

Ignore health coverage completely and wait for some illness to eat up my assets and then go on state aid?

Change employers and hope that its group insurance is more benevolent?

Or try to convince some responsible person or persons that our bottom line insurance industry is just that and nothing more. Our society has gone through its revolution and evolutions and deregulations. Perhaps it is time to go through a period of regulation (another form of evolution)—regulation of the insurance industry. Or if that is not possible, then I think that the Federal government must step in to fill the void that private industry will not handle—we cannot leave it to Beaver or private industry.

HONORING THE TIMOTHY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Timothy Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

LAUDING THE REPEAL OF THE BAN ON MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH HIV

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend President Clinton in particular and my colleagues in the Congress who agreed in the latest appropriations legislation for fiscal year 1996 to repeal the recent provision in the defense authorization bill which would have mandated summary discharge of military personnel with the HIV virus. That provision, Mr. Speaker, was an outrage, and I applaud its repeal.

The so-called problem of HIV-infected military personnel is a shibboleth. No logical reason exists to single out those people serving in the armed forces who have HIV. People suffering from other, far more contagious ailments are not subjected to the same discrimination. They are not kicked out and forced to lose accrued benefits and promised health care. This ban is more a reflection of fear and bigotry than rational military and health policy. It is patently discriminatory and unfair.

Although HIV can be contracted in a number of ways, let us not pretend that this ban was not directed at gay and lesbian Americans who contribute to our national defense. Gay and lesbian Americans have served our Nation in the military with great distinction for as long as this Nation has existed. They deserve much better than this.

Mr. Speaker, I share the President's conviction that compassion and clearheaded reason must be employed in confronting the HIV virus and its effects. The repeal of this ban is a positive step in restoring reason to the discussion. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the repeal of the ban on military personnel with HIV.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LUCY BARNESLEY SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE, MD

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the students, faculty, and parents of the Lucy Barnesley School in Rockville, MD on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of their school. The Lucy Barnesley School opened in 1965 for elementary school children and is currently responsible for educating 542 students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Lucy Barnesley is one of four elementary centers in Montgomery County for highly gifted students in grades four and five. In 1979, a program for deaf and hearing-impaired students was incorporated into the regular teaching program. The school boasts a unique fifth grade singing group known as the Fabulous Flying Fingers. Under the direction of Theresa Burdett, the group uses sign language to communicate the meaning of their songs to the hearing-impaired. The group has performed on two occasions at the White House.

The Lucy Barnesley School demonstrates its dedication to children and their education through innovative programs like the Fabulous Flying Fingers. Principal William Beckman emphasizes the importance of innovative teaching methods, team teaching techniques, and a strong sense of cooperation among the faculty at Lucy Barnesley.

Please join me in congratulating the Lucy Barnesley School on 30 years of dedication to the education of children in Rockville and best wishes for 30 more to come.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MICHAEL DOWD

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special individual from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

On the night of February 27, 1995, Captain Michael Dowd tied a rope around his waist, was lowered down the side of a four-story burning building, and saved the life of a 3-year-old child. For this remarkable display of bravery, I am proud to honor Captain Dowd for receiving the New Jersey state Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association's Valor Award.

Valor and courage are attributes that are essential for all firefighters, yet hopefully they are never truly tested in a life-threatening situation. On February 27, 1995, Captain Dowd displayed the kind of valor and courage that not only makes us all proud but leaves us stunned with amazement and admiration.

It is these displays of intense dedication to public service and community, as well as the pure compassion and value for human life, that symbolize what America is all about. Captain Dowd serves as a wonderful role model not only for those in his community of West Orange, NJ, but for the national community as well.

Captain Dawd was willing to risk his own life in order to save another's, and for this he has received the New Jersey State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association's Valor Award. I am proud to give praise and honor to this remarkable individual for his extraordinary demonstration of heroism.

Speaking for the citizens of the Eighth Congressional District, I offer heartfelt congratulations, and wish you continued success.

TRIBUTE TO LA GRANGE POLICE OFFICERS ROBIN PROKASKI AND JIM LIOTTA

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to two outstanding police officers who heroically risked their lives to save two people from a burning house in my district.

Officers Robin Prokaski and James Liotta of the La Grange, IL police department were the first to respond to an alarm that brought them to a burning house in the community in the early morning hours of February 24. One occupant of the house, Jerry Chlapcik, had escaped the flames and smoke, but his elderly wife and his daughter, a quadriplegic, were still trapped inside. Officers Prokaski and Liotta climbed through a window and found the mother attempting to get the daughter out of bed.

Working quickly in the dense smoke, they were able to get both mother and daughter out of the house, handing the victims out of the window.

For their heroic efforts, Officers Prokaski and Liotta were awarded the Chief's Award of Valor from the fire department.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these two brave police officers, and I wish to remind all Americans of the debt they owe those who risk their lives to protect ours.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNI-
VERSARY OF ISRAELI INDE-
PENDENCE

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, we joyously celebrated the 48th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel. For more than 1,800 years, the Jewish people would recite a prayer: "Vesechezena Aynanu B'Schuvcha L'Zion" (May we behold Your return in mercy to Zion). It is by the grace of God that the children of Israel were able to return to their ancestral homeland.

Independence Day is celebrated as a Jewish holiday on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, which is recognized on April 24 this year, and marks the Athchalta D'Guela, the beginning of the redemption, as promised by God. The struggle of the survival of Israel is a testament to the determination of Jewish people worldwide. Regardless of how difficult it has been over the last 48 years to protect and defend Israel, it pales in comparison to the trials and tribulations the Jewish people have suffered throughout history. From Moses leading the Jews from slavery in Egypt to surviving the tyranny of the Roman Empire and the ensuing diaspora to the horrors of the Holocaust, the perseverance and faith of the Jews is unmatched.

Unfortunately, this last year has been another tragic test for Israel in its quest for peace. As Israel has tried to expand peace with its neighbors, starting with Egypt and spreading to Palestine and Jordan, we lost one of the great men of our time—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was a true patriot and a man of everlasting honor to his nation, to his people, and to the rest of the world. His quest to resolve the disputes with Israel's neighbors and to expand peace to Syria and the other Arab States will be of lasting historical significance. I continue to miss the presence of Mr. Rabin because of his calming influence in the sea of trouble.

The State of Israel has been the beacon of freedom and democracy in the Middle East for nearly a half a century. I am proud to see the peace process expand and to see Israel and the Arab States begin the process of building economic ties. I firmly believe once these nations cement their relationship through economic association, the binds of peace will be permanent, as long as all concerned respect the peace and security of the Israeli State.

I am, therefore, pleased to join my colleagues in wishing Israel a warm greeting in recognition of their independence. I will always pray for her safety and I will continue to work to ensure that the United States remains its loyal ally and friend. May God continue to bless this nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 127, H.R. 1965, the Coastal Zone Prevention Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall 128, H.R. 2160, the Cooperative Fisheries Management Act, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote 129, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." And on rollcall vote 130, H.R. 2715, the Paperwork Elimination Act of 1995, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE WATERTOWN
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Watertown Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO ANN BELKNAP
BENNER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, Ann Benner, a great friend and a truly extraordinary American, passed away. The boundless energy that drove her to be a heroic supporter of her family and her community every day of her 77 years succumbed in the face of its ultimate challenge. Now, her many companions

in the afterlife can enjoy the strength of her spirit and the glow of her love.

Over the 2 years that Ann knew she had terminal cancer, she was at her desk in my district office doing the good work on which I and countless others had come to depend. It is hard to imagine that office without the reassuring presence of Ann. She was a true friend, an invaluable asset and the most compassionate human being I have ever met. I will miss her terribly. All of us in San Mateo and those in Washington who have worked with her will miss her terribly.

When I first sought office 17 years ago, Ann was one of the first people to volunteer for my campaign. It was obvious from looking at Ann's remarkable list of credentials and accomplishments that she was a woman instilled with an incredible sense of community spirit, education and political activism that went far beyond ordinary civic duty. I was only too happy to offer her an outlet for this fountain of enthusiasm, just as I have been happy to do so for the last 17 years. She started that day, and continued every day after that, doing what was necessary to promote the ideas that she believed in and was willing to fight for.

As a special assistant in my district office, Ann took every constituent problem, large or small, with the same zeal that she tackled everything else in her remarkable life. As I did when I first met her, everyone recognized and appreciated that they receive a straight answer from Ann—she told it like it was, and found out all she could about every question or complaint.

One of the most compassionate acts I have ever witnessed was when Ann, at the age of 70, took on the awesome responsibility of adopting a young girl from South Africa. Ann gave that girl access to a modern society that was closed to a South African black. Ann did this with no regard for her own comfort and at considerable personal sacrifice because she thought the treatment that girl had received in South Africa was unjust.

Ann's contribution to the country that she loved began long before I met her, demonstrating the vision and initiative that characterized her whole life. In 1941, she was a founding member of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in San Mateo. In recognition of her commitment to the Unitarian community, the congregation established an annual award for service to the church and community which was named the "Ann Benner Award." In 1945, she was a founding member of the League of Women Voters of Central San Mateo County. Not one to limit herself to one category or cause, Ann was an active lifetime member of the NAACP, promoting civil rights in many effective capacities.

More recently, Ann was named the "Democrat of the Year" by the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee in 1975. In 1981 she was named "Woman of the Year" by the San Mateo County Business and Professional Women. And, in testament to her overwhelming contributions to the advancement of women, in 1991 Ann was named to the Women's Hall of Fame of San Mateo County.

Ann's departure leaves a void in my heart and in the community we shared that will be impossible to fill. Because of her efforts, Ann has left the world she entered 77 years ago a richer, more humane place. There will always be a place in my heart for Ann, just as her