

Advocates from 40 states have travelled to Washington to talk about the pharmacy community's contributions in over 40,000 community pharmacies nationwide. These important healthcare providers are here to educate Congress about the value of pharmacists and protect access to the essential services they provide as part of our healthcare delivery system. And just as these providers travelled to meet with us, Members of Congress have toured retail chain pharmacies in our own communities more than 250 times since 2009. There are 106 chain pharmacies in my own Congressional District, and those stores employ nearly 10,000 Washingtonians.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their healthcare needs. The local pharmacist is a trusted, highly accessible healthcare provider deeply committed to providing the highest quality care in the most efficient manner possible.

As demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in healthcare delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient healthcare. Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life as well as healthcare affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as through better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, using generic medications, and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies.

Pharmacists are the nation's most accessible healthcare providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to healthcare. Eighty-nine percent of Americans reside within a five-mile radius of a community pharmacy. Pharmacists are one of our nation's most trusted healthcare professionals. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, healthcare screenings, and other healthcare services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall healthcare costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) and medical homes.

As we refine healthcare reform and seek new strategies to improve patient care, pharmacists will play a critical role. I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care and lower costs. In recognition of the Sixth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, executives, and the entire pharmacy community represented by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
COLONEL JOHN RAFFERTY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel John Rafferty of the United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation at the Deputy of the Army House Liaison Division on Capitol Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty will soon transition to the Legislative Director for the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Army Congressional Liaison officers provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their firsthand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

A native of Great Falls, Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty enlisted in the Army in 1987 and served in Germany with the 8th Infantry Division. Two years later, he left the active Army to return to college and pursue a commission as an Army Officer. He received his commission as Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army as a Field Artillery officer. During the next twenty years, LTC Rafferty served in a variety of tactical assignments, including service in 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment, staff officer in the 25th Infantry Division, command of two artillery batteries in the 1st Armored Division, and command of 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. Along with becoming an Army Ranger and Master Parachutist, he served multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, he was selected as an exchange officer for the U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School and for the United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff College with the British Military.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty is both warrior and scholar. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Longwood College, a Master of Arts in Defense Policy from King's College-London, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

His devotion to his country is matched only by his commitment to family. Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty is married to the lovely Tracey Lowery Rafferty. They're proud parents of a thirteen-year-old daughter, Erin, and a twelve-year-old son, Evan.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafferty's great work has not gone unnoticed. His military awards include the Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, three Bronze Star Medals, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals. He was inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara and is a Distinguished Member of both the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Lieutenant Colonel John Rafferty as he proceeds into the next chapter of his remarkable career and continues to serve the United States of America. I wish him the best as he continues to serve our great Nation and proceeds to the next chapter in his remarkable career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, I was unable to attend the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF JAXSON'S ICE CREAM
PARLOUR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Monroe Udell and Ms. Linda Zakeheim, the owners of Jaxson's Ice Cream Parlour located in Dania Beach, Florida.

Jaxson's has long been a staple in Dania Beach and this cultural landmark currently employs more than 70 people. Now, Monroe and Linda have taken it upon themselves to improve the standard of living for their employees. On February 24, 2014—the day of Monroe's 86th birthday—Jaxson's raised their minimum wage from \$7.93 to \$10.10 an hour.

Monroe and Linda have always appreciated the work their employees do to create a top rated restaurant. This higher minimum wage will allow their employees to enjoy a better standard of living and improved economic security. It will allow them to contribute more to the South Florida economy. And, it will show other businesses in the region that paying a higher wage is possible, profitable, and the right thing to do.

In 1965, Boisey Waiters, Dania's first African American City Commissioner, told me about Jaxson's, and I instantly became a fan. Monroe first opened the restaurant in 1953, and even then, it was a beacon. At that time, most establishments in Broward County did not serve colored people. Yet, from the very beginning Monroe took a stand against segregation by hiring and serving all restaurant patrons, regardless of race. That is why I was not surprised to hear that Monroe and Linda acted on their own conscience to help their employees afford a better lifestyle. Sixty-one years later, Jaxson's is still showing the way with their actions to better support their employees.

The employees of Jaxson's have worked tirelessly to develop the reputation of a restaurant that provides excellent food, great ice cream, and a family friendly atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to acknowledge and thank Monroe Udell, Linda Zakeheim, General Manager Jerry Smith, as well as all the employees working at Jaxson's. I wish them many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING DAN "OX" OCHSNER

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan "Ox" Ochsner for more than a

decade of work as a radio host in St. Cloud, MN.

Originally from Fargo, ND, Ox began his radio career in 1991 as a rock DJ out of Fergus Falls. He's come a long way since then, now hosting an afternoon show on weekdays in St. Cloud with popularity in the Twin Cities and here in D.C.

He's not only an on-air personality and radio entrepreneur. Ox and his wife, Jan, have made an effort to stay involved and connected in the community. His involvement with Jaycees, Sertoma, Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts haven't gone unnoticed. The St. Cloud Times named him one of the top 40 most influential people of the decade (2000–2010).

As I continue on in my final year in the House of Representatives, I look back with appreciation and respect for the people of the 6th District. One of those special people is Dan Ochsner. With a personality as fiery as his hair, he can always be counted on to provide a humorous take on current events to the people of central Minnesota.

There are few people kinder, funnier, and more genuine than Ox. It's an honor to represent a district in the halls of Congress with talented individuals like Dan. The 6th District of Minnesota is lucky to call Dan Ochsner one of their own.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 I was inadvertently detained on rollcall Votes 91 and 92. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "yes" on both.

MARIA PEDRIANI, HAZLETON LODGE #200 "2013-2014 ELK OF THE YEAR"

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Maria Pedriani, the Hazleton Lodge #200 "2013–2014 Elk of the Year," for her loyal service to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Mrs. Pedriani has been a resident of Hazleton, Pennsylvania for 36 years. After graduating from Mahanoy Area High School, she took post graduate courses at Luzerne County Community College and owned her own cosmetology business in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Since joining the Elks two years ago, Mrs. Pedriani has been an outstanding asset in accomplishing lodge goals and is well known for her superb cooking abilities.

Beyond her involvement with the Hazleton Elks, Mrs. Pedriani has been an active member of the local community. She served on the board of "Helping Hands" and is a member of the Holy Rosary Church. In 2011, she was the keynote speaker at the American Cancer Society—Relay for Life where she spoke about her

successful battle with Hodgkin lymphoma. She is also a proud wife, mother, and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, for her committed service to the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, I commend Maria Pedriani and congratulate her for being named the Hazleton Lodge #200 "2013–2014 Elk of the Year."

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for receiving accreditation by the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The accreditation process is very rigorous and signifies the highest standards of excellence in land conservation.

When Congress first passed the tax incentives for land conservation, it placed a high degree of trust in non-profit land trusts to manage these transactions properly. Over the years, land conservation has become increasingly complex and requires careful adherence to the national Land Trust Standards and Practices. This accreditation process helps give taxpayers confidence that land trusts are a worthy public investment.

I want to thank the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for its dedication and effectiveness in educating the public about the importance of conservation and preserving local natural areas, trails, streams, and parks. Its work helps to protect wildlife habitat, water quality and healthy communities. Since its founding 20 years ago, the Trust has protected 5,370 acres across Northern Virginia. And, by achieving national accreditation, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust has expanded its capacity to accomplish this mission far into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for its hard work and commitment to our community. I wish the Trust and its supporters continued success in their conservation efforts.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 EDWARD "EDDIE" BALLI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward "Eddie" Balli, an American hero who gave his life in service to his country. Eddie loved his job as an Unmanned Aerial System Operations Officer Platoon Leader for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. He provided the eyes in the sky for the soldiers on the ground.

On January 20, Eddie's unit was attacked by insurgents in the Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan. Believing it was his duty to place the safety of his fellow troops before his own; Eddie was killed while providing cover to protect the rest of his unit. His sac-

rifice ultimately saved the lives of several civilians and his fellow soldiers.

Eddie was a native of Salinas, California, graduating from North High School. Soon after graduation, he felt the call to serve his country. Following in the footsteps of others in his family, he joined the Army in 1991. During his distinguished career, Eddie received many accolades including the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart during his many deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was an inspiration to all who served with him. Eddie made himself available to talk with younger soldiers, mentoring them and offering both professional and personal advice.

Eddie was also a devout family man. He often spoke fondly of his wife, Kristy Balli, and his three children, Michael, Momilani, and Desirae. To his family he was more than just a soldier. He was a kind and loving husband, father, brother and son who had an infectious humor and quirky personality. His family was proud of his patriotic service to his country and the care he demonstrated for his fellow soldiers.

That caring personality, as both a soldier and a family man, is what made Eddie an extraordinary person. He was an exemplary soldier, family man, and friend who put the needs of others before his own.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true patriot and hero, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Balli. Our nation is grateful for his service and we promise that his life, legacy, and his sacrifice for our country will not be forgotten.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address some of the many lingering issues surrounding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The bill passed by the House yesterday will help a significant number of Missourians who have been saddled with inconceivable rate increases, who cannot sell their property, and who run the risk of losing their homes. I have heard from one constituent in particular who told of an unexpected premium increase that jumped from under \$1,800 to more than \$11,000, a cost difference that she and her husband will have difficulty meeting. It is my sincere hope that this legislation helps to address these issues.

While I supported H.R. 3370, I regret that the bill presented no opportunities for an increased presence for the private insurance market. One of the primary public policy goals associated with NFIP has been to spur private insurers to enter the flood insurance space. As long as NFIP generously subsidizes risk, however, the private market will remain a secondary player in the program. We must create a program that becomes, over time, actuarially-sound and creates a greater role for the private sector while reducing the government's role.

Yesterday the House took a step towards ensuring that our constituents are not saddled