

Americans that they cannot use their own money to purchase private health insurance to cover legal medical procedures. This is an unprecedented and dramatic departure from current law.

Not long ago, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg observed that reproductive rights “center on a woman’s autonomy to determine her life’s course.” Trading away those rights for limited access to health care is a devil’s bargain that we will not make.

I urge my colleagues to act—to support women’s access to a full range of reproductive health services, and to bring health care to all Americans.

HONORING JOSEPH TORCHIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Torchia, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Torchia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
AND MRS. GORDON MOULTON ON
THE OCCASION OF THE NAMING
OF THE USA BELL TOWER IN
THEIR HONOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to offer congratulations to University of South Alabama President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri, whose efforts in support of the University are being permanently heralded by the naming of the new campus bell tower in their honor.

On September 18, 2009, the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees officially announced that the school’s new bell tower will be dedicated “in honor of ‘the exceptional service’ of President Gordon Moulton and his wife, Geri.”

When the 135-foot structure is completed in December, it will be the “premier landmark and the enduring symbol of spirit of the University of South Alabama,” the board said. The impressive tower with four large bronze bells will also serve as a monument honoring alumni who are providing support for the project.

Madam Speaker, Gordon and Geri are deserving of such a lasting recognition. President Moulton has not only been the helmsman of the University since 1998—overseeing milestones in student enrollment and graduation, enhancement of campus life, and greater involvement of faculty and students in the community—he has also had a direct role in the establishment of the Mitchell Cancer Institute.

The University of South Alabama has also seen the benefit of his support of the University’s Technology and Research Park and the Children’s and Women’s Hospital, to name a few.

President and Mrs. Moulton are well known for their advocacy of local causes important to the community. Geri was also honored in 2009 with the dedication of the Geri Moulton Children’s Park.

I wish to extend my congratulations and appreciation to both President and Mrs. Moulton and look forward to their continued beneficial leadership of the University of South Alabama.

MAKE NO COMMITMENTS AT
COPENHAGEN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to President Obama’s expected commitment to the world at the Copenhagen climate change discussion for the United States to reduce carbon emissions by 17 percent by 2020.

It is simply ludicrous to think that we can reduce carbon emissions by 17 percent by 2020 without wrecking our economy. I am also concerned about the Administration’s so-called endangerment finding to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act. This is a disastrous move forward to regulate carbon under a law that was clearly not intended to regulate carbon emissions. In many cases, it is not required under this law to take into consideration the impact on the economy, which poses enormous problems. Going further on the science of climate change, in light of the emails that show that scientists have been suppressing information about the scientific proof of climate change, I believe that it is even more important that we take a step back and ensure that we understand the impact of carbon emissions.

The trick that scientists have been using to make the data work has been reported as being called, “trick and hide.” It seems, Madam Speaker, that not only are the scientists “tricking and hiding” the American people on the science of climate changes, but the Democratic Majority is “tricking and hiding” the truth about the cap and trade bill. The truth about the cap and trade bill is that this bill will increase electricity rates in some states, like Kentucky, as much as 40 percent. Additionally, the cap and trade bill is nothing more than a hidden tax on the American people. I might add that I am not against reducing carbon emissions as I have cosponsored and helped move the Carbon Capture and Sequestration legislation that was sponsored by Congressman BOUCHER and others.

It is important that we develop this technology before enacting any regulatory regime to dramatically reduce carbon emissions. These efforts are essential in keeping electricity rates low. However, I am against the President making a commitment that we cannot meet and that China and India will not match. I am also against the Administration’s movement to regulate carbon through the Clean Air Act.

We must take a step back and study the science on this issue to make certain we get this right and I call on the Administration to do just that. I call on my colleagues to speak up about negative impacts of the “trick and hide” bill and urge the Administration not to make any commitments at Copenhagen.

HONORING VFW POST 8946 IN
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the work of VFW Post 8946 in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey for their selfless and inspiring deeds towards their fellow citizens. For the past few years this group of extraordinary individuals has been traveling to the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC as well as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. During their trips the members of the Post have spent time with wounded veterans and their families. They have brought items such as clothing, CD players, electric shavers and even a large TV for the Recreation Room.

After one of their more recent visits to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, William Huston, a member of the Post, told a local reporter that, “these young men have a remarkable attitude, we cannot properly express the admiration we have for them.” It is this sense of genuine commitment towards helping those who have given so much to our nation that makes this Post unique in many ways.

As I reflect on the deeds they have done I cannot help but be reminded of the enduring words from President Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address. Lincoln challenged his fellow Americans to “care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.” The men of this Post are a living testament to these words.

I want to once again thank this group of exceptional men for their service towards their fellow citizens. I am proud to represent such a fine group of people in the United States House of Representatives and I would like to recognize individually: William Huston, Gerard DeCicco, Joseph M. Poggi, Faust Faustini, Ray Johns, Peter Mauro, James Horris, Edward Powers, Sergei Leoniuk, Edward Halvey, George Kritzer, Fredrick Singer, and Robery Schmitt.

RECOGNIZING MORRILL WORCESTER FOR HIS WORK IN HONORING OUR NATION'S FALLEN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Mr. Morrill Worcester of Harrington, Maine. Morrill is President of the Worcester Wreath Company, and he and his company have provided Christmas wreaths for Arlington National Cemetery since 1992.

Morrill Worcester's story begins in 1962 when at the age of 12 he won a trip to Washington, DC, from his local paper. After visiting Arlington National Cemetery, he was awestruck by the enormity of the cemetery and its perfectly aligned rows of headstones representing the thousands who have died in service to this country. The powerful imagery of Arlington left a lasting impression on Morrill, one that would stay with him long after he began his business selling Christmas wreaths.

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company had an overstock of Christmas wreaths. Unwilling to simply throw the extra wreaths away, and with the image of Arlington still a treasured memory, Morrill was inspired. With the help of volunteers, he spent 6 hours in the rain placing a wreath at each headstone. For 18 years, Morrill has taken time out of his busiest season to deliver handmade wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery and lead volunteers in laying them on the headstones.

When word of his efforts spread around the Internet, hundreds more Americans from across the country began to ask how they could get involved and show their respect for our fallen. Morrill soon expanded the project into Wreaths Across America, allowing anyone to donate a wreath to honor the fallen. As a result, Wreaths Across America have laid over 100,000 wreaths at numerous national cemeteries. Congress has recognized his work by declaring December 13, 2008 as "Wreaths Across America Day."

Madam Speaker, this gentleman's dedication and actions directly reflect his selfless resolve to honor and remember our Nation's fallen. Individuals like Morrill and the volunteers of Wreaths Across America embody the great respect that we as a nation have for those who have died defending our freedom. On the second Saturday of December this year, and hopefully for many more Decembers to come, Morrill will be at Arlington National Cemetery in solemn remembrance to lay more wreaths.

Mr. Morrill Worcester, thank you for remembering those who have given so much for our freedom, and thank you for sharing your passion to honor these brave men and women with the American people.

HONORING NORWICH UNIVERSITY AND ITS INAUGURAL DAY OF SERVICE

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Norwich University and its inaugural Day of Service.

Located in the foothills of the Green Mountains in Northfield, Vermont, Norwich University is the oldest private military college in the Nation. The university's founder, Captain Alden Partridge, believed in the importance of service and experiential learning. On November 7, 2009, over 150 alumni, undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and friends of Norwich University exemplified these principles by joining together in the university's inaugural Day of Service. The date was chosen specifically to coincide with Veterans Day, with most of the volunteer opportunities focused on supporting our Nation's veterans and active duty military.

Here in the DC area, dozens of alumni and friends volunteered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center's Fisher Houses, which are non-profit homes where family members of injured soldiers can stay while their soldier recuperates from injury. Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, Norwich alumni visited with veterans at the local Veterans' Community Living Center and sponsored an afternoon of pizza and bingo. Norwich community volunteers in Massachusetts, New York, and Florida collected hundreds of toys and books to be distributed through the Armed Forces Foundation and Operation Paperback. Elsewhere around the country volunteers assembled care packages that will be sent to Norwich University alumni currently serving in Iraq. In North Carolina, alumni rallied to support Wakefield High School's anti-drunk driving efforts, and in San Antonio over 20 alumni and friends spent the morning volunteering in the fruit and vegetable gardens of the San Antonio Food Bank. In my home State of Vermont, over 50 students and alumni helped with local river cleanup, volunteered at the Vermont Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity, and provided logistical support for the White River Junction Mobile Vet Center.

At a time when so many of the men and women of our armed forces are serving around the globe, the Norwich Day of Service is a praiseworthy example of how those of us at home can volunteer our time to thank our servicemembers and veterans for their sacrifice.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HUGH S. BRANYON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary public service of Mr. Hugh S. Branyon who is retiring on December 11, 2009, after 35 years as superintendent of Gulf State Park on Alabama's Gulf Coast.

A native of Fayette in northwest Alabama, Mr. Branyon first came to Baldwin County in 1957 to work at Gulf State Park. His experience along the gulf sparked such a love of the outdoors that he devoted not only his career, but indeed, his life to the service of Alabama's state parks.

Mr. Branyon's labors have spanned a half century and the length of Alabama. After his first job at Gulf State Park, Mr. Branyon traveled upstate to Lake Guntersville State Park, where he rose to acting manager. Over the

ensuing years, he traversed the state, heading back for a brief stint at Gulf State Park before being appointed ranger at Auburn's Chewacla State Park. In 1967, he was called to the State capital to become Chief of Operation in Maintenance to all Alabama state parks and fishing lakes. In 1972, Mr. Branyon returned to Baldwin County where he eventually became Superintendent of Gulf State Park and has since served continuously.

Mr. Branyon has always preferred to call his job a way of life. It was his dedication to the mission of preserving our outdoors that led Mr. Branyon to also assume the role of Southwest District Superintendent over five other south Alabama parks: Bladon Springs, Frank Jackson, Chickasaw, Florala and Meaher.

He has shepherded Gulf State Park through 13 named tropical storms and hurricanes. He oversaw the original construction of Gulf State Park's much-used fishing pier in 1967 and its reconstruction, nearly doubling its length. Under his supervision, Gulf State Park has steadily grown to become one of Alabama's most popular state parks.

No stranger to volunteer service in his community and across the state, he has also been active in many local civic clubs and organizations. His selfless service has led to his receipt of the highest awards from Rotary and Lions clubs international.

Mr. Branyon has been more than a park superintendent, but rather a friend, to so many of his employees and those who crossed his path over the decades in Alabama's parks. His devotion to preserving the treasures of Alabama's outdoors will be hard to match. All those who have enjoyed the beauty and splendor of our pristine parks owe Hugh Branyon a debt of thanks.

Mr. Branyon and his wife, Carol Wenzel Branyon, have two daughters and five grandchildren. Upon retirement, Mr. Branyon plans to devote even more time to his beloved outdoors, including fishing with his grandchildren.

I join thousands of Alabamians in wishing Hugh Branyon the best as he enters his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER BOB BEVINGTON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to a beloved pastor from my District who was one of the most tireless servants of the Lord I have ever known.

I knew Rev. Bob Bevington—affectionately called Brother Bob by all—from the time I was a small boy. He was the advisor to the Christian Student Organization when I was in High School, and I had tremendous admiration and respect for him.

Most especially, I admired his unwavering faith during the passing of both of his sons. The pain of losing two children is unimaginable, but Brother Bob relied on his creator during those dark days and showed us all that God can help us even through terrible and tragic times.

Brother Bob's impact on my District is incalculable. He started the Knoxville Baptist Tabernacle Church in 1951, and his calling to