard times, and that is what makes neighbors so great. They are always there to help others in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to see this program continue in the future, and we hope other communities will follow their lead.

SALUTE 2 SERVICE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salute 2 Service, a veteran outreach program based in Bristol, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Langhorne's Rodney Wyatt, Salute 2 Service prides itself on its ability to provide a multitude of services and resources for our veterans in distress. In addition to extensive work towards career growth and homeless outreach, they help veterans through local, State, and national advocacy, community activism, and emergency assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the motto of Salute 2 Service is "Leave No Veteran Behind." With nearly a half million unemployed veterans across our great Nation, Salute 2 Service has vowed to help find jobs for the servicemen and service-women in our community.

I am proud to represent Salute 2 Service and Rodney, and I am glad to see like-minded groups working together to help our veterans each and every day.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS THE NORTH STAR OF HUMANE PUBLIC POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am just so thrilled and excited to be reintro-

ducing my Social Security reform bill, the Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act of 2019.

Today, our prized Social Security program is at risk. Currently, Social Security is fully funded until 2035 but faces a financial shortfall after that.

And while there is broad agreement that we need to take steps to improve the fiscal outlook for Social Security, there is not enough attention given to the need to improve the system so that it works better for vulnerable populations, including women, people of color, and low-income people. My bill would both improve benefits and extend the program's solvency.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to three critical components of my bill:

My bill would modify the special minimum benefit to credit workers for up to 5 additional years of work to reflect the years workers provide care for a child under 6 years old. This, of course, is especially important for women. We need to value caregiving and acknowledge that this uncompensated labor is not free. Mother work is work.

My bill also extends the benefit eligibility for children of retired, disabled, or deceased workers who are full-time students enrolled in college or vocational schools up to the age of 26 years old.

In this knowledge-based worldwide economy, this benefit needs to be reinstated. It was particularly helpful to students of color, low-income families with parents working who were at higher risk, those with parents who were blue-collar workers, and women.

My bill also provides additional benefits for all beneficiaries of any income age 20 years after their retirement. People who live beyond the age of 85—God bless them—tend to be more likely to be financially vulnerable, even with their Social Security benefit. They may have exhausted their savings by this point or have more serious health problems that may have been a drain on their finances or have faced any number of financial strains.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security has become one of the hallmarks of our safety net, and I urge my colleagues to improve this system, which has been an integral part of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security is the North Star of humane public policy in the United States, and I would invite all of my colleagues the opportunity to cosponsor this legislation and vote for the Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act of 2019.

MATTHEW CLIFFORD NAMED STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew Clifford on being named the 2019 State Middle School

Principal of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

After being named the District 10 Middle School Principal of the Year, Clifford was then nominated by his peers at Greensburg Junior High School and across the State to become the State Principal of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Matthew for this tremendous honor and thank him for his dedication to improving the lives of Hoosier kids and families.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH GRANT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the grant application submitted by the First Christian Church of Columbus. This grant will save one of America's treasures in my district.

The First Christian Church has been a staple in the Columbus community for years and is a jewel of architecture and history.

Since 2001, the First Christian Church has been designated by the National Park Service as a U.S. National Historic Landmark, but now it needs essential renovations. I pledge my support for this program so that this church may be restored to its original beauty.

IU HEALTH COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for IU Health's investment of \$1 million into the Muncie community.

Over the next 3 years, IU Health will give \$1 million toward revitalization of the Thomas Park-Avondale and South Central neighborhoods in southeast Muncie. The investment plans include bike lanes, walking trails, access to better food, a new health center, and much more.

I applaud IU Health for investing in our local community and promoting healthier Hoosiers.

INDIANA BROADBAND EXPANSION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for \$1.3 million in rural broadband expansion in the Sixth District.

In my time in Congress, I have worked with local groups to address broadband in schools and hospitals and supported Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. I have introduced a bill to make sure Federal agencies effectively work together in this arena.

I am glad to see the Governor announce a boost for grants to counties like Jennings, Scott, and my home county of Bartholomew.

I look forward to seeing the State's continued work on this as I fight for rural high-speed internet on behalf of the Sixth District.

□ 1030

WAYNE COUNTY VETERAN APPRECIATION DINNER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hoosier veterans and their brave families I met at the Veterans Christmas Appreciation Dinner of Wayne County.

Nearly 600 veterans, including World War II vets, gathered in Richmond to

enjoy an evening of celebration and holiday cheer. A career fair was held before dinner to help those in need to access work opportunities, resources, and support.

It was a privilege to speak at this appreciation dinner, and I stand today to wish every veteran across this country and Indiana's Sixth District a very merry Christmas.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS RISING COST OF HEALTHCARE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask, for the American people, Congress to do its job and address the rising cost of healthcare, but Speaker PELOSI's H.R. 3, is not the answer.

H.R. 3 will limit choice and innovation. It is a partisan messaging bill that will not be considered in the Senate or signed into law. We are letting the American people down by not voting on bipartisan legislation that will actually address skyrocketing drug prices.

H.R. 3 would increase premiums while punishing American innovation and enabling foreign competitors to flourish.

H.R. 19, the Republican's alternative drug pricing bill, is filled with more than 40 bipartisan, commonsense reforms that reduce prescription drug costs and increase access to affordable, high-quality and lifesaving care for Americans.

H.R. 19 expands low-cost options for patients by bringing more generic competition to the market.

It lowers out-of-pocket spending, protects patients' access to new medicine and cures, increases transparency, and boosts innovation. The American people should be empowered by bipartisan proposals not restricted by partisan politics to make the best healthcare choices for themselves and their families.

INABILITY TO AFFORD PRESCRIPTION DRUGS SHOULD NOT BE A DEATH SENTENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine named Josh aged out of his parent's health insurance when he turned 26. Josh was a Type 1 diabetic and by then, his insulin cost was nearly \$1,200 per month.

So he switched to over-the-counter insulin because, like so many others, he couldn't afford the prescription brand recommended by his doctors. Already on a tight budget, Josh was engaged and wanted to save up some money for his wedding and building a new life with his fiancee.

His mother knew that he had changed his medication and when she would check on him, his blood sugar would be high, but he assured her that he was all right and the insulin was working.

He was alone at work in June of this year when he suffered a series of

strokes that would prove fatal, and it was his fiancee who found him.

We have miracle drugs that can save lives, but they don't do any good when the American people can't afford them.

In April, I hosted a roundtable with constituents and healthcare providers about the skyrocketing price of diabetes medication. Nurses and pharmacists shared stories about patients who had no option but to ration their insulin, putting their lives and their health in serious jeopardy.

One, who ran a free clinic, spoke about how refugees were absolutely stunned at how much more Americans were paying for their prescription drugs than they had in the countries that they were fleeing from.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 3, the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act because the inability to afford necessary drugs should not be a death sentence in the United States of America.

We are going to give HHS the power to negotiate lower drug prices for the American people. And those lower prices will be available not only to Medicare beneficiaries, but also to Americans with private health insurance.

With the projected savings from this bill, nearly half a trillion dollars, we will provide vision, dental, and hearing benefits for all Medicare beneficiaries and invest in new medical research.

American families and seniors should not pay more for their medications than what the drug companies charge people in other countries.

This bill is a win for the American people. It represents a historic investment in Medicare and historic savings on the cost of prescription drugs. Without this legislation, the rising price of prescription drugs will continue to take a toll on the finances of American families, and in worst cases, cost lives.

What happened to Josh should never happen to anyone in this country. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this lifesaving legislation.

SOCIALISM IS A PHILOSOPHY OF FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill once said: "Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy. Its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."

Despite the truth of these words, unfortunately, more and more young Americans hold positive views of socialism and negative views of capitalism. A recent Gallup Poll found that 51 percent of young Americans view socialism favorably, while only 45 percent view capitalism positively. That marks a 12-point decline in the popularity of capitalism just this decade.