

the NEH were to be eliminated: Funding for the Guam Symphony Society; folks arts, masters of traditional art apprenticeship program funding for the arts in Education Program—taking art into the schools; grants for the Isla Center for the Arts; college crafts program at Gef Pa'go, Chamorro Cultural Village; funding for the University of Guam Theater and Music Department; funding for the consortium for the Pacific Arts and Culture which brings the Mis-soula Children's Theater to Guam grants to Media arts, literary arts, performing arts, visual arts, and folks arts; and grants to artist fellowships.

CAHA's mission has been to show case our culture and make people understand its importance to our island. The whole point of the arts and humanities programs, which CAHA supports, is to create an opportunity for people to expand their views and knowledge about the various cultures which constitute the melting pot of America. The very existence of the CAHA, is threatened without the funding provided by the NEA and the NEH. The opportunity that CAHA affords the community to engage on a larger scale also would be gone.

In fiscal year 1995, Guam was the only jurisdiction in the United States to have all grant applications approved as well as to receive an additional grant. By these actions, the NEA and the NEH have recognized Guam's outstanding record of funding artists and projects important to our community.

Finally, I would like to commend the fine work that CAHA has accomplished in years past and to congratulate Ms. Deborah Bordallo on her recent appointment as executive director to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities. With the renewed funding from the NEA and the NEH, we, on Guam, will work hard toward supporting CAHA for many generations to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ROBERT M. OLSON, JUDGE OF
THE LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR
COURT

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Robert M. Olson, judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, will retire from the bench on April 7, 1995.

Judge Olson has served more than 22 years as a Los Angeles Superior Court judge, and is currently the third ranking judge in terms of seniority in that court.

The majority of Judge Olson's judicial career has been spent in the Los Angeles Superior Court's northeast district in Pasadena, where he has twice served as supervising judge of the district. Since January 1990, Judge Olson has served in a satellite courtroom of the northeast district located in the Alhambra courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his judicial career, Judge Olson has demonstrated the highest level of personal integrity and conduct. He has always shown a great respect for the law and he has consistently performed his judicial duties with compassion, sensitivity, and courtesy.

He was always regarded with the highest esteem by the Los Angeles legal community.

He has a lot of heart, a wonderful temperament, and a well-honed sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Superior Court Judge Robert M. Olson before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives upon his retirement from the bench.

ANOTHER MEDICAL BREAK-
THROUGH BY VA MEDICAL RE-
SEARCHER

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to see news reports this week about an important scientific advance for people who are paralyzed.

Stories in the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun and other papers described the Neuroprosthetic Hand Grasp System—a new computerized device that can help some people with spinal cord injuries regain use of their hands.

I was absolutely delighted to learn of this exciting work, because I believe it will bring hope to thousands of people who have lost so much through catastrophic injury.

But I was also pleased by this news because it reflects the tremendous value of an outstanding research program that has not received the recognition it is due.

This development for paralyzed persons—like many other medical advances—came from the research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Unfortunately, the public is not well informed about the work of VA scientists and researchers. They do not know that, over the years, VA research has established an impressive record for achieving health care improvements for disabled veterans, while bringing scientific advances for the society at large.

VA researchers are responsible for breakthroughs such as the first effective drug treatment for schizophrenia, the pioneer kidney and liver transplants, the first cardiac pacemaker implant, and development of the scientific basis for computer assisted CAT scanning—which revolutionized diagnostic medicine.

This program is one of the most cost-effective approaches to research anywhere in the medical world. It is based on a clinician-investigator approach, under which most of VA's scientists work in patient care programs, as well as in their laboratories.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the entire VA research family. On this day, I especially commend the members of the VA research team that led the way in developing the Neuroprosthetic Hand Grasp System, and to their colleagues in the academic world and the private sector.

We should take pride in the achievements of our VA medical researchers. This is a program that deserves our recognition and support as it seeks to improve the lives of all Americans.

There follows the article which appeared on the front page of the Washington Post yesterday morning:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 1995]

EVERY MOVEMENT COUNTS—DEVICE GIVES
QUADRIPLEGICS A CHANCE TO GRASP

(By Paul W. Valentine)

BALTIMORE, March 20.—Slowly, laboriously, his brow knitted in concentration, Kevin Hara picked up the pen in his right hand, positioned it firmly between his thumb and first finger and scribbled his name.

A few months ago, Hara, 21, a Georgetown University student who was paralyzed below the shoulders in a 1991 trampoline accident, could not move his hands or fingers.

Now, with an experimental electrical stimulator implanted in his chest to bypass his injured spinal cord and activate hand muscles, he is able to write, grasp a cup, shave, brush his teeth and tap out letters on a computer keyboard.

Hara was one of three quadriplegic patients who gathered at the Veterans Administration Medical Center today to demonstrate the new technology, called the Neuroprosthetic Hand Grasp System.

Medical investigators in Baltimore, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston, Palo Alto, Calif., and Melbourne, Australia, hope to get U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval of the experimental technology within a year and put it on the medical market within five years.

"It's made a big difference in my life," Hara said. "I'm able to do more, but it's also improved my confidence." A junior, he said he hopes to become a physician and specialize in psychiatry.

Restoring the ability to do things "the rest of us take for granted" is often slow and halting, with rewards measured in minuscule improvements day to day, said Peter H. Gorman, the neurologist who heads the Baltimore program.

"After you break your neck," said Jo Heiden, 30, of Arlington, a quadriplegic who was injured in a fall 11 years ago, "anything you can do to get some independence back is important."

Besides the patients in Baltimore, an additional 21 are enrolled in similar programs in the other cities. The implant surgery and long follow-up therapy for patients to learn how to use the muscle stimulator costs about \$35,000, doctors said.

Restoring muscular activity for paralyzed patients is not new. Paraplegics since the late 1970s have used external stimulators on their legs to help them walk.

But the technology demonstrated today is the only one using a surgically implanted stimulator to restore functional movements in the hands and fingers of quadriplegics, according to Gorman, chief of rehabilitative services at the VA hospital in Baltimore. He also is an assistant professor of neurology at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

The implant program is not suitable for all paralyzed patients. Of the 90,000 people with quadriplegic spinal cord injuries in the United States, Gorman said, only about 14,000 might be eligible—those able to move their shoulders and bend their elbows but not use their hands.

Another important factor, Gorman said, is to be "highly motivated to try the new technology."

In spinal cord injuries, "the brain is no longer able to send messages to the nerves in the arm," said W. Andrew Eglseider, an orthopedic surgeon who performed the implants on Hara, Heiden and Jeanette Semon last year.

The new technology, he said, "sends signals to the muscles directly, in effect, bypassing the patient's damaged nerve system."

An electrical stimulator smaller than a cassette is implanted in the upper chest and

connected to a series of wires that are embedded in the arm from the shoulder almost to the wrist. The wires are attached to seven electrodes that are sewn into paralyzed forearm muscles that control the hand.

The stimulator is attached outside the body to a computerized radio transmitter control unit that the patient attaches to the back of a wheelchair. The control unit also is attached by wire to another device taped to the chest and shoulder.

By moving the shoulder up and down or backward and forward, the patient signals the control unit to send electrical impulses through the stimulator and down into the arm muscles to activate finger and hand movement.

After the surgery, patients are hospitalized for three to four weeks. Then slowly they begin months of physical therapy, learning "grasp patterns" and "integrating them into their daily routine," said Linda M. Marshall, chief of occupational therapy at the VA medical center.

The Baltimore program is funded by a \$170,000 grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs and involved no cost to the three patients.

Similarly, programs in the other five cities are funded by the department, the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research and NeuroControl Corp., of Cleveland, maker of the stimulator device.

The three Baltimore patients, sitting side by side in wheelchairs eagerly displayed their newly recovered skills.

Semon, 30, a Department of Agriculture budget analyst who lives in Chantilly, leaned forward, picked up a fork and pierced a pink ball of Play-Doh on a plate.

"Yum," she said, pretending to take a bite. Heiden, a computer software engineer, typed a quick message on a computer keyboard with one finger. That may not seem much, she said, but before the implant surgery, she could only jab at the keyboard with a broken pencil wedged in a splint on her arm.

"My typing speed has increased tremendously," she said.

"I can load and unload paper for my printer, too."

PROTECTING OUR NATION'S FLAG

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, because of my longstanding support to affirm the right of State legislatures and the U.S. Congress to protect the American flag, I am proud to once again be an original introducer today of a constitutional amendment declaring that Congress and the States shall have the power to prohibit the act of physical desecration of the American flag.

This is not the first time the House will consider this resolution. As my colleagues may recall, on June 21, 1990, the House fell just 34 votes short of the two-thirds vote required to approve this constitutional amendment. Since that time, 44 States have passed resolutions calling on Congress to give them the opportunity to ratify an amendment to the Constitution protecting the flag—6 more than the 38 States needed for ratification.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fitting that on the 50th anniversary of the historic flag-raising atop Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi, that we reintroduce this amendment to protect our flag from dese-

cration. On this occasion we remember the 75,000 marines who fought for 36 days in one of the most grueling battles of World War II, a time when "uncommon valor was a common virtue." We honor the nearly 7,000 men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the fight for the island, and the countless others wounded in this campaign.

In memory of those who fought that battle, we have erected the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, VA, where the moving re-creation of that famous flag-raising stands with the glorious Stars and Stripes atop the flagpole. It stands as a memorial not only to the Americans who served so bravely in that battle, but for all Americans who marched in battle behind the Stars and Stripes to restore freedom and protect the ideals which our great flag symbolizes.

Few things dishonor their memory more than acts of desecration of the American flag.

Our flag waves across the United States as a symbol of freedom and democracy and as a constant reminder of those who paid the ultimate price in service to their country. Casting contempt on the flag is the same, in my view, as casting contempt upon our Constitution and all the values of our great Nation for which it stands—liberty, equality, and justice for all. On battlefields throughout our Nation's history many lives have been lost and much pain and suffering endured by those committed to the defense of these values. To desecrate the flag is to cast contempt upon these brave men and women who carried our flag into battle with them; soldiers who have fought so bravely and offered their lives to protect the freedoms which we enjoy today and the promise of a free future for our children.

The United States stands as an example of freedom and justice for all to follow. The American flag remains a symbol throughout the world of that freedom and justice. It has inspired ordinary Americans to make extraordinary sacrifice, and should be respected and protected always. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring and supporting this amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO 13 GOOD SAMARITANS

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, please let the record show that I submit these remarks jointly with my colleague, the Hon. ROBERT C. SCOTT of Virginia.

Too often we fail to recognize the good things today's youth do. We are always quick to criticize them, but unfortunately are often slow to offer praise when it is deserved. We want to change that today.

Thirteen children from Newport News deserve special recognition for an extraordinarily good deed. While playing a game of chase on a recent Sunday afternoon, the youngsters witnessed the mugging of a 75-year-old woman. As the mugger sprinted away from the scene of the crime, the children, some as young as 5, gave chase to the suspect. They followed the suspect for two blocks, eventually leading police to the spot where he was hiding. The kids also showed police a nearby

truck where the suspect had thrown the woman's purse.

These 13 kids are a shining example of the good things that are happening in our communities. Unfortunately, we have the tendency to only focus on the negative. The children could have easily ignored Edna Moss' cries for help and continued playing. Instead, they chose not to let the crime go unnoticed. Mrs. Moss is probably correct in her belief that the police may not have been able to catch the thief if it were not for the actions of the kids.

We want to take this opportunity to enter each of the 13 youngsters names in the RECORD. They are Calvin Williams, age 12; Maurice Williams, 11; Jamar Williams, 7; Shawn Stephenson, 8; Phillip Gayles, 12; Delvin Johnson, 13; August Taylor, 12; Antonio Bell, 5; Shenell Pressley; Demarcus Gardner, 9; Michael Carter, 6; Tierra Davies, 5; and Akeem Tate, 8.

We are pleased that so many people in the community, from local business owners to the Newport News City Council, have recognized the deeds of these 13 good Samaritans. ABC's "Prime Time Live" also has done a feature on the children that was broadcast nationwide. They truly deserve the recognition.

JULIAN AND ELISE WAGER HONORED FOR ENTIRE FAMILY'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues two of my constituents who exemplify what it means to be concerned, community activists—Julian and Elise Wager.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to some people's belief, great neighborhoods don't just happen. They are created through the hard work of hundreds and thousands of community members joining together in common cause.

Astoria, Queens, is just such a neighborhood, and Julian and Elise Wager are two of the most dedicated, most caring members of the community. My field Julie, as he is known to his legion of friends, is currently the extremely capable chief of staff at the Western Queens Gazette—without a doubt one of New York's finest newspapers.

But Julie's contributions to the community don't end at the workplace. Julie has also been president of the Steinway Street Merchants Association since 1976 and president of the Central Astoria Local Development Coalition since 1984. Under his able leadership, these two organizations have supported local Astoria businesses, preserved local jobs, and helped make Astoria the vibrant, wonderful community it is today.

Elise Wager also has a remarkable record of community involvement. In fact, until just recently, Elise was the executive director of Queens Overall Economic Development, a capacity in which she served for almost 15 years. She has now returned to Adelphi University where she is pursuing her masters in social work. I know that Queens Overall Economic Development was sad to lose her leadership, but Adelphi has truly gained a special person.