

do. Under this bill, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management would contract with private carriers to provide this coverage, essentially providing the equivalent of group coverage available to workers in the private sector.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's purchasing power to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own, at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6774, THE BOXING THERAPY FOR PARKINSON'S ACCESS ACT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the issue of access to effective therapies for Parkinson's disease for our veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 110,000 veterans have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. While the exact causes of Parkinson's are unknown, many veterans developed the disease after exposure to Agent Orange and other chemicals while serving our Nation.

PD is a lifelong and progressive disease for which there is no cure, and frustratingly little progress has been made in recent decades in the race to find new effective treatments for Parkinson's. The most powerful and common drug for Parkinson's, levodopa, was developed in the 1960s.

But one of the strongest tools we have to fight Parkinson's isn't a drug, it's exercise. Exercise can help manage, slow, or even prevent the progression of Parkinson's symptoms, and help PD patients stay active and avoid isolation in their communities. While many types of exercise have shown to be beneficial for PD patients, boxing has become an increasingly popular exercise for improving the physical, mental, and emotional health of those with PD, and more and more gyms are offering boxing programs specifically for those diagnosed with it. One such gym in my district, Parkinson's Boxing in Kenmore, New York, is dedicated solely to helping those with PD and similar disorders.

But for many veterans with PD, these kinds of programs remain financially out of reach. We owe it to our veterans and active-duty service members to provide resources for them when dealing with the detrimental effects of toxic substances and degenerative diseases like PD. That is why I have introduced a bill, H.R. 6774, the Boxing Therapy for Parkinson's Access Act, that would require the VA to cover boxing exercise classes for veterans who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease or similar movement disorders. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to highlight

this issue and how we can better help our veterans access the therapies that we know can make a difference in their fight against Parkinson's disease.

IN HONOR OF CK SELECT REAL ESTATE FOR RECEIVING THE 2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate CK Select Real Estate for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

Since 2005, CK Select Real Estate has provided buyers and sellers with opportunities and resources in residential, commercial, and investment real estate. Originally founded as a local provider for the Concord and Kannapolis regions, CK Select Real Estate has since expanded to cover much of the Piedmont-Triad region and even parts of South Carolina.

CK Select Real Estate has thoroughly proven to be a trusted source for real estate endeavors. They provide exemplary customer service by employing collaborative and inclusive negotiating practices to benefit their clients. Although strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, CK Select Real Estate's staunch dedication to their clients did not waver as they adapted to the challenging circumstances by adopting new safety protocols to accommodate in-person services. Additionally, CK Select Real Estate has pursued multiple service-oriented projects to address public needs in our community. To list just a few examples, they funded the construction of a blessing box in Kannapolis to provide food to needy families and raised funds for Purple Heart Homes, a nonprofit that assists service-connected disabled and aging veterans find adequate housing.

CK Select Real Estate is truly deserving of this award on account of their impactful contributions to our local economy and dedicated charitable works. I know I speak for our entire community in thanking CK Select Real Estate for their committed service and wishing them continued success going forward.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating CK Select Real Estate on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR JOHN WOODEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader, an outstanding educator, and a devoted man of God, Pastor John Wooden, on the occasion of his retire-

ment. A retirement service will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 11 a.m.

Pastor John Wooden was born in Bainbridge, Georgia on May 7, 1966, to the union of Mr. Arthur Dean Wooden and Mrs. Willie Mae Wooden. After receiving his Associate degree from Bainbridge Junior College, Pastor Wooden went on to receive dual Bachelor's degrees in Marketing and Management from Valdosta State College; an educational certificate from Albany State University; a Master of Science degree in Leadership and an Educational Specialist degree from Nova Southeastern University; and completed religious training from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

As a staunch advocate for educating the next generation, Pastor Wooden served as an educator and school administrator for thirty years, serving as a Business Education teacher, Career Counselor, Assistant Principal at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, Middle School Principal, and as an Assistant Superintendent for schools in Decatur County, Georgia.

In addition to a three-decade career in public education, Pastor Wooden has also spent almost four decades teaching the word of the Lord. Pastor Wooden has been preaching for 38 years and pastoring for 35 years, first at First Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church from 1987 to 1990, and then at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church from March 1987 until his retirement this year.

Pastor Wooden's distinguished pastoral career has been mirrored by his extensive involvement in his community. In conjunction with his professional accomplishments, Pastor Wooden has served his community as a board member of the United Way, Salvation Army, and the YMCA as well as a member of Kiwanis Club (Bainbridge) and the Rotary Club (Bainbridge).

In addition to being a stellar educator, a distinguished spiritual leader, and dedicated community advocate, Pastor Wooden is also a published author. His literary works include "Uncensored Conversations", "Leading While Bleeding", "Don't Judge Me Unless You Have Walked In My Shoes", "Scarred, But Not Permanently Broken", and "Don't Live A Life Of Regrets".

He has accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would be possible without the grace of God and the inspiration, love, and support of his wife, Deborah; and his children, LaShannon and Chelsea.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Bainbridge and Decatur County, Georgia are better because of Pastor John Wooden and his tireless commitment to making his community stronger. As a man of great faith and integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise are unparalleled. But his heart for teaching and helping others, utilizing these qualities, has made his life's work truly special.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me and the more than 730,000 people in Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Pastor John Wooden upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career in the Ministry of Jesus Christ.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Representative of more than 20,000 veterans in California's 18th Congressional District, I rise in support of H.R. 3967, the Honoring Our PACT Act. This long-overdue legislation makes good on our promise to care for those who have risked their lives to defend our country.

Today, most veterans who seek care and compensation from the VA for medical conditions resulting from service-connected exposure to toxic substances are denied because the VA maintains highly restrictive standards for what constitutes toxic exposure. For years, I've heard from veterans in my District who have described the great frustration of being denied the care and compensation they need.

The Honoring Our PACT Act addresses this issue by acknowledging that toxic exposure is a cost of war. The bill recognizes many new categories of veterans as eligible for care and compensation for toxic exposure, including veterans exposed to burn pits, atomic radiation, PFAS, and other dangerous substances. If enacted, the CBO estimates this legislation will increase the number of veterans receiving VA healthcare by 15 percent over the next decade.

Importantly, H.R. 3967 finally puts into place a legal recourse for veterans and their families who were exposed to toxic chemicals in drink-

ing water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Many of these veterans suffer from cancer, Parkinson's disease, and ALS as a result of their exposure, but they've been denied compensation because of an anomaly in North Carolina state law. I've consistently advocated for remedying this injustice, and I'm pleased that the Honoring Our PACT Act does so by establishing a federal cause of action related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

When our country sends our brave women and men of the U.S. Armed Forces into harm's way, it is our collective responsibility to provide them with the health services, opportunities, and care they've earned. Passing the Honoring Our PACT Act strengthens this sacred promise, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and vote yes.

IN HONOR OF PRESENT AGE MINISTRIES FOR RECEIVING THE 2021 CABARRUS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Present Age Ministries for receiving the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Since 2009, Present Age Ministries has worked hard to fight back against and eliminate sex trafficking and abuse. They have served as a vital resource for teen victims of these crimes and have undertaken many ini-

tiatives to further prepare all in our community to successfully assist those impacted.

Present Age Ministries' services have provided resources to over 50 survivors and education and training initiatives to over 20,000 students and adults in Cabarrus County. Both the City of Concord and the City of Kannapolis employ their services to identify and assist all possible teen victims of sex trafficking and abuse, and Cabarrus County Schools partners with Present Age Ministries to maintain high quality and up to date sex trafficking education programs. Present Age Ministries has thoroughly demonstrated their ability to adapt to meet victims' needs under new and challenging circumstances. They introduced tutoring resources for victims after it became apparent that those seeking resources were also struggling to keep up with schoolwork. Survivors can now study with other survivors and receive aid from volunteer tutors. Furthermore, after being tasked with very unusual and difficult obstacles during the pandemic, Present Age Ministries shifted strategies by developing a virtual program through which teens received activities and resources to review and complete prior to connecting with case workers or mentors on the internet or over the phone. They also introduced an online portal to ease access to educational resources.

Present Age Ministries is truly deserving of this award on account of the invaluable resources they provide and their unwavering commitment to vulnerable members of our community. I join the rest of our community in gratitude as we acknowledge Present Age Ministries for such excellent service.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Present Age Ministries on receiving the 2021 Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.