NATO member, Denmark is one of the strongest supporters of the United States in its campaign against terrorism. It still has soldiers and its air force present in Afghanistan. From day one in 2003 Denmark took part in the coalition’s efforts in Iraq with combat troops. It still has 531 combat troops and 156 other military forces based in Afghanistan and in Baghdad. Ambassador Federspiel has worked tirelessly with the Danish government’s major role in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Ambassador Federspiel has also been very much involved in other areas of the Middle East. During the Danish EU presidency in 2002, Denmark worked closely with the EU in drafting the Road Map for peace in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Furthermore, since early 2003 Ambassador Federspiel has worked to promote his government’s ideas about reform, democracy and security in the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA). Denmark and the U.S. are now seen as the parents of this idea that is generally accepted by the EU, G8 and BMENA countries.

He has seen the importance in strengthening inter-parliamentary relations and has helped to build and support the Congressional Friends of Denmark. As a result of this important work, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly U.S. House of Representatives delegation will participate in bilateral meetings with the Danish parliament in November.

Ambassador Federspiel has also strengthened the economic relations between the U.S. and Denmark, and direct investments in both countries have increased over the last years. In the transatlantic dispute over lifting the EU countries have increased over the last years. The economic relations between the U.S. House of Representatives delegation will contribute to furthering the friendship between our two great countries, and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF PETE MATTIVIV’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I submit recognition in honor of Pete Mattivi of New Castle, Colorado on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Spading his crucial role in postpping the lifting of the embargo indefinitely. Denmark is a constant defender of the human rights of the Chinese people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ambassador Federspiel for his outstanding service and uncompromising dedication to furthering the friendship between our two great countries, and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

September, I would be honored to have Congress join me in celebrating those who commit their time and effort to addiction recovery.

Last year, over 19 million Americans used illicit drugs. Fifty-five million had engaged in binge drinking, and over 16 million are consid- ered heavy drinkers. That’s how prevalent the problem is. The impact is felt not only by individuals and their families, but by society as well. Addiction costs our society and economy billions of dollars each year, in health care costs, property damage, and lost productivity. It also costs lives, and causes immense amounts of grief and pain. Each one of those millions of Americans has a story, and we should ensure that each one of them has the chance to tell their story to an addiction counselor, in hopes that they will receive the necessary treatment and care. Addiction is a disease, not a failure or a sign of moral weakness in others. Alcohol and drug addiction are very serious, and very destructive. No one is immune from addiction, as it afflicts people of all ages, all races, all classes, and all professions.

As with any serious disease, the treatment for addiction relies on great amounts of research and advances in health sciences. The National Institutes of Health is a leader in this regard, and many of its 27 institutes have committed funds to research on addiction, including research on how addiction takes over the brain, the body, and the central nervous system. Two institutes in particular at NIH focus on this issue of critical importance: The National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. For many decades, these two institutes have been making tremendous strides in the fight against addiction. Congress spends billions of dollars each year on addiction research, and these institutes have justified our faith and commitment to this issue.

Too often, problems in our society carry with them a certain stigma. Addiction is one such problem. Thousands, if not millions, of people do not seek treatment for addiction because of a misunderstanding of their condition, both on their behalf and on society’s behalf. NIDA and NIAAA have both sought to understand this stigma, and bring it to an end. Led by Dr. Nora Volkow and Dr. T.K. Li, respectively, NIDA and NIAAA are constantly making progress to improve our understanding and treatment of addiction. Addiction is a disease, and must be attacked as such. Our fight against addiction must be our fight against addiction.

Both NIDA and NIAAA fund scientists all over the country, who in turn will one day unlock the mysteries of addiction and its impact on individuals and society.

NIDA and NIAAA provide the ammunition for the troops on the front lines battling this disease. I am referring of course to the addiction counselors, who must daily encounter the difficult task of prevention, intervention, and treatment. These foot-soldiers in our war against addiction need all of the support we can give them. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can show our support for them with our strong support for NIDA, NIAAA, and the other NIH institutes committed to solving the enigma of addiction.

NATIONAL ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Addiction Recovery Month this
Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the priceless contributions of NIDA, NIAAA, and addiction counselors, and giving them our gratitude. Congress has shown strong support for this issue in the past in several ways—through legislation, through funding for the National Institutes of Health, CDC, and through displaying a constant awareness of the gravity of this issue. Yet we are far from victory, and must continue our steadfast fight against drug and alcohol addiction. We look forward to the day when addiction to drugs and alcohol are eradicated, and these wonderful professional counselors can take their final bow. Until then, their hard work should be recognized and, more importantly, honored and appreciated.

REMARKS ON HURRICANE KATRINA
HON. TAMMY BALDWIN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise today in solidarity with my fellow Americans who suffered the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in the aftermath. We daily mourn the loss of life. We share the pain of those who are suffering physically and emotionally from this trauma. And we also mourn the loss of some of our faith in government to respond in full measure to people in need.

Wisconsinites are deeply ashamed of the images of abandonment and neglect they saw on TV and desperate to help in rescue efforts. My heart goes out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and to those family members here in Wisconsin and across the country waiting for word from their loved ones. While Americans are reaching into their wallets to support private relief efforts, there should be no doubt that about 9,300 marines were killed during the war, and more than 1,500 of their ships were sunk. Fortunately, because most Merchant Marine ships traveled in convoys, mostly the mariners who were killed were injured and 717 merchant vessels were raked by the sea by nearby ships. About 600 marines were prisoners of war and another 11,000 were injured.

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, when I introduced H.R. 23, the "Beloved Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act" the positive response was overwhelming. Many of these Merchant Mariners have shared their harrowing, 60-year-old stories and experiences with me, and each personal account strengthens my resolve to see that these brave heroes are treated with respect by the U.S. government.

In my ongoing fight to correct the injustice being done to the U.S. Merchant Mariners—men who have yet to be given full benefits as World War II veterans—I would like to submit the following article from The America Legion by Dan Allsup, a freelance writer from the St. Louis area, entitled "We Deliver the Goods":

"It's not that Bob Bodine wanted to avoid the World War II draft. Quite the contrary, he just didn't think being an Army infantryman sounded like a whole lot of fun.

Bodine tried to join the Army Air Corps but failed the vision test. He talked to a Navy aviation recruiter, but the Navy was bringing on 17-year-olds at the time. Bodine was too old at 18.

"What else is there?" he asked the recruiter. "Well, there's the Merchant Marine, but they've got a hell of a casualty rate," the recruiter said.

Bodine, now 80, recalls the conversation.

"What does a teenager care about casualty statistics? I always liked boats, so the Merchant Marine sounded pretty good to me."

He secured a slot at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. In his second year, Bodine sailed off on a required 9-month cruise to the Mediterranean. It didn't take long for him to realize that if he was trying to avoid the draft, he could have taken an easier route. Bodine was a crewmember aboard the USS Fleming, which was a battered P-51 aircraft and a huge load of vehicle and aviation fuel to the troops. The Fleming was part of a 110-ship convoy. While it was in the war unscathed, 36 of her sister ships were sunk by German U-boats and floating mines.

Bodine is one of the more than 243,000 civilian volunteer mariners who served aboard ships that provided the greatest sealift in history. Critical to the war effort, the U.S. merchant ship fleet delivered supplies, ammunition and equipment all over the world. It took part in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa, often becoming sitting targets for enemy submarines, bombers and kamikaze pilots. Fighting was especially fierce in the Atlantic, where "wolf packs" of German submarines and deadly U-boats prowled, supplying destroyers Merchant Marine ships in an attempt to isolate Great Britain. Closer to home, enemy submarines sank hundreds of ships off the eastern coast of the United States.

In the first 6 months of 1942, German U-boats alone sunk more than 400 U.S. merchant ships. Because no official history has been written of the Merchant Marine in World War II, casualty numbers vary from source to source. It is believed, however, that about 9,300 marines were killed during the war, and more than 1,500 of their ships were sunk. Fortunately, because most Merchant Marine ships traveled in convoys, mostly the mariners who were killed were injured.

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