

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.

Of course Julie and Elise's greatest contributions to the world came in the form of their two lovely daughters Adrian and Stacey. Both Adrian and Stacey are now married and have moved away from Astoria, but I know they have brought their parents' commitment to community betterment to their respective homes in Arlington, VA, and Hannacroix, NY.

In fact, I am particularly pleased to announce that the Wager family has recently grown by two members. Adrian Wager-Zito and her husband Michael Zito, are the new parents of a baby girl, Francesca Barrett Zito; Stacey Wager-Pacuk and her husband Edward Pacuk, are also the parents of a baby girl, Rebecca Grace Pacuk.

Therefore, it seems appropriate to me, as the Wager family has embarked upon a new generation, to request that my colleagues take a moment to salute two members of my community who have given so much of themselves for the betterment of others: Julie and Elise Wager—community activists, caring professionals, committed citizens, and, of course, proud grandparents.

#### RETIREMENT OF MASTER CHIEF JOSEPH RAMIREZ ADA

#### HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate Master Chief Joseph Ramirez Ada, a native son of Guam, on his distinguished career and his well-earned retirement. He is a veteran submariner and one of the highest rated enlisted personnel in the Guam Area Command of the U.S. Navy. Master Chief Ada, the son of Jose Quichocho and Maria Ramirez Ada, first enlisted in the Navy back in 1966. He has since attained the rank of master chief quartermaster, one of the highest ranks in the naval enlisted tier, second only to the master chief petty officer of the Navy.

In addition to this extraordinary accomplishment, Master Chief Ada always represented the best that the island of Guam has to offer. Prior to his present post, he served aboard the U.S.S. *John Adams* (SSBN-620), the U.S.S. *Puffer* (SSN-652), and the U.S.S. *Haddock* (SSN-621). He was also assigned to the Submarine *Flotilla Eight* and the Navy Astronautics Group Detachment "Bravo." After this, he was named command senior chief of Submarine Group Seven and, later, command master chief of Development Group One. Throughout almost three decades of active duty service he was the deserving recipient of several significant military awards. In addition to seven Good Conduct Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals and a Meritorious Service Medal, Master Chief Ada is the first Chamorro to receive the Admiral Claude V. Ricketts Award for inspirational leadership.

Since being assigned to the Guam Area Command of the U.S. Navy, Master Chief Ada greatly assisted in many civic efforts. He assisted in combined military and civilian projects such as last year's 50th anniversary celebration of the liberation of Guam. His assistance was also instrumental in the island's recovery from natural disasters such as Ty-

phoon Omar and the earthquake of August 1993.

He has expressed great interest in our youth and local community through his volunteer work with the Guam Special Olympics and the assistance he provided local students in their high school drill and color guard competitions. He also supported local mayors in numerous military functions, parades, funerals, fiestas, and sister-village activities in addition to being a leader in the Navy's Community Partnership Programs.

After over 29 years of distinguished service, Master Chief Ada has chosen to retire from the Navy. An official retirement ceremony celebrating his accomplishments was held last Friday, March 17 on Guam. On behalf of the people of Guam, I would like to congratulate Master Chief Ada for his accomplishments, congratulate him on his well-earned retirement, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### DR. MARTIN STEINBERG MAKES SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN THE TREATMENT OF SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

#### HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of my colleagues an article that recently appeared in the February 13-19, 1995 edition of *The Stars and Stripes*. The article features Dr. Martin Steinberg, the associate chief of staff for research at the Jackson, MS, VA Medical Center and his work in a nationally-recognized study of drug that may be the first successful treatment for severe cases of sickle cell anemia. Dr. Steinberg has been with the Jackson VA Medical Center since October 1967. He is well known for his expertise and is VA's sickle cell program director.

Dr. Steinberg's accomplishments in this area are another example of the tremendous research that is being done by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and all of us are extremely proud of Dr. Steinberg's work and his association with the Jackson VA Medical Center.

[From the *Stars and Stripes*, Feb. 1995]

#### VA RESEARCHER KEY FIGURE IN SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA BREAKTHROUGH

(By Dick Maggrett)

A researcher at the Jackson, MS, VA Medical Center has played a key role in a nationwide study of a cancer drug that proved to be the first successful treatment for severe cases of sickle-cell anemia, a blood disorder affecting 72,000 mostly black Americans.

Physician Martin Steinberg, an associate chief of staff for research, led a group studying hydroxyurea and its effects on sickle-cell patients. "This is a significant advance," he said.

Steinberg and his fellow scientists believe that hydroxyurea may work by stimulating the production of fetal hemoglobin, which is present in fetuses and newborn babies. By about four months of age, fetal hemoglobin has been replaced by adult hemoglobin.

Steinberg, who also is a professor of medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where some of the research was conducted, said hydroxyurea isn't a cure but that its administration was "the first effective

tive treatment for this serious illness and may greatly improve the quality of life of sickle-cell anemia patients."

In patients with the disease, hemoglobin molecules stick to one another, forming long rods inside red blood cells and causing them to take on a sickle-like shape and become rigid. The cells, unable to squeeze through tiny blood vessels, deprive tissue of an adequate blood supply and cause pain.

In the \$500,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH)-sponsored study that examined genetic analyses of patients, half received the drug and half a placebo. In this phase of the work, Steinberg examined the genetic determinants linked to the sickle hemoglobin gene.

Between January 1992 and April 1993 the study enrolled 299 adult sickle-cell anemia patients, 18 years of age and older, at 21 clinics in the United States. All patients had experience at least three pain crises within 12 months.

The only side effect was mild reversible bone marrow suppression, which caused lowering of blood counts.

The study showed that daily doses of hydroxyurea reduced the frequency of painful episodes and hospital admissions for sickle-cell crises by about 50 percent. Recurrent painful episodes are the most disabling feature of the illness and interfere with education, jobs and social development.

Hydroxyurea therapy also reduced the frequency of acute chest syndrome, a life-threatening complication characterized by chest pain, fever and an abnormal chest X-ray. Test patients taking the drug had about 50 percent fewer episodes of acute chest syndrome than those taking a placebo.

And patients on hydroxyurea also required about 50 percent fewer units of blood transfused than those on the placebo. This finding has "important" public health implications, according to the Jackson VAMC.

Hydroxyurea proved effective in dramatically reducing pain in adult patients with sickle-cell anemia, and NIH recently stopped drug trials four months early and notified 5,000 doctors of the treatment.

Steinberg hopes his research will discover the means of predicting which patients will respond best to the drug. He said he will attempt to determine whether it might be possible to foretell the response of fetal hemoglobin to hydroxyurea.

Steinberg cautioned that hydroxyurea may not be appropriate for all sickle-cell patients.

"The drug should not be used in patients likely to become pregnant," Steinberg said. "Long-term safety in adults and safety and effectiveness of treatment in children have not been determined."

And, Steinberg said, hydroxyurea also has the potential to cause life-threatening decreases in blood counts called "cytopenia."

Hydroxyurea hasn't been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treatment of sickle-cell anemia, although physicians can prescribe it for that purpose. The FDA may consider approving hydroxyurea for sickle-cell anemia after Bristol-Myers Squibb, the drug's manufacturer, gets the study's results.

The VA facility couldn't say when that might be.

Hydroxyurea currently is used for treating polycythemia vera, a disease in which too many red blood cells are produced.

Sickle-cell anemia is an inherited disease most common in people with ancestors from Africa, the Middle East, the Mediterranean basin and India.

One in 12 African-Americans carries the sickle-cell trait.