

“leave no man behind”—was given new meaning in Southeastern Arizona on May 15 and 16, 2009.

On those dates, 58 American soldiers who died while serving their country were reburied in an emotional ceremony. The flag-draped caskets holding the remains of these soldiers were carefully transported from Tucson to their final resting place at the veterans cemetery in Sierra Vista.

What made this ceremony so poignant was not the journey from one Arizona city to another. This reburial also was a journey through time. These men who once wore the military uniform of our country died between the 1860s and 1880s. Their remains, as well as the remains of four civilians, were unearthed during an excavation project in downtown Tucson.

My hometown has undergone many changes since the late 19th century. Then, Arizona was decades away from becoming a state and our military was nothing like the global fighting force it is today. Yet then and now we adhere to the principle that no soldier who died for his country should be left behind. This principle—like the Constitution these soldiers fought to defend—transcends eras and endures through the ages.

The reaffirmation of this principle would not have been possible without the men and women of the Historical Soldiers’ Relocation Project who dedicated their time and energy to make sure our soldiers were given an honorable and dignified burial. These patriotic citizens worked tirelessly to organize a ceremony that would reflect the significance of the occasion. No detail was overlooked, from the Victorian style cemetery to the marble headstones made for each of the deceased. The flag covering each casket was the thirty-five star flag—the flag under which these soldiers once served.

The remains of the soldiers were given every honor we should give all who have served our nation in the Armed Forces. The soldiers were placed among the other honored dead of our military after being escorted by more than 200 veterans on motorcycles from Tucson to their new resting place at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery. I was honored to be a part of this escort.

All of this would not have been possible without the commitment of the members of the Historical Soldiers’ Relocation Project. They are: Joey Strickland, Joe Larson, Bob Strain, Larry McKim, Ingrid Ballie, Tom Dingwall, Earl Devine, Col. Bob White, Dr. Randy Groth, Dan Ferguson, Donald Nelson, Paul Weishaupt, Angela Moncur, Bill Hess, Ty Holland, Mike Rutherford, John Clabourne, Lynn Roehsler, Dave Schultz, Jan Groth, Joe Smith, Phil Vega, Stephen Siemsen, Clarence “Shorty” Larson, Timothy J. Quinn, Jim Bellomy, Jacob Loveron, Jeremiah Sprat, Logan Daynes, 1st Sgt. Matthew A. Putnam, LCDR Shannon Willits, SSGT Timothy Diggs, David Schreiner, John Prokop, Roger Anyon, Marlessa Gray M.A. RPA, Dorothy Ohman, Jim De Castro.

I commend them for their work on this important project and for ensuring we rightfully honor all those who have put on the uniform to serve our country.

IN HONOR OF ALBIN GRUHN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co., where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. Shortly after, a strike resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a lifelong commitment to the labor movement.

Mr. Gruhn was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers Local, where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

In 1940, Mr. Gruhn was first elected to what is now the California Labor Federation as district vice president and became its president in 1960. He led with skill, enthusiasm, and passion until his retirement in 1996. He helped build the organization into a strong and effective advocacy group for the rights of workers, inspiring several generations of political and labor leaders along the way.

During the 1960s, Mr. Gruhn was also a founder of the Association of California Consumers, California’s first consumer group, and later became a founding officer and then president emeritus of the Consumer Federation of California. He also devoted some of his considerable energies to the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Constitution Revision Commission, and various other state commissions. These were appointments over the decades by five California governors and covered a variety of issues from fair housing to air pollution. One of the commissions dealt with children and youth, reflecting his deep involvement in the annual scholarship program established by the California Labor Federation.

Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple is survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the re-

marks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: “In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all.”

INTRODUCING THE PROTECT PATIENTS’ AND PHYSICIANS’ PRIVACY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Protect Patients’ and Physicians’ Privacy Act. This legislation protects medical privacy, as well as quality health care, by allowing patients and physicians to opt out of any federally mandated, created, or funded electronic medical records system. The bill also repeals the sections of Federal law establishing a “unique health identifier” and requires patient consent before any electronic medical records can be released to a third party.

Congress has refused to fund the development of a unique health identifier every year since 1998. Clearly, the majority of my colleagues recognize the threat this scheme poses to medical privacy. It is past time for Congress to repeal the section of law authorizing the Federal unique health identifier.

Among the numerous provisions jammed into the stimulus bill, which was rushed through Congress earlier this year, was funding for electronic medical records. Medicare providers have until 2015 to “voluntarily” adopt the system of electronic medical records, or face financial penalties.

One of the major flaws with the federally mandated electronic record system is that it does not provide adequate privacy protection. Electronic medical records that are part of the federal system will only receive the protection granted by the Federal “medical privacy rule.” This misnamed rule actually protects the ability of government officials and state-favored special interests to view private medical records without patient consent.

Even if the law did not authorize violations of medical privacy, patients would still have good reason to be concerned about the government’s ability to protect their medical records. After all, we are all familiar with cases where third parties obtained access to electronic veteran, tax, and other records because of errors made by federal bureaucrats. My colleagues should also consider the abuse of IRS records by administrations of both parties and ask themselves what would happen if unscrupulous politicians gain the power to access their political enemies’ electronic medical records.

As an OB/GYN with over 30 years of experience in private practice, I understand that one of the foundations of quality health care is the patient’s confidence that all information the patient shares with his or her health care provider will remain confidential. Forcing physicians to place their patients’ medical records in a system without adequate privacy protection undermines that confidence, and thus undermines effective medical treatment.

A physician opt out is also necessary in order to allow physicians to escape from the inefficiencies and other problems that are sure to occur in the implementation and management of the Federal system. Contrary to the

claims of the mandatory system's proponents, it is highly unlikely an efficient system of mandatory electronic health records can be established by the Government.

Many health technology experts have warned of the problems that will accompany the system of mandatory electronic medical records. For example, David Kibbe, a top technology adviser to the American Academy of Family Physicians, warned President Obama in an open letter late last year that existing medical software is often poorly designed and does a poor job of exchanging information. Allowing physicians to opt out provides a safety device to ensure that physicians can avoid the problems that will inevitably accompany the government-mandated system.

Madam Speaker, allowing patients and providers to opt out of the electronic medical records system will in no way harm the practice of medicine or the development of an efficient system of keeping medical records. Instead, it will enhance these worthy goals by ensuring patients and physicians can escape the inefficient, one-size-fits-all government-mandated system. By creating a market for alternatives to the government system, the opt-out ensures that private businesses can work to develop systems that meet the demands for an efficient system of electronic records that protects patients' privacy. I urge my colleagues to stand up for privacy and quality health care by cosponsoring the Protect Patients' and Physicians' Privacy Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U COAST PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawaii between Kapao'o Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

Late last year, the National Park Service issued a reconnaissance report that made a preliminary assessment of whether the Ka'u Coast would meet the National Park Service's demanding criteria as a resource of national significance.

The reconnaissance survey concluded that "based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

Although under significant development pressure, the coastline of Ka'u is still largely unspoiled. The study area contains significant natural, geological, and archeological features. The northern part of the study area is adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of noteworthy geological features, including an ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the National Park Service has expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green sand beaches as well as a significant

number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (at least half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orange-black damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins also frequent the area. The Ka'u Coast also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawaii.

The archeological resources related to ancient Hawaiian settlements within the study area are also very impressive. These include dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs, water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the study area.

The Ka'u Coast is a truly remarkable area: its combination of natural, archeological, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as its spectacular viewscapes, are an important part of Hawaii's and our nation's natural and cultural heritage. I believe a full feasibility study, which was recommended in the reconnaissance survey, will confirm that the area meets the National Park Services high standards as an area of national significance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING JUDITH BISHOP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judith Bishop, who is retiring as Executive Director of the Fort Worth & Tarrant County YWCA at the end of May, 2009.

The YWCA of Fort Worth & Tarrant County offers programs at three different facilities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The programs provide various services and promote increased financial growth, leadership, education and training opportunities for women. These facilities also provide safe housing, child care, crisis intervention, and social services transitionally homeless women.

Ms. Bishop has served as the Executive Director of the Fort Worth & Tarrant County YWCA for twenty years. During her time as Executive Director, Ms. Bishop has shown continued dedication to providing community service and helping those in need. Judith has been persistent in her mission to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance, have the same opportunity to be successful in life.

Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Judith Bishop. I salute Ms. Bishop for all of her hard work and altruism. I am confident that her contributions to the YWCA will touch lives for years to come. It is an honor to represent Judith Bishop and the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County in the 26th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MERCURY-FREE VACCINES ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing an important piece of legislation with my colleagues Mr. SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BURTON, and Mr. ACKERMAN that will protect infants and young children from mercury, a known neurotoxin, in vaccines. This legislation builds on the policy recommendations issued in July 1999 by the Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. That policy proclaimed "[The] Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and vaccine manufacturers agree that thimerosal-containing vaccines should be removed as soon as possible." Mercury is well established as a neurotoxin and is particularly harmful to the developing central nervous system. Given that mercury remains in some childhood vaccines and that some infants are likely to receive mercury-containing flu vaccine in the upcoming flu season this bill puts in statute definite timelines for the elimination of mercury from vaccines to eliminate this exposure in children and reduce this exposure in adults. It is incumbent upon us to ensure the immunizations we provide our children are free from harmful neurotoxins, which is why I proudly introduce this legislation.

HONORING RICHARD C. PROTO

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Richard C. Proto, former Director of Research for the United States National Security Agency. A great civil servant to our nation, Mr. Proto was born and raised in Connecticut, and he attended New Haven public schools growing up. He played with the Wilbur Cross 1958 New England High School basketball champions and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Mr. Proto went on to receive his Master's degree in mathematics from Boston College in 1964 and joined the NSA following graduation, where he remained for 35 years. During his time with the NSA, Mr. Proto received the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. After his retirement in 1999, he remained an advisor to the intelligence community, the national laboratories, and the Institute for Defense Analysis at Princeton, until his death in July of 2008.

In a formal ceremony on May 18, 2009, the United States NSA dedicated its Symposium Center to Richard C. Proto, in honor and recognition of his dedicated service to the agency. During the ceremony, Mr. Proto was praised by his former colleagues and recognized for his creation of the still-relied upon "Proto Algorithm." Mr. Proto's family was present and participated in the ceremony. Family members included his brother, Neil