

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REINTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACT OF 1995

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I take great pride in reintroducing the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1995 along with our colleagues FLOYD SPENCE, JOE MOAKLEY, JAMES WALSH, GERALD KLECZKA, NANCY PELOSI, KAREN THURMAN, GEORGE BROWN, RANDY CUNNINGHAM, MARTIN FROST, and VICTOR FRAZER. I believe the enactment of this legislation will not only honor the individual organ donor and their loved ones, but will also heighten the awareness of the organ shortage—ultimately resulting in more organ donation.

Despite the numerous problems that organ donation programs have faced and conquered over the years, a major problem still exists—an undersupply of available and suitable organ donors.

Currently, there are 40,000 individuals waiting for an organ transplant in the United States. A new name is added to the national patient waiting list approximately every 18 minutes. Last year alone, more than 3,000 adults and children died while waiting for an organ. Just yesterday, approximately eight individuals, suitable for a transplant operation, died while waiting for a transplantation.

The demand for organs will continue to grow with the improvement of medical technologies, and without expanded efforts to increase the supply of organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need.

According to some researchers, it may be possible to increase by 80 percent the number of organ donations in the United States through incentive programs and public education. A congressional medal recognizing donors and their families can play a very important and effective role in our efforts to encourage such donation.

Our proposed Gift of Life Medal Program will be administered by regional organ procurement organizations (OPOs) and managed by the entity administering the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Once the very difficult decision to donate an organ has been made, the donor or the family member of the donor will be asked by the regional OPO whether participation in the Gift of Life Medal Program is desired. The OPO will give each donor or family of the donor the option of receiving a Gift of Life Medal, recognizing that some donors and families may not want to participate. If the donor or the family of a donor requests, a public presentation will be made to honor the donor. A presentation by a local official, community leader or Member of Congress would be a tremendous opportunity to increase the awareness concerning the desperate need for organ donation.

Every action has been taken to insure that the issuance of the Gift of Life Medals results in no net cost to the Government. In addition, I am proud to report that the legislation has the strong support of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and the National Kidney Foundation.

It is with great pleasure that I ask our colleagues to join with us as cosponsors of the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1995 and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. They offer others a second chance by providing the most precious gift imaginable—the gift of life.

H.R.—

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall design and strike a bronze medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, to commemorate organ donors and their families.

SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any organ donor, or the family of any organ donor, shall be eligible for a medal described in section 2.

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall direct the entity holding the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (hereafter in this Act referred to as "OPTN") to contract to—

(1) establish an application procedure requiring the relevant organ procurement organization, as described in section 371(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273(b)(1)), through which an individual or their family made an organ donation, to submit to the OPTN contractor documentation supporting the eligibility of that individual or their family to receive a medal described in section 2; and

(2) determine, through the documentation provided, and, if necessary, independent investigation, whether the individual or family is eligible to receive a medal described in section 2.

SEC. 4. PRESENTATION.

(a) DELIVERY TO THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall deliver medals struck pursuant to this Act to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) DELIVERY TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall direct the OPTN contractor to arrange for the presentation to the relevant organ procurement organization all medals struck pursuant to this Act to individuals or families that, in accordance with section 3, the OPTN contractor has determined to be eligible to receive medals under this Act.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), only 1 medal may be presented to a family under subsection (b).

(2) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a family in which more than 1 member is an organ donor, the OPTN contractor may present an additional medal to each such organ donor or their family.

SEC. 5. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services or the OPTN contractor

may provide duplicates of the medal described in section 2 to any recipient of a medal under section 4(b), under such regulations as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may issue.

(b) LIMITATION.—The price of a duplicate medal shall be sufficient to cover the cost of such duplicates.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 7. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

No provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods or services necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may enter into an agreement with the OPTN contractor to collect funds to offset expenditures relating to the issuance of medals authorized under this Act.

(b) PAYMENT OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), all funds received by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network under subsection (a) shall be promptly paid by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network to the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 5 percent of any funds received under subsection (a) shall be used to pay administrative costs incurred by the OPTN contractor as a result of an agreement established under this section.

(c) NUMISMATIC PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FUND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) all amounts received by the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (b)(1) shall be deposited in the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund, as described in section 5134 of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) the Secretary of the Treasury shall charge such fund with all expenditures relating to the issuance of medals authorized under this Act.

(d) START-UP COSTS.—A 1-time amount not to exceed \$55,000 shall be provided to the OPTN contractor to cover initial start-up costs. The amount will be paid back in full within 3 years of the date of the enactment of this Act from funds received under subsection (a).

(e) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall take all actions necessary to ensure that the issuance of medals authorized under section 2 results in no net cost to the Government.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "organ" means the human kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, and any other human organ (other than corneas and eyes) specified by regulation of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the OPTN contractor; and

(2) the term "Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network" means the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network established under section 372 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274).

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO BILL MILANO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill Milano of Pittsburgh, CA, who was honored by his brothers and sisters in the labor community and the city of Pittsburgh last Saturday, October, 14, 1995, when the United Steelworkers Union Local 1440 renamed its union hall for him, their founder and distinguished leader.

First and always, Bill Milano is a union man who grew up in the coal mines of Kansas and moved west to work in the steel mills of Pittsburgh, CA. He is the very heart and soul of the United Steelworkers Local 1440, having served in every possible capacity for over 50 years. Even in retirement, he is a constant source of pride, enthusiasm, and inspiration for his fellow union members.

Not only is Bill Milano a leader in union halls, he has also served his community with distinction and honor as a former member of the Pittsburgh City Council, founder and member of the Pittsburgh Boys club, and service to the Pittsburgh Red Cross, Pittsburgh Community Hospital, Contra Costa Park and Recreational Council, Pittsburgh Schools PTA organizations, Pittsburgh Lions Club, Boy Scout troops, American Cancer Society and many, many more community service organizations. His long-time support of Ducks Unlimited and his keen interest in hunting is legendary among his family and friends.

I grew up hearing about Bill Milano from my father and how he organized local party politics in Pittsburgh at a time when only shoe leather and hard work got your people elected to office. Bill Milano supported my father in his campaigns for the California State Senate, as well as my elections to the U.S. House of Representatives. He has been a friend of our family for three generations, and I am proud to call Bill Milano my friend.

I would like to share with my colleagues the attached article from the Ledger Dispatch, Wednesday, October 4, 1995, "Bid for Better Life Lead to Long Union Career."

[From the Ledger Dispatch, Oct. 4, 1995]

BID FOR BETTER LIFE LED TO LONG UNION CAREER

(By Sam Richards)

PITTSBURG, CA.—Bill Milano came to Pittsburgh on a freight train in 1939, looking for a better life for his family.

Now, almost two decades after retiring from his job as financial secretary of United Steelworkers Local 1440, Milano will have his name attached to the Steelworkers' building in Cumberland Street.

For a guy who has spent the past 53 years either working or volunteering at the union hall, a guy who helped oversee tremendous growth of the local during World War II, and then saw the union shrink again as local steel employment declined . . . is this honor a surprise?

Yes, in a way, the 82-year-old Milano said. "I've been retired 17 years and they've never done a damn thing to honor me," said Milano, with a smile on his face. "But I never really pursued that anyway."

Milano's time has finally come. Local 1440 will formally rename their building after Milano at a ceremony Oct. 14 at the building, 677 Cumberland Ave. Everyone is invited to

attend that, and a reception following at the Marina Clubhouse, 31 Marina Blvd.

"This isn't just any man . . . this is the man," said Rose Cavallaro, office secretary for Local 1440 since 1959. "He's the 'god-father' of the local union; he's the one who got the union going."

Milano grew up in Kansas, and was working in the coal mines there in strip mine shafts and driving a steam locomotive shuffling coal hopper cars. But he wanted something better for his family.

"The coal mines just weren't working too good," he said. "We'd heard a lot about California, so we went to California."

Without enough money to take a passenger train, Milano and a friend hopped a Frisco Railway freight train near Cherokee, Kan., Aug. 14, 1939. A week later, they arrived in Pittsburgh on a Santa Fe freight train. Within days, both were working at the Columbia Steel Co. mill, Milano as a "reeler" putting steel wire onto reels to be galvanized.

Also, Milano found the local union office quickly.

"I'd had 'union' drilled into me by my dad and everyone around me for years," Milano said. "The first thing I did was go down to the union."

In 1942, he was elected 1440's financial secretary, a post he held until 1979. During that time, he saw the union change from the Steelworkers Organizing Committee to the United Steelworkers Union of America. Milano also oversaw wartime expansion at Columbia Steel swell union membership from about 265 to more than 4,000.

Milano also plunged into community involvement in Pittsburgh. He served on the City Council from 1944 until 1952, helped found the Pittsburgh Boys Club (the predecessor of the East County Boys and Girls Club), was a secretary for the Contra Costa Grand Jury and numerous other civic, fraternal and local school activities.

His wife, Virginia died in 1990. And the USS-POSCO Industries plant in Pittsburgh employees number fewer than 1,000 people now. But he is still involved with Local 1440 activities.

"Anytime there's something wrong here down at the union, Bill gets involved," said Carl Meilicke, 43, a former U.S. Steel employee in Pittsburgh. "He started the union, and he knows more about it than anyone."

The union hall opened in the 1940s. It almost didn't outlast Milano, because the city had wanted to knock it down as part of redevelopment in 1992.

As it was. The Village at New York Landing housing tract was literally built around the union hall, which also includes the Union Club tavern.

"If you start pushing us, we'll get the whole rank and file coming after you" Cavallaro said. "We're never going to leave this building now."

Still a hunter and fisherman, Milano gave up abalone diving only two years ago. But he hasn't given up being involved in politics; in keeping with union tradition, he's supported, almost exclusively, Democrats over the years. This includes three generations of George Millers, including Assembly candidate George Miller IV . . . sort of.

"I know him and I'm friends with Tom Torlakson (Miller's election opponent)," Milano said. "I told them, 'Whoever wins the primary, I'll put my full weight behind you.'"

Tickets to the Bill Milano Building's dedication are \$10 each, and are available by call 432-7396.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: JOSEPH FRANCOIS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Francois, an individual who has tirelessly dedicated his life to making our society better. This individual is directly responsible for community enhancement efforts that impact education, social/human services and health care. His vision, sincerity and competence have resulted in the writing of winning grant proposals and valuable research studies that empower the community. Mr. Joseph Francois is a great "Point-of-Light" whose work must not go unappreciated or unnoticed.

Since 1978, Mr. Francois has been chief executive officer of the Brownsville Community Development Corporation. He is also the project director of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center, responsible for the overall management of a comprehensive health facility. He is responsible for proposal writing, financial and budgetary conditions of the corporation, and is in the process of developing an alcoholism outpatient clinic and halfway house. Joseph Francois is also planning the creation of a birthing center.

Throughout the years, Joseph Francois has worked diligently in top positions that he found to be beneficial to his community. He was personnel director of the New York City Board of Education, Community School District No. 23. As such, he was responsible for the employment of all pedagogical and administrative staff necessary for the operation of elementary and junior high schools in district No. 23.

Mr. Francois served as a program analyst, responsible to the New York State Minority Leader for the analysis and evaluation of problems facing New York City and State. Recent publications on which he served as chief analyst included "Study of Men's Shelter," and a study of anti-poverty programs entitled "Serving the Poor," which was nominated for an award for outstanding legislative research and was jointly recommended by the then city council president, Carol Bellamy.

Mr. Francois also served as director of operations for Wildcat Service Corporation in New York City where he was responsible for the overall management of more than 350 employees. His primary area of expertise is evident by his effort in creating the first health group in the city where community and hospital leaders jointly planned to coordinate health needs for the community with a private hospital in Brooklyn. There he acted in the capacity of chairman of the board. In 1969, this group was known as the Brownsville Brookdale Health Coalition. Mr. Francois was affiliated with the Mayor's Organization Task Force for Comprehensive Health Planning. He also headed the Anti-Poverty Program for Brownsville which planned and devised programs which assisted the community in receiving grants from the National Institute for Mental Health [NIMH] to run demographic studies relevant to community needs. He is a past member of the New York City Council Against Poverty.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Francois is truly a "Renaissance Man" whose interests and deeds extend to all critical areas of community