

boards of pharmacy regulate them to the extent that their activities can be construed as practicing pharmacy. The vast majority of their remaining functions and activities are unregulated.

We must do more to rein in some of the worst abuses of PBMs against community pharmacies and consumers. In addition to supporting state actions against the Express Scripts/Medco merger, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4215, the Medicare Pharmacy Transparency and Fair Auditing Act, important legislation that will protect patients and providers from the egregious practices of PBMs. Similar legislation that includes the provisions of H.R. 4215 has been introduced in the Senate. This legislation will help level the playing field between neighborhood pharmacies and PBMs and ensure Americans have access to see the providers of their choice. PBMs are the little-known, but powerful, virtually unregulated middlemen that administer prescription drug benefits for most Americans.

TRIBUTE TO ST. BERNARDINE PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and ask Congress to recognize the 150th anniversary of the St. Bernardine Parish in San Bernardino, California.

In 1862, Reverend Raho chose a site for the St. Bernardine Parish to be built in the town square in the current city of San Bernardino. Here, Reverend Raho held mass and established the Parish in the name of Bishop Amat. In 1865, the first St. Bernardine Church was completed, only to be destroyed by a fire a year later. The church was rebuilt and expanded between 1867 and 1880 to accommodate a growing population.

The St. Bernardine Parish continued to change and expand with the beginning of the 20th century. In 1907, the Church built a new two story brick school to accommodate 200 students. Three years later, in 1910, the new Church building was completed and dedicated, becoming the fifth Catholic Church in San Bernardino.

During the 1920s, the San Bernardine Parish flourished and helped provide guidance and inspiration to the people of San Bernardino. A decade later, during the Great Depression, the San Bernardine Parish was instrumental in helping the community get through rough times.

I commend the San Bernardine Parish for their tireless work to support our soldiers and their families during and after World War II. Many men and women from the Parish fought bravely to preserve the freedoms of democracy and religion that we hold today.

After the war, St. Bernardine constructed a new convent and built additions onto the existing school building. From the 1960s until the 1990s, Msgr. John Bradley oversaw the period of growth and change for the St. Bernardine Parish, where he is known as the "Preservation Pastor." With Msgr. Bradley's leadership, a new senior citizens housing complex was

completed and dedicated. Msgr. Bradley's legacy has impacted Father Leonard Depasquale, who continues to lead the St. Bernardine Parish in improving the life of the people and community of San Bernardino.

I am proud of the way the St. Bernardine Parish has positively impacted the people of San Bernardino for over 150 years. The St. Bernardine Parish has provided spiritual support and assistance to the people of San Bernardino, and I am grateful to their service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of the St. Bernardine Parish as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SHAWN T. HANNON

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation to celebrate the life of Ohio Army National Guard Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon—a true American hero who lost his life on April 4, 2012, while deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. A fellow Ohioan and soldier from Grove City, Ohio, Master Sgt. Hannon, 44, gave the final measure of devotion when he was killed in action while serving in the line of duty in the protection of our nation.

Master Sgt. Hannon was a lifelong soldier who served for almost 20 years in the Ohio Army National Guard. Hannon was the kind of soldier who makes the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District so proud. He served in multiple deployments, which included Iraq, RAF Lakenheath, England, Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina, and Florida for Hurricane Andrew. He earned a well-deserved Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal for his outstanding service. As a father, husband, son, brother, and friend, Master Sgt. Hannon was known for his charisma, love, and loyalty. I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to serve with him in the Ohio Army National Guard.

We should thank God every day that heroes like Master Sgt. Hannon exist, because every day he stood ready to protect and fight for our freedom. His bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice will be forever remembered, as will his unwavering commitment to God, country, and his family.

I ask that every Member of Congress join me in paying tribute to the life of Master Sgt. Hannon—his bravery and selflessness are deeply missed and felt. We are able to have freedom and safety today because of the ultimate sacrifice that he has made, and for that we owe a great debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 64th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Today, Israelis and their friends around the world celebrate the renewal of a Jewish State in the land of Israel. Since the U.S. became the first country to recognize Israel, a mere 11 minutes after her founding, the relationship between our two nations has continued to grow and strengthen. That friendship is as important now as it was in 1948, and, after 64 years of cooperation and collaboration, we still subscribe to the same Democratic ideals, face the same global threats, and share the same dreams. As a Jew and a Member of Congress, I am committed to continuously working to grow and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Israel is not just a strategic ally, but also a friend and partner of the United States. I have traveled to Israel many times in recent years, and I am continuously impressed by the high level of technology, energy, and scientific innovation. Even as Israelis face an uncertain security outlook and the very real possibility of violence from neighboring nations, Israel continues to be a leader in innovation.

Today we celebrate, but yesterday we paused for Israel's Memorial Day to remember the many men and women who have been killed defending the Jewish state. According to the Israeli government, 22,993 men and women have given their lives defending the land of Israel since 1860, and 2,457 people have been killed in terror attacks. In the past year, 126 members of the Israeli security forces have been killed in the line of duty.

After 64 years, Israel continues to be our closest friend and ally in the Middle East, and the United States remains absolutely committed to ensuring a secure future for the Jewish State. For over six decades, the cornerstone of that relationship has been bipartisan agreement recognizing the critical importance of that relationship to both our nations.

As we celebrate the 64th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, this Congress, this Administration, and this country will continue to work together with our Israeli partners to ensure a secure and peaceful future for Israel and the entire Middle East.

IRA FREEMAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to my dear friend Ira Freeman, who is being honored by the Valley Community Clinic for his many years of dedicated service and is being named 2012 Pharmacist of the Year by the California Pharmacists Association.

I know firsthand of Mr. Freeman's many outstanding contributions to our community. Ira is a founding member of the Valley Community Clinic (VCC), whose vision is to provide high quality healthcare for all regardless of their ability to pay. Since 1970, Ira has been the Pharmacist of Record for VCC's in-house dispensary, where he oversees the medication processes for all its patients. In addition, he has spent the last four decades volunteering his time in the dispensary every Thursday and Saturday. Along with giving his time to VCC, he also supports many other Valley non-profits including: New Horizons, Ovarian Cancer Coalition, AIDS Walk LA, Executives of the Jewish