

arrogance back in the dressing room . . . She offered no-nonsense criticism to her students but tried not to trample their ego.”

Niska’s dramatic talents earned her a reputation as a singing-actress. Ms. Niska appeared regularly with some of the great conductors of her time, including Pierre Boulez, Eric Leinsdorf, and Andre Kostelanetz. She received national recognition when she debuted at the opening of the Metropolitan Opera National Company in 1965. Followed by her debut, she was engaged by the New York City Opera and commanded dozens of roles. In all she sang 29 leading roles with the company—the most of any singer in its history.

Ms. Niska gave her last professional performance in 1996, in Santa Fe, performing arias of Mozart with the Música de Cámara Orchestra conducted by her husband, the famous violinist and renowned conductor, William Mullen. The couple established Music One, a predecessor to Performance Santa Fe, a performing arts center. Maralin Niska was loved by all and will be sorely missed by her husband, students, the greater communities of Los Angeles and Santa Fe, and by opera lovers all over the world.

RARE PEDIATRIC PRIORITY
REVIEW VOUCHER PROGRAM

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my hope that the House of Representatives will reauthorize the Rare Pediatric Priority Review Voucher (PRV) Program before its expiration deadline of September 30, 2016. I urge my colleagues to consider and pass H.R. 1537, the Advancing Hope Act of 2015 which I introduced with Representative MICHAEL MCCAUL (TX-10) and would permanently reauthorize the Rare Pediatric PRV Program.

The Creating Hope Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in 2012 as part of the PDUFA reauthorization, expanded the cost-neutral Food and Drug Administration (FDA) priority review voucher (PRV) program, allowing pharmaceutical companies to expedite FDA review of more profitable drugs in return for developing treatments for rare diseases. The Creating Hope Act was reauthorized for Fiscal Year 2016 through the budget agreement passed at the end of last year, but is scheduled to expire soon. The Butterfield-McCaul bill would reauthorize the program, clear the way for more treatments to reach the people that need them most, and clarify the scope of the program to include diseases like Sickle Cell Anemia.

There are many pediatric disease spaces where treatments are woefully inadequate or nonexistent, and the Advancing Hope Act of 2015 would help encourage the private sector to help find solutions. An example of a condition that could benefit from the reauthorization of the Rare Pediatric PRV Program is Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood, known as AHC, which leads to life-threatening temporary paralysis in approximately three hundred children nationwide. Duke Children’s Hospital and Health Center, located in North Carolina’s First Congressional District, assists North Caro-

linian children Matthew Wuchich, Madison Pino, and Marley Pino, manage their conditions. However, they often have to travel long distances for care or be pulled out of school, and there is no cure in sight.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reauthorize the Rare Pediatric PRV Program before the program expires in September. Congress must do all it can to encourage the development of cures for children like Matthew, Madison, and Marley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 454, on the Gosar amendment on H.R. 5538, I am not recorded because I was representing constituents on business outside of Washington, D.C. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WEST-
PORT RIVER WATERSHED ALLI-
ANCE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Westport River Watershed Alliance on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

The Watershed Alliance, originally created to protest a septic-composting lagoon project on the Upper East Branch of the Westport River, was established by a small group of 14 concerned Westport residents. What started as a single protest in 1976 has grown to a membership of over 1,500 families and 4,800 volunteers that work on numerous conservation projects from running the longest water quality monitoring program in Massachusetts to planting over 20,000 beach grass seedlings in the past decade to stabilize eroded areas of the Town Beach dune system in the Commonwealth.

The Watershed Alliance has successfully given voice to the natural resource concerns of the Westport River. It has become a leader in environmental preservation efforts in the region and represents the best of the Westport community. The Watershed Alliance has, over the years, worked with state legislators to remove granite blocks out from underneath a bridge that restricted flow to the Upper East Branch part of the river, it has hosted over 28 River Day festivals, has planted 6 rain gardens at the Westport Middle School which were used to capture and treat over 60% of the storm water that flowed previously unchecked into the water, and it is working with the Town of Westport and MA Estuaries Project to come up with alternatives to expensive sewer treatments to help solve the nitrogen pollution problem in an efficient and affordable manner.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Westport River Watershed Alliance’s four decade commitment to protecting the Westport River.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the service and commitment of the members of the Westport River Watershed Alliance.

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION ACT OF
2016

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to S. 304, the so-called “Conscience Protection Act.”

This bill would open the door for employers and companies to discriminate against women based on their reproductive health choices. And it puts the personal beliefs of any employer or healthcare provider above the health and safety of women.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are using the pretext of religious liberty to violate the fundamental human rights of women.

This bill is another in a long line of Republican attempts to limit women’s access to safe, legal abortion—like the Weldon and Hyde amendments.

Let me be clear: no employer or politician has the right to interfere with a woman’s personal healthcare choices. These decisions belong to women—not politicians or bosses.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is dangerous.

Instead of addressing the serious issues facing American families—like combatting Zika, addressing gun violence, or creating jobs—my colleagues have chosen to put partisan politics over healthcare access.

This is just shameful.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this outrageous attack on women’s health.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL DENNIS SCHMIDT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge my constituent Dennis Schmidt from Fairfax Station, Virginia, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army and lifelong dedicated public servant. Mr. Schmidt devoted twenty-one years of his life to the United States Army, including assignments and deployments during the Vietnam War. After he completed his military service, his dedication to public service did not stop.

Between 1989 and 1993, Mr. Schmidt worked for the Army Research Laboratory in the Army Material Command, during which he helped develop technology over multiple fields such as weapons systems, medical equipment, and protection tools. This research has helped save American lives, and gives our soldiers an edge in the performance of their duties to our country. From 1994 to 1998, Mr. Schmidt refocused his talents as acting Science and Technology Advisor to the Director for Force Development, where he evaluated and managed the Army’s annual research programs budget. Through such

means, Mr. Schmidt fought to maintain the Army's ability to look after its troops by providing state of the art equipment and technology.

Mr. Schmidt continued to fight to maintain the Army's research funding levels for another decade, as both a Deputy Director and Director specializing in science and technology at the Department of the Army. He maintained the Army's budget of \$13 billion, which allocated funds to over twenty projects with a total workforce in excess of 14,000 engineering and research staff.

His civilian assignment spanned three decades in the Department of the Army. Mr. Schmidt will best be remembered for his dedication to preserving and increasing funding for suicide prevention, and developing new weapons technologies to aid in keeping our troops safer and better equipped while serving their country.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Schmidt embodies what it means to be an American patriot. He is an impressive example of going beyond his duty, and he should be honored for it. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Schmidt for his many years of service, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF
MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute the Town of Mooresville, Indiana, as the official Home of the Indiana State Flag.

It was one hundred years ago, in celebration of Indiana's Centennial, that Mooresville resident and prominent water color artist Paul Hadley designed the current Indiana flag. It is easy to see why Hadley's design for the banner was selected out of the two hundred that were entered in the Daughters of the American Revolution contest in 1816.

The stately gold torch signifying liberty and enlightenment, surrounded by nineteen gold stars representing each of the states in the union upon Indiana's induction, is stunning on the beautiful field of deep blue.

One year later the Indiana State Legislature adopted Paul Hadley's design as the official state banner. It has remained unchanged since that day.

Mooresville is located in Morgan County in central Indiana.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize the town of Mooresville for Paul Hadley's important contribution to Indiana's history.

COMMENDING STUDENTS FOR NATIONAL
JROTC CHAMPIONSHIP
PARTICIPATION

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it fills me with great pride to congratulate Yoli D. Ortega

Hernandez, Anne J. Bana, Andrea Cardoza, Luis E. Maya, Marisol Ahumada, and Tamara M. Herrador from James Monroe High School in my district. I want to congratulate them for participating in the National Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB).

The James Monroe High School team participated at the championship competition here in Washington, D.C., last month. During the two fast-paced preliminary rounds, the Vikings Cadets were tested on their knowledge of current events, leadership values, and leadership skills. More than 1,370 Army JROTC teams competed from around the world, with James Monroe's cadets earning top scores. James Monroe's JROTC team is one of only forty Leadership Bowl teams in the nation to advance to the National Leadership and Academic Bowl.

It is thrilling to see the promising young men and women from our very own San Fernando Valley schools come to the table with such great talent. You should all be proud of yourselves for making it this far; it is a huge accomplishment. Congratulations, Vikings!

RECOGNIZING RIDE4GABE FOR
BRINGING NEEDED AWARENESS
TO DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representatives ADERHOLT (AL), BLACK (TN), BLACKBURN (TN), BROOKS (AL), CHABOT (OH), COLLINS (NY), FUDGE (OH), GIBBS (OH), GUINTA (NH), HANNA (NY), HIGGINS (NY), JOYCE (OH), KELLY (PA), PALMER (AL), PINGREE (ME), POLIQUIN (ME), REED (NY), RENACCI (OH), ROBY (AL), ROE (TN), ROGERS (AL), SEWELL (AL), STEFANIK (NY), TIBERI (OH), TURNER (OH), WENSTRUP (OH), and YARMUTH (KY), I want to recognize three men who will attempt to pedal their bicycles from Houlton, Maine to Mobile, Alabama between July 29 and August 8, 2016. Ride4Gabe, as it is called, will take the cyclists on a route that is approximately the same distance as the Tour de France in only eleven days. As they pedal 200 miles per day the men will endure substantial physical and mental hardship. The cycling effort alone is worthy of recognition, but these cyclists insist it is their cause that should be known by the American people. Ride4Gabe is really about ending Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

According to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, Duchenne is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately 1 in every 3,500 live male births (about 20,000 new cases each year worldwide). Because the Duchenne gene is found on the X-chromosome, it primarily affects boys; however, it occurs across all races and cultures.

Duchenne results in progressive loss of strength and is caused by a mutation in the gene that encodes for dystrophin. Because dystrophin is absent, the muscle cells are easily damaged. The progressive muscle weakness leads to serious medical problems, particularly issues relating to the heart and lungs.

Young men with Duchenne typically live into their late twenties.

Michael Staley, 35, of Birmingham, Alabama, and Wes Bates, 21, of Aurora, Colorado, began Ride4Gabe in 2014 when they rode across Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. Payne Griffin, 23, of Washington, D.C. will join Michael and Wes this year. The trio will be supported by a crew of volunteers as they pedal across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

The Ride4Gabe team will meet with Duchenne patients, rare disease-impacted families, elected officials, and other community leaders throughout their journey. They will educate people about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. They will highlight the challenges associated with Duchenne through the lens of Gabe Griffin and Duchenne patients all along their route. They will discuss how medical research has the Duchenne community on the verge of solving this problem that nobody has survived to date. They will raise awareness about rare disease drug approval policy and how it relates to Duchenne.

On behalf of my colleagues representing the congressional districts along the Ride4Gabe 2016 route, I am pleased to submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The awareness raised through Ride4Gabe will lead to greater public awareness about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It is our hope that Gabe Griffin and every other patient who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy will soon have access to a treatment, and ultimately a cure.

THE SMALL BUSINESS START-UP
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ACT OF 2016

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I re-introduced H.R. 5783, the Small Business Start-up Savings Accounts Act of 2016. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and are an essential component of our continued economic recovery. These businesses generate half of our nation's gross domestic product and employ at least half of its workforce. The creation of small businesses allows Americans to produce things right here in America, as well as continue to out innovate and out-build the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, the average entrepreneur spends roughly \$80,000 in first year start-up costs, and these recovering economic times have made it even more difficult for prospective business owners to access vital start-up capital.

As our economy continues to strengthen, it is important that Congress provides incentives and opportunities for entrepreneurs to launch new businesses and provide much needed jobs to our economy. For these reasons, I am re-introducing The Small Business Start-up Savings Accounts Act to assist individuals in starting their own businesses.

This bill expands much needed lending to millions of small businesses and offers tax incentives to help small businesses grow, hire,