

and tissue donors and encourage other Americans to follow the example set by my neighbors.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HYATT

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, our nation has a long history of honoring our veterans. Even today, we reserve the highest levels of respect for our fellow Americans who served our country bravely in battle. And while many of us personally know some who served in one, or perhaps, two wars, it's exceedingly rare to find an individual who wore the uniform in three separate wars. In fact, in my home state of Indiana, there are only two such veterans alive.

One of them, Robert Hyatt of Franklin, Indiana, will soon celebrate his 90th birthday. A veteran who served as a medic in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, he recently told a local news station that he'd still be serving in the military today if his health permitted. It's worth noting that along the way, his military service put his health at risk: He was shot in the leg during World War II and stabbed in Korea.

So as he and his family prepare to celebrate his 90th birthday, I wanted to take some time today to wish him well and honor his service to our country. Each of us owes a debt of gratitude to all our veterans, but especially to veterans like Robert Hyatt who answered the call of duty every chance they got.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 2 and during the first series of votes on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“YES” on roll call vote No. 51, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 361;
 “YES” on roll call vote No. 52, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 615;
 “YES” on roll call vote No. 53, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 623;
 “NO” on roll call vote No. 54, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 70;
 “NO” on roll call vote No. 55, on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 70; and
 “YES” on roll call vote No. 56, on approving the Journal.

HONORING COLONEL BYRON L. DIAMOND

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Byron L. Diamond for his nearly 29 years of military service in the Ne-

braska Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve. Colonel Diamond was born March 30, 1967 in Belleville, Kansas. He graduated from Columbus High School in Columbus, Nebraska in 1985. Colonel Diamond enlisted as a Private on July 17, 1986 into the Nebraska Army National Guard as a member of Company C, 1/195 Armor Battalion in Fairbury, Nebraska. In order to become a commissioned officer, Colonel Diamond attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln where he received an Associate Degree of Applied Science—Finance in 1989. Colonel Diamond was then commissioned a Second Lieutenant on July 22, 1989 at the Nebraska National Guard Military Academy.

From there, he continued his education to obtain a Bachelor of Professional Studies—Business Administration/Technical Services from Bellevue University at Bellevue, Nebraska in 1992. Later on Colonel Diamond would earn a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in 2011. Colonel Diamond and his wife, Denise, have two daughters, Emma and Olivia and son, Alexander.

His career included traditional and full-time positions of ever increasing responsibility. Colonel Diamond's career culminated as the G4—Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Colonel Diamond's significant service contributions include key assignments within the 267th (Direct Support) Maintenance Company (command), the 67th Infantry Brigade Forward Support Battalion, the 19th Theater Support Command, the 67th Area Support Group, commander 402nd Military Police Battalion, and Joint Force Headquarters—Nebraska. His key achievements include: serving as the Directorate of Installation Management for the 67th Area Support Group while deployed to Al Asad Air Base; developing plans with the 19th TSC for the defense of South Korea; and the establishment of communications infrastructure to relocate the Nebraska National Guard Headquarters to a new facility.

Colonel Diamond was promoted to his current rank December 13, 2011. Colonel Diamond distinguished himself through his extensive knowledge of logistics and mobilization operations where his mentoring and championing of logistics personnel and processes resulted in Nebraska's numerous regional and national Chief of Staff of the Army, Combined Logistics Excellence Awards. His accomplishments are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and patriotism and have brought great credit upon himself and the country. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Colonel Byron Diamond for his years of service and sacrifice to our country.

HONORING MR. ROBERT “BOBBY” HICKMAN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robert “Bobby” Hickman, to recognize his lifetime of persistently fighting for social change and mentoring the youth of our community over many decades.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Robert was a fourth-generation St. Paulite. His father was a descendant of the founders of Pilgrim Baptist Church and his mother came from a family of educators. Robert recognized the importance of his heritage and the deep rooted community ties that were instilled in him at an early age. Hickman served as a mechanical engineer in the Air Force and returned to St. Paul in the 1960's. It was during this tumultuous time of the civil rights movement that Robert became an activist within his community. In 1968 he founded the Inner City Youth League and served as the Executive Director for the next 20 years.

Robert believed in the importance of empowering and educating youth. The Inner City Youth League taught teenagers art, black history, music, and theater. He would sponsor forums to allow African-American youth to question city officials. He even ran a public television show called “Black Voices” and trained community members in video production.

Robert often came up with creative ways to protest the powers that be in his community. When the city of St. Paul razed houses for urban renewal he created community gardens out of the vacant plots. He advocated employment programs for young African-Americans, pushed for stronger schools, and protested profiling by police. After his work with Inner City Youth he teamed up with the advocacy and social services group The City Inc. in Minneapolis which opened one of the very first alternative schools in Minnesota.

Robert was more than just an activist; he was truly a community leader. He wore many hats throughout his personal and professional life. He was a small business owner and even an occasional actor playing the role of Frederick Douglas in Minnesota's Juneteenth celebrations. He discovered Buddhism and made trips to Kenya and Ghana. Most recently he worked with the Cultural Wellness Center in Minneapolis with young men, many of whom were referred there by the criminal justice system.

Throughout Robert's life he always continued to overcome divisions between city officials and community members. He was able to overcome cultural, racial, and generational divides to unite people in finding common ground while consistently and persistently supporting the community's black youth.

Robert “Bobby” Hickman passed away on January 28, 2015 at the age of 79. His work to improve and inspire the lives of African-American youth will resonate in the hearts and minds of the community for generations to come. He viewed his life's work as a calling and there is no nobler calling than mentoring and empowering our nation's future.

H.R. 596

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 596, the latest in a series of seemingly never ending attempts by House Republicans to destroy and dismantle the Affordable Care Act. This legislation, which has no chance of becoming law, would be nothing short of catastrophic for the

millions of Americans who receive critical benefits and health care coverage under the ACA.

The Affordable Care Act is working. Individuals with pre-existing conditions are no longer unfairly kept out of the insurance marketplace. Health care premiums are growing at the slowest rate in nearly a half century. Young adults are able to remain on their parents' health coverage; families can purchase affordable health coverage on the health insurance exchanges; and seniors are receiving real help with their prescription drug costs as we eliminate the Part D donut hole.

Despite these successes, House Republicans are continuing their quixotic pursuit to undermine this law using the same old and discredited arguments they have tried in the past. Instead of outlining a replacement to the ACA, Republicans want to take away comprehensive health coverage from millions of Americans and repeal critical patient protections.

In the last year, I've had many constituents share deeply personal stories of the positive impact the ACA has had on their lives. Below is one such story from Amy and Mark Adams-Westin of St. Paul, Minnesota.

THE ACA IS WORKING FOR US
(By The Westins)

We've been married since 1995. In the spring of 1997 Amy was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer. A month earlier, Mark had just gotten group health insurance through his employer. A year, two surgeries, 6 chemo treatments, and a full course of radiation later, Amy was finished with her treatments. It was now time to rebuild; fortunately our finances were spared the catastrophe.

We both have been musicians/composers/performers for all of our lives, with dreams of making our love our profession. After going through this life and death struggle, we decided to honor our gifts and talent and go for it. Of course this meant winding down, then giving up, Mark's day job. When we felt we had enough cushion in the bank, we made the leap.

We applied to our health insurance provider to change our group policy to a private family policy. By this time over 11 years had passed since Amy's breast cancer treatments. Our provider had no problem accepting Mark, but they refused Amy's coverage due to the previous conditions of her breast cancer (which shocked her oncologist), and fall allergies (which shocked us).

Fortunately, Amy got coverage from a Minnesota state mandated program that covered folks refused by private companies. Unfortunately, both our monthly premiums (from \$300 to \$650) and our yearly deductible (from \$300 to \$17,500) skyrocketed. And many of the preventative measures (mammograms, colonoscopies, even flu shots...) became part of our deductibles, which we had to pay out of pocket. Somehow we managed to scrape by, but it meant that we often had to choose between seeing our doctors or paying our premiums. Now let me say that we are both non-smokers. Mark does not drink and Amy has an occasional glass of wine. We are mostly vegetarian (Mark is total veg since 1973), and exercise regularly.

As musicians, a great percentage of our work is in independent, assisted living, transitional, and nursing Elder Care facilities. It is an absolute joy to see how important and healing our music can be to so many. We help turn lights on every day. For several years, we struggled from paycheck to paycheck to keep turning those lights on.

On May 1, 2013 Mark turned 62 and began to collect Social Security, which he'd been paying into for almost 50 years. That check covers our housing. In March of 2014 when the ACA took effect, our premiums and deductible were reduced into the affordable range. Also our coverage for preventative measures are now included.

Our response to Social Security and the ACA was "WHEW!" These two programs have changed our lives, along with the lives of millions of others. We can now continue to live our American dream, while bringing our music to those precious folks who need it the most.

Our health care system was broken and breaking this nation until passage of the ACA. While we weren't among the 40,000,000 plus uncovered men, women, and children, our coverage was strangling our finances.

The ACA, contrary to oft repeated myth, is in fact working and making millions of lives better. We must continue to refine the ACA and health care in America until all of the cracks that hard working folks and their children have been allowed to fall into are filled and the basic cost of healthcare is reduced to sane sustainable levels. To repeal the ACA, which has been the constant threat and "promise" of the opposition, would be to turn back the clock and recreate the void that endangered far too many lives.

Mark and Amy's story is just one of many that I have heard about how the Affordable Care Act is helping to improve Minnesotans' health and economic security. It is time for Congressional Republicans to stop refighting the battles of the past and focus on the challenges facing our communities. I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—to enact policies that will benefit middle class families and strengthen our economy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on perspectives from owners, operators, and users of the system.

SD-406

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine regional nuclear dynamics.

SR-222

FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

MARCH 4

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 12

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SVC-217

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222