

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

136TH AIRLIFT WING, TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY READINESS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated group of individuals who have devoted their time and energy to supporting our brave soldiers—136th Airlift Wing, Texas National Guard Family Readiness Team.

The Family Readiness Team's mission is to assist units as they support the families of members of the 136th Airlift Wing during peacetime and times of training or mobilization. The Team provides multiple levels of care and assistance. They send a personal greeting card to any member upon request; establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support, and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both; and provide all Air Force families assistance and support before, during and after times of local or national emergencies/disasters, mobilization, deployment/separation or evacuation. The Family Readiness Team has a Chaplain's Staff available to comfort and encourage hope for the families of our deployed troops as well as those troops providing home station sustainment.

My son was a member of the Texas Air National Guard, and I have found that working with the Family Readiness Team, located in Fort Worth, Texas, has been rewarding. There are opportunities for family members to assist their loved ones by attending meetings on base and promoting fellowship with other families. The Texas Air National Guard Family Readiness Team is part of a National Guard Family Program which works to connect people across America. I applaud the great work of the 136th Airlift Wing Family Readiness Team, and I look forward to continuing and supporting this organization in the years to come.

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY CARE
TO VETERANS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in praise of the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center, which has received the Robert W. Carey Trophy Award for Organizational Excellence. This award, named after a former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, was presented to recognize the truly excellent care that the White River VA Center provides to veterans in Vermont and the Connecticut River Valley. This award is

the highest quality award the Department of Veterans Affairs can bestow.

In the two previous years, the White River VA Center was recognized for excellence for the quality of its care by winning back-to-back Carey Achievement Awards. This year it took the top award in the nation.

Under the leadership of Gary De Gasta, the staff at the center—doctors, nurses, health professionals, administrative support—are committed to providing the very best in health care. They are attentive to veterans and their needs; they offer state-of-the-art medical care; they honor the service of the brave men and women who answered, and answer, our nation's call decade after decade.

I am very proud of the excellent work done by those who work at the White River VA Center. They are deserving of this highest of commendations, and we in Vermont are very proud of them. We are equally proud that this high level of performance helps to deliver the very best in health care to our veterans.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL
CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the Federal and State Governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. This commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, there was a 300-percent increase in psychotropic drug use in two- to four-year-old children from 1991 to 1995.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some

of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children.

Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Mr. Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PRO USE
ACT"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the "PRO USE Act." As we all know, copyrighted works not only provide entertainment and provide a positive trade balance for our country's economy but also are a window to this country's cultural heritage. In recognition of this, our copyright laws are designed to encourage the production, distribution, and preservation of copyrighted content. This legislation, which I am introducing with Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN, makes two important changes to the

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copyright law to make it easier to preserve these artifacts.

Title I is the "Preservation of Orphan Works Act." This important provision corrects an oversight in the copyright law that allows libraries and archives to reproduce and distribute up to three copies of musical works, movies, etc.—not sound recordings—of a copy they have to replace stolen/deteriorated copies or for preservation/security purposes. They also can make unlimited copies of other copyrighted works—items except musical works, movies, etc.—during the last 20 years of the copyright term. This bill would amend the law to say they can make unlimited copies of musical works, movies, etc. during the last 20 years of the term of the music or movies.

Title II is the "National Film Preservation Act of 2005." It reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Act of 1996. We all know that motion pictures are amongst this nation's cultural treasures, going beyond entertainment to represent American ideals and values to people across the world. Unfortunately, the films on which many motion pictures are created are easily susceptible to physical deterioration; in fact, over 50 percent of movies made before 1950 have deteriorated and over 90 percent of movies from before 1929 have disintegrated.

The 1996 Act was designed to ensure that we could protect the treasures we still have. It created the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The NFPB generates public awareness of a national film registry and reviews initiatives to ensure the preservation valued films. The NFPF issues grants to libraries and other institutions that can save films from degradation.

The program has received accolades from organizations such as the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Noted filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Ken Burns also have praised the NFPB and the NFPF.

Unfortunately, the program officially expired October 11, 2003, and was not reauthorized. The legislation being introduced today would remedy that oversight by reauthorizing both the NFPB and the NFPF. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable effort as we move it through the House.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF OFFICER PETER LAVERY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Officer Peter Lavery of the Newington Police Department in Connecticut, who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty on December 30, 2004, as he responded to an emergency call.

It was a terrible day for the people of Connecticut as one of our finest public servants was cut down in the prime of his life. Officer Lavery was a dedicated 17-year veteran of the Newington Police Department, and had served his Nation proudly as a member of the Connecticut National Guard. He was known for his "big golden heart" and sense of humor, and so many of my constituents will never forget

the important role he played in their lives or in the communities he served. He leaves behind his wife, Pamela, and two children, Raymond and Samantha, to whom our hearts go out during this difficult time.

We struggle to understand why such a horrific act of violence was visited upon such a good and decent man who loved his family and served his community. In the end, there are no answers.

Today, as thousands of his neighbors and fellow officers gather in Newington to honor the life and service of Officer Lavery, we must remind ourselves of the thousands of brave, dedicated men and women that put their lives in danger each day to protect us and our families. Officer Lavery made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of this cause. He will not be forgotten.

May God bless him, his family and the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF MR. AND MRS.
JAMES "CLYDE" SHAHAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple, like so many others in our nation, which was truly American: Mr. and Mrs. James "Clyde" Shahan.

Mr. Shahan, known to his friends as Clyde, and his four brothers, all from Denton, Texas, served in the United States Army during World War II. Clyde served honorably in New Guinea and Luzon, receiving numerous citations and decorations including the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, 1 Service Stripe and 4 Overseas Service Bars.

After his discharge, Mr. Shahan returned to the Denton area where he, along with his Aural, became active members at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in Lake Dallas, Texas. Aural and Clyde worked side by side at several school districts and serving their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Shahan had a son, Bobby Joe, who died as a three year old in a flu epidemic, but neither of them lost their faith or their commitment to education and their country. Remembered as a happy and funny man, Clyde often attended church in his finest Western suit and was always a joy at church functions.

Almost two years to the day of his wife's death, Clyde passed away in 2004. Today, I honor the memory of these two individuals who impacted a community with hope. I am pleased that their memories will not be lost as a special memorial is being established at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in their honor. Truly, Clyde and Aural were members of the "greatest generation" and will be remembered always for their commitment to Christ and America.

TEN YEARS OF STELLAR SERVICE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago the Howard Center for Human Services was established. It is a remarkable organization, one which provides essential services to the citizens of four counties in northern Vermont. Although its origins are in the nineteenth century, its earliest forebearer was a ladies' aid and relief society in 1873. Its willingness to join together several different NGOs in 1994, overriding several smaller portfolios in the interest of providing a broad umbrella of services to the community, is testimony to its commitment to serving the needs of Vermont.

The focus of its staff and programs is on developmental disabilities, those with mental problems, and on children, youth and families who face difficulties of many sorts. It serves those in crisis and those with ongoing problems. Altogether, the Howard Center serves over 15,000 Vermont residents each year through Howard Community Services, the Baird Center, and Adult Behavioral Health Services. It does so efficiently, dedicating almost 90 percent of its budget directly to programs and outreach for those thousands of Vermonters in need of the services it provides.

The Howard Center provides accredited services in the areas of mental health, alcohol and other drug additions programs, family services, and employment services. Its many programs range from crisis intervention and stabilization to outpatient treatment, case management services coordination, community housing, residential treatment, job development and supports, and criminal justice service case management. In addition to a dedicated staff and hundreds of contracted workers supporting individuals and families in their homes and in the community, 500 volunteers help the Howard Center meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in northern Vermont.

I could go on at length about the individual programs of the Howard Center, but in the interest of time I will mention just one, one that is representative of the remarkable commitment and innovation that the Howard Center brings to providing human services to northern Vermont. The Streetwork program provides daily assistance and support to people with psychiatric disabilities, and to those dealing with substance abuse, homelessness and other unmet social service needs; it provides those services on the main streets of downtown Burlington, by going out to people rather than waiting for them to come into offices or clinics.

In these difficult times, when the middle class is under siege and shrinking and low income families see the social safety net in shreds, when fringe benefits for many jobs axe disappearing and more people are medically uninsured, when low and moderate income housing is often unavailable, the Howard Center provides a bulwark and a refuge to those who are in need of social services. I congratulate them on the past ten years, and look forward to a new decade in which they continue to sustain tens of thousands of Vermonters.