

He is also involved in community organizations including the Colorado Fellowship of Christian Athletes CMT Board and The Gift of Warmth Program.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Reister has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economy from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH
BEND ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL
MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the victory of the South Bend Adams High School team in the National Mock Trial Competition. The championship culminates a year of successes for the "Usual Suspects," a team which won its second straight state championship. It was the perfect finish to a season full of intense training and practice. The victory caps a record of twelve state titles in the thirteen years of the mock trial program at Adams.

The exceptional members of the Adams Mock Trial team include: Josh Courtney, Jenn Deeter, Ellis Smith, Chris Silvestri, Adam Kern, Gabe Young, timekeeper David Kern, and student coaches Kieran Neal and Allie Soisson. The team was led to victory by coaches Lucas Burkett and Professor Jay Tidmarsh and faculty advisor Judith Overmyer.

Mock Trial competition involves not only knowledge of the law, but also the ability to plan both defensive and prosecutorial strategies and act the parts of lawyers and witnesses. The Adams team prepared a cunning defense and excelled at portraying believable witnesses and convincing lawyers while developing their communication, research, and organizational skills. Chris Silvestri distinguished himself among the participants by earning the "Best Witness" award.

The Adams Mock Trial team has achieved a memorable ending to an extraordinary year of competition. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaches, John Adams High School students, faculty and staff. I also offer my thanks and congratulations to members of the community, including local attorneys and judges, who supported the team on the road to this impressive accomplishment. The Adams Mock Trial team has represented Indiana, the City of South Bend, their school and themselves with excellence and distinction.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS HUNTINGTON'S
DISEASE AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize May as Huntington's Disease Awareness Month. In support of those with Huntington's Disease and of finding a cure, I have cosponsored H.R. 678, "Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009." This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Rep. BOB FILNER (D-CA-41) would eliminate the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for those suffering from Huntington's Disease.

Huntington's Disease is a progressive degenerative neurological disease that causes total mental and physical deterioration in as few as 12 years and currently no cure exists. Already 20,000 Americans have been diagnosed with Huntington's and 6.5% of the population, or 200,000 individuals, are at risk for this disease.

The physical, emotional, and mental alterations a victim of Huntington's Disease undergoes are extreme to say the least. Even in the initial stages, patients are unable to continue employment and they must rely on family care and Social Security Disability Income. A similar neurological disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, received a waiver for the 24-month waiting period in 2000.

H.R. 678 would help to alleviate suffering that those diagnosed with Huntington's Disease must face every day. Implementing this legislation would not only help those diagnosed with Huntington's but also the families that have been financially devastated by this degenerative disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress and the public at large to recognize this important month.

IN HONOR OF FRANKLYN KELLOGG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Franklyn Kellogg, on the occasion of his 90th Birthday and in recognition of his dedication to his community and a life lived with a great sense of humor, energetic spirit, joy for living and positive outlook.

Mr. Kellogg grew up in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. After high school, he joined the army and served as a military police officer during WWII. Following the war, he came back to Cleveland and began his lifelong vocation of protecting others, first as a firefighter and then as Fire Chief of City Cleveland. Mr. Kellogg was a leader in evolving

safety training and techniques, many of which are still used today in Ohio and across the country.

Mr. Kellogg was one of the first firefighters in Cleveland to be trained as a certified paramedic. He became a top-notch instructor, training firefighters and paramedics, even travelling as far as California with requests for his training expertise. Mr. Kellogg has earned a nationally-known reputation as being one of the best arson investigators in the country, and has been consulted numerous times by fire departments in Ohio and across the country. Several of Mr. Kellogg's arson cases are still used today as models in firefighter training courses, including courses taught at Cuyahoga Community College. He continues to be an active member of his community and of the Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, the church he has attended since childhood.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Mr. Kellogg's 90th Birthday. His kindness and commitment to community leadership and service continues to be evident in all he does. I stand in honor and gratitude of Mr. Kellogg's lifelong service to our community and I wish him the best as he and his family celebrate his 90th birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE NORTH SEA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, residents of Long Island, New York are truly fortunate that our local firefighters are also our neighbors. Since 1934, residents of the Peconic Bay hamlet of North Sea have relied on the professionalism of the all-volunteer North Sea Fire Department, and today I proudly rise to mark the 75th anniversary of its founding.

To date, 2009 has been one of the busiest years on record for the North Sea Fire Department, as they have responded to more fire calls than any other department in Suffolk County. Each has been answered with the speed, skill and courtesy that has been the department's calling card for 75 years.

Madam Speaker, while the children of North Sea may be upset that the firefighters have not been able to lavish their customary level of attention on the department's annual Fourth of July carnival and fireworks, their parents can rest assured that their neighbors at the firehouse are devoted to keeping the community safe any hour of the day or night. I offer my thanks and best wishes as they continue their tradition of community service for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMPOWERING MEDICARE PATIENT CHOICES ACT ESTABLISHES A PHASED IN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SHARED DECISION-MAKING IN MEDICARE BY EQUIPPING BENEFICIARIES WITH UNBIASED, EVIDENCED-BASED RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP THEM BE BETTER INVOLVED IN TREATMENT DECISIONS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Empowering Medicare Patient Choices Act of 2009.

The onset of an illness creates intense stress and anxiety for patients and families. In addition to the weight of a diagnosis, patients struggle to learn about their illness and determine which treatments to pursue. During this time, people often feel helpless and unprepared to make such critical decisions, but it doesn't have to be that way. We have the opportunity to improve both the quality of health care and patient satisfaction by better engaging patients and families in treatment decisions.

The Empowering Medicare Patient Choices Act will create a shared decision-making process between physicians and patients within Medicare, offering incentives for doctors to provide resources such as DVD's and web-based, interactive programs. These materials provide unbiased, evidence-based information on treatment options. After reviewing the decision aids, patients and families are better prepared to have meaningful conversations with their doctors to determine the course of action right for them.

The legislation introduces shared decision-making into Medicare in three phases. Phase I is a three-year period pilot program allowing 'early adopting' providers to participate, providing data and serving as Shared Decision-Making Resource Centers. Phase II expands the pilot for a three-year period during which a larger pool of providers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for the use of certified patient decision aids. The final stage requires providers to use patient decision aids for certain conditions as a standard of practice.

Shared decision-making is a common-sense program that will improve quality of care, but more importantly, support patients and families during difficult times.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Independence at Home Act. I would like to thank my colleague and fellow co-chair of the bipartisan Alzheimer's Task Force, Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for working with me on this important legislation.

As health care reform efforts move forward, we have a golden opportunity to provide high-

quality care for our most vulnerable seniors right in their own homes at dramatically lower costs. The bi-partisan Independence at Home legislation we are reintroducing today aims to better coordinate care for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple, debilitating chronic diseases, including Alzheimer's, congestive heart failure, diabetes and other chronic conditions.

In many cases, our frail elders prefer to remain in their own homes, in the comfort of familiar surroundings, rather than enter a nursing home or hospital. Our current health care system does a poor job caring for seriously ill Americans, who often are "lost in transition", struggling to manage multiple illnesses as they transition between emergency room, hospital, nursing facility and home. The Independence at Home Act holds great promise for reducing hospitalizations, preventing medication errors, and lifting the spirits of those who, after a lifetime of contributions to our society, deserve the dignity and peace of mind that comes with living independently.

This legislation builds on successful house calls programs operating around the country and at the Department of Veterans Affairs by establishing a 3-year pilot program in Medicare that would enable beneficiaries with chronic, complex conditions to receive the care they need in their own homes. These patients see roughly 14 physicians and fill about 50 prescriptions each year. Due to a lack of coordination between their many doctors, these patients often receive disjointed care, conflicting information, and multiple diagnoses for the same symptoms. At the same time, Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions account for a highly disproportionate share of Medicare spending.

The Independence at Home Act creates a three year pilot program that utilizes a patient-centered health delivery model to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions can remain independent, in their homes, for as long as possible. Our model is a better, more coordinated way of getting these patients the care they need by physicians who know them and are experienced in managing their unique needs.

The Independence at Home care teams tasked with coordinating the care of these patients will be comprised of qualified and experienced physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. Participating organizations will be required to produce improved health outcomes, demonstrate patient and caregiver satisfaction, and show that their methods result in savings to Medicare. In order to realize these savings, our bill holds participating providers accountable for demonstrating a minimum savings of 5 percent to Medicare. As an incentive, providers are able to keep a portion of savings they achieve beyond the initial 5 percent. Whereas our current health care system runs up costs by reimbursing for the volume of care, the Independence at Home model incentivizes the value of care.

This proposal also encourages the adoption of electronic medical records and other technologies that will result in more efficient and cost-effective care. And, to help address the existing shortage of primary care physicians, this bill develops a new, promising career path for primary care physicians who can own and operate Independence at Home organizations and receive reimbursements for house calls.

The Independence at Home Act addresses the needs of patients with multiple chronic dis-

eases and holds providers accountable for producing savings. As such, I believe this bill to be a critical part of our efforts to reform health care because it will produce better, coordinated care and reduce costs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to turn our "sick-care" system into a true health care system, and I look forward to working on this bill with my colleagues as efforts proceed to pass comprehensive health care reform this year.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS ECONOMAKI, THE 2009 RECIPIENT OF POCONO RACEWAY'S BILL FRANCE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Chris Economaki, the dean of motorsports journalists, who has dedicated himself to the promotion of a national sport that has enriched the lives of countless people for more than 60 years.

Mr. Economaki is the first journalist to receive this award, first presented in 1977, which is dedicated to the memory of William H. G. France, the founder of NASCAR. This award is presented annually to a person, organization or corporation that has made outstanding contributions to the sport of NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Racing.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1920, Mr. Economaki's father was a Greek immigrant while his mother was a great niece of Robert E. Lee. He witnessed his first auto race in Atlantic City at the age of nine and was immediately hooked on the sport. He started his career at the age of 13 selling copies of National Speed Sport News newspapers. He wrote his first column at the age of 14 for the National Auto Racing News. In 1950, he became editor of the National Speed Sport News. He began a column for that publication, titled "The Editor's Notebook," that he still writes more than 50 years later. He eventually became owner, publisher and editor of the National Speed Sport News. His daughter, Corinne Economaki, is the current publisher and the paper is still considered "America's Weekly Motorsports Authority."

His autobiography is entitled "Let Em All Go: The Story of Auto Racing by the Man Who Was There."

Mr. Economaki worked as a race track announcer in the 40s and 50s. He covered races at Indianapolis, Daytona, LeMans and many other locations. His motorsports coverage on radio and television became legendary.

Mr. Economaki has been the recipient of numerous major motorsports award and he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 1994. The Economaki Champion of Champions Award is named after him. A day at the Dodge Charger 500 at the Darlington Speedway race weekend is named "Chris Economaki Day." The press room at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway was named the "Economaki Press Conference Room" in 2006. He appeared as a pit reporter in two motion picture films, "Stroker Ace" and "Six Pack."