

PRAISE FOR RALEIGH COUNTY
VOCATIONAL CENTER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the outstanding work of a fine group of students and teachers from the Raleigh County Vocational Technical Center in West Virginia's Third Congressional District. More than 100 young people from classes as diverse as electronics technology to marketing education to computer-aided graphing have come together in a project that has involved virtually the entire school. The culminating project has been the "Electrosprint": a state-of-the-art electric car which has been the subject of a great deal of attention.

The students have been recognized by the environmental program "A Pledge and A Promise" by Anheuser-Busch Theme Park from among 600 entries nationwide and are recipients of the \$12,500 first place award. The car was awarded first place in the efficiency event at the EV Grand Prix. It has the distinction of being the most efficient car ever tested by Argonne National Laboratories in the United States, where one official noted, "[t]he car is as efficient as anything built by professional automakers . . ." It also won the West Virginia Vocational Association Award of Merit for Innovative Program and was named the American Vocational Association Innovative Program for Region I. They have been featured on national television for their enterprising and innovative ideas.

The Electrosprint project has had remarkable results. Sparking the interest of students and increasing enrollment at the vocational school; exciting people of all ages about science, math, and the environment; and boosting self-esteem and reinforcing a positive image of education in southern West Virginia are only a few of the beneficial effects of this venture.

Serious about environmental concerns and efficiency, and learning firsthand about how to work as a team, these students deserve to be commended as a model not only for other students, but for all of us. Their work on electrically powered transportation should inspire others in the field and everyone who is concerned with protecting our environment. They are not satisfied with only a passive role in their own education; instead, they are learning through experience how to harness technology in a way that will have a visible impact on the world around them. These are essential skills and qualities as we enter the 21st century.

The students' next project will be to draw from their previous work, transplanting the technology they have already developed to electric powered delivery vehicles for use in inner cities. Future plans also include testing vehicles on hilly terrain, expanding the use of alternative fuels such as solar, wind, and natural gas, and further developing safety equipment for electric cars with the possibility of patenting. We should encourage such initiative and hard work.

I am extremely proud of the students at Raleigh County Vocational Technical Center and encourage them in their future challenges. I also want to thank and congratulate their teachers, parents, and community for supporting the superb efforts of the next generation.

MIDDLETOWN POST VFW 2179 AND
LADIES AUXILIARY: 50 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY AND VETERANS
SERVICE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 24, 1995, the Middletown, NJ, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2179 and ladies auxiliary will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at the Post Home with the slogan "Golden Pride Since '45." The event will include a rededication of the post's street sign, known as Veterans Lane, to commemorate both the 50th anniversary of the founding of the post as well as the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. There will be a memorial service, speeches by officials and veterans, and then hours of music and dancing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to the fine men and women whose pride and patriotism have made Post 2179 and the ladies auxiliary such a great part of our community. In 1945, as America emerged victorious from World War II and our Nation entered into a new era, a group of returning veterans and their wives formed the Middletown Post. In those days, the post met over a store in Belford section of Middletown Township. Social events were held in the basement of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Later the post met in a former hospital building purchased from nearby Fort Monmouth. Now, the members meet in a modern, \$1.5 million facility.

Through the years, Post 2179 has distinguished itself for its charitable works, its help and support of the Menlo Park and Lyons Hospital VA facilities, its championing of veterans rights and benefits, its advocacy on behalf of POW's and MIA's, and its participation in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities and at VFW conventions each year. The post has received many distinguished visitors, including President Bush in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor for me to pay tribute to Post 2179 on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROTECT COASTAL RE-
SOURCES FROM OIL AND GAS
DEVELOPMENT IN FEDERAL WA-
TERS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Senator BARBARA BOXER as we introduce legislation today to protect our coastlines from the harmful impacts associated with oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf.

In the past, we have successfully barred Federal OCS leasing in sensitive areas by attaching moratoria to annual appropriations bills. Today, the Interior Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee voted to lift that moratorium. It is very unlikely, I am afraid, that the final appropriations bill will include an OCS moratorium provision.

As a result, hundreds of miles of Federal waters—and adjacent State waters—will be exposed to the dangers associated with offshore oil development.

Our bill will bar Federal leasing and production when a coastal State, by law or order, establishes a moratorium on part or all of its coastal lands and waters.

California recently enacted in a bipartisan effort, a law making all State waters off limits to new oil exploration. Our legislation would extend that protection into Federal waters.

Federal officials should not override the decisions of coastal States that want to protect their offshore sanctuaries from the hazards of oil development. Those in the Congress who constantly cite the need for Congress to follow the wishes of State governments should have no problem endorsing the approach taken in our legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ELLA ADENE KEMP
BAMPFIELD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the accomplishments of a very special woman, Ella Adene Kemp Bampfield. Ms. Bampfield was born June 29, 1905, in Waynesville, NC. She is the fourth of nine children born to Elijah Melton and Lelia Love Kemp.

Ms. Bampfield is a graduate of Fayetteville State Normal College, in North Carolina, and Howard University and Cortez Peters University, in Washington, DC. After teaching in the North Carolina school system for 7 years, she relocated to Washington DC, and began a career with the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing, where she retired in 1969 after 28 years and 11 months of dedicated service.

A member of the John Wesley AME Zion Church since 1934, Ms. Bampfield is affiliated with the Education and June Calendar Clubs. She has traveled extensively and is the mother of one son and grandmother of two. Celebrating her 90th birthday, Ella represents a longstanding tradition of dedicated service to her family, community, and her church. It is my pleasure to recognize the contributions of a remarkable woman, Ms. Ella Adene Kemp Bampfield.

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE—SUPPORT
THE ORGAN DONATION INSERT
CARD ACT

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation along with Representative DAVE CAMP to encourage organ donation through a highly cost-effective campaign of public education. I am pleased to note that Senator BYRON DORGAN is introducing similar legislation in the Senate.

The most common tragedy in organ transplantation is not the patient who received a

transplant and dies, but the patient who has to wait too long and dies before a suitable organ can be found.

The demand for organs greatly exceeds the supply. More than 40,000 people are now waiting for an organ transplant, including more than 1,400 children and more than 25,000 people who must have a kidney dialysis while they wait for a kidney to become available. More than 3,000 people on the waiting list will die this year before receiving a transplant. Meanwhile, another person is added to the list every 18 minutes.

Our legislation, known as the Organ Donation Insert Card Act, would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to enclose, with each income tax refund check mailed next Spring, an insert card that encourages organ donation.

The insert would include a detachable organ donor card. It would also include a message urging recipients to sign the card, tell their families about their willingness to be an organ donor if the occasion arises, and encourage family members to request or authorize organ donation if the occasion arises.

The text of the card would be developed by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and organizations promoting organ donation.

This proposal poses no logistical problems. Every year, the Treasury Department already puts an insert card in refund check mailings. In recent years, the insert cards have offered special coins for sale, such as last year's offer of World Cup commemorative coins. Shifting from an appeal about coins to an appeal about organ donation for 1 year could save a number of lives for many years to come.

This is also a highly cost-effective proposal. According to the Treasury Department, around 70 million households would receive this appeal at a cost of \$210,000. There is no other way to reach so many households at such a modest cost.

Our approach also emphasizes the most important and often overlooked step in encouraging organ donation, which is talking to one's family beforehand.

Most people don't realize that a signed organ donor card does not ensure a donation. In order for an organ donation to take place, the next-of-kin must authorize it. If your family has not heard you express the desire to be an organ donor, they may be reluctant to authorize it. That is why talking to your family is critical.

Unfortunately, most Americans have never signed an organ donor card, and many of those who have signed a card have never discussed the matter with their family members. As a result, family members hesitate to authorize organ donation and opportunities to save lives are lost.

According to a Gallup poll cosponsored by the Partnership for Organ Donation, more than 90 percent of the public would authorize organ donation if their loved one had expressed that wish before death, but less than half would consent to donation if the discussion had not occurred. Unfortunately, according to the survey, less than half of the public have told their families of their wishes regarding donation.

Our bill is specifically designed to address this problem. Since organ donation begins with people who decide they want to be an organ donor if they should die unexpectedly, our bill encourages people to sign an organ

donor card. But since an actual organ donation often hinges on whether loved ones are aware of that desire, our bill also encourages people to tell their family members about their desire to be an organ donor and urge their family to authorize a donation if the occasion arises.

By emphasizing the importance of family discussion, this legislation could expand the pool of potential donors, increase the likelihood that families will authorize donation for their loved ones, and reduce the number of people who die while waiting for transplants.

This legislation has the support of the United Network for Organ Sharing [UNOS], the American Nurses Association, and the National Kidney Foundation. Similar legislation in the 103d Congress had the support of nearly 20 organizations involved in the organ transplantation field, and we expect similar support this year.

This measure is desperately needed. When I first introduced the legislation in 1990, just over 20,000 people were on the waiting list and around 2,000 of those people died before receiving a transplant. Today, the waiting list has doubled in size, and more than 3,000 waiting list deaths are anticipated this year. Only a broad public education campaign can make a dent in these figures.

I urge my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of this bill and encourage all Americans to "give the gift of life" by authorizing organ donations when the opportunity arises.

THE RURAL AMERICA HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that is critically important to the health of rural America. Rural Americans face unique barriers to obtaining health care—barriers ranging from great distances to reach hospitals and medical clinics to harsh weather conditions, too often low wages and poverty, and, perhaps most importantly, a simple lack of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals as well as modern health care facilities.

Sixty-five million Americans—fully one-quarter of our Nation's population—live in rural areas, yet most of these folks lack access to even the most basic health care services. In 1992, 146 counties did not have a single physician and 34.8 percent of rural Americans lived in areas with fewer than 1 primary-care physician for every 3,500 residents. This severe inability to obtain basic health care has resulted in the poorer general health of rural folks. Rural America has a higher infant mortality rate and a 40 percent higher rate of death from accidents.

Out my way in Montana, too many of our rural hospitals and clinics are understaffed and financially troubled and too many rural families live daily with the anxiety that assistance for an unusual illness or serious injury will be miles and hours away.

Forty-one of Montana's 56 counties suffer from a serious shortage of physicians; and 9 counties do not have a single physician. In 22 counties there is no obstetrical care, putting

women with a complicated delivery at severe risk. Half of Montana's hospitals, most of them small and rural, have endured significant financial losses for most of this past decade.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to live in a rural area should not be a decision to accept inferior health care. Rural Americans deserve the same quality and access to health care that is available to folks living in our suburbs and major cities.

The legislation I am introducing today, the "Rural America Health Care Improvement Act," offers an aggressive and comprehensive approach toward alleviating the problems our rural communities face to obtaining care. It provides rural and frontier areas with the means to develop the capacity to provide quality medical care to their residents. It encourages physicians to practice in medically underserved rural areas.

My bill provides 20 percent bonus payments to physicians who choose to serve in health professional shortage areas and offer primary care services to their rural patients. Furthermore, it encourages health care providers to practice in rural underserved areas by guaranteeing physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives and physician assistants a tax credit.

It also dramatically expands the National Health Service Corps a program which offers financial assistance to students and loan repayment to graduates in exchange for their commitment to serve in a health professional shortage area and requires the National Health Service Corporation to place more physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse-midwives in our rural communities.

Nurses and physician assistants play a vital role in our rural health care delivery systems. Many of our rural communities rely on health professionals other than physicians as the only provider of care in the community. In 1990, 34 percent of all physician assistants practiced in communities with less than 50,000 residents and 25 percent of all midwives practiced in those same areas. My bill recognizes that PA's, NP's, and nurse-midwives are more apt to practice in rural areas than physicians and therefore provides funds to train nonphysician providers.

My bill in particular provides rural and frontier areas with the assistance they need to develop their own community-based health plans to offer residents with health insurance. This program facilitates community involvement and encourages health care delivery structures that are adapted by local folks directly for local needs.

Furthermore, my bill recognizes that rural hospitals across the country are experiencing financial shortfalls. My bill includes a grant program for hospitals and outpatient facilities in medically underserved rural communities to provide primary-care services. It also provides for the development of emergency medical hospitals and nurse-managed health centers.

Mister Speaker, I have developed this legislation after countless meetings and much discussion with rural community leaders and hospital directors, with physicians and other health practitioners who live and work in rural areas, and especially with the families and workers and small business operators in our small towns and rural communities. This bill incorporates their solutions to the health care crisis they live and cope with daily. They are practical, specific, nonbureaucratic, no-nonsense, thoughtful solutions and I hope to see this Congress consider and approve them.