

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN THOMPSON, BOB GAGNON, "CHIPPER" ROWE, SANDY ROBINSON, MURRAY SMITH, AND ALBERT DAUPHINAIS, SIX NEW HAMPSHIRE HEROES

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to six heroic residents of North Sutton, NH, who saved the life of my good friend and neighbor, Rosa Weinstein. Brian Thompson, Bob Gagnon, "Chipper" Rowe, Sandy Robinson, Murray Smith and Albert Dauphinais all acted without hesitation to rescue Rosa from her burning car in order to get her to the hospital. I am very proud of these six individuals from North Sutton who did not waste 1 second in coming to Rosa's rescue. I would like to extend a personal word of thanks to each one of them for saving my friend's life.

On September 1, Rosa Weinstein was driving through North Sutton, NH, when her car went out of control, flipped over on its side and caught on fire. By what many have described as a miracle, the accident occurred within a few yards of the North Sutton Volunteer Fire Station and in front of the home of Brian Thompson. Immediately after Brian saw the car from his kitchen window, he used a fire extinguisher to contain the flames coming from the car. As Brian was doing this, two firemen, Bob Gagnon and "Chipper" Rowe, ran to the nearby firehouse for the equipment to put out the flames. Three additional heroes, Murray Smith, Albert Dauphinais, and Sandy Robinson, a emergency management technician, helped put out the flames, rescued Rosa from inside the car and kept her alive long enough to be taken to the hospital.

Rosa suffered considerably from the accident, but she is very grateful for the actions of the North Sutton residents who so quickly came to her aid. There is no doubt whatsoever in anyone's mind that Rosa owes her life to these six heroes.

It is my hope that Rosa will regain her strength soon and will make a speedy recovery over the next few weeks. Both Rosa and her husband, Harris, are wonderful, thoughtful friends. Indeed, I was very sad to hear about the accident, but am also very proud of the way the six North Sutton residents reacted.

Harris expressed the deep gratitude of Rosa's family by saying, "The uncommon heroism demonstrated by Brian Thompson, Bob Gagnon, "Chipper" Rowe, Sandy Robinson, Murray Smith, and Albert Dauphinais is an extraordinary example of America at its best. We will forever be thankful for their selfless, quick-thinking action."

Mr. President, the actions of these six individuals on that day in early September are truly remarkable. Their efforts are appreciated not only by Rosa's family but by myself and many other New Hampshire residents. And, for Rosa, I wish the very best for her as she recovers from her injuries. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. •

TRIBUTE TO DANA PODELL OF COLORADO, GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD WINNER

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize 18-year-old Dana Podell of Greeley, CO. The Mountain Prairie Girl Scout Council honored Molly with the Girl Scout Gold Award on May 4, 1996. The Gold Award is considered to be the highest honor achieved in U.S. Girl Scouting and is awarded to young women between the ages of 14 and 17 who display outstanding achievement in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. Additionally, a Girl Scout must earn the Career Exploration Pin, four interest patches, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and complete a Gold Award project of her own creation.

As a senior at Greeley Central High School, and a member of Girl Scout Troop 2000, Dana displays genuine leadership and truly exhibits concern for the world around her. In March 1996, Dana began work on the Gold Award project by organizing bilingual story times, recruiting Spanish-speaking volunteers from the community. She also found an established organization—the Chavez Center—willing to continue the program.

Dana has made outstanding contributions to her community and is an excellent role model for all youth. I am proud to salute Dana as a recipient of the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award. •

MENTAL HEALTH CARE: AN AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday, the "Mental Health Parity Act of 1996" was signed into law by President Clinton. Mr. President, the act provides parity of coverage for treatment of mental illness. The debate over the bill was both stimulating and educational, in that it encouraged many of us to learn more about issues affecting the management of mental health disorders. I believe that, as a group, we now have a greater awareness and sensitivity to this area. I would like to take this opportunity to present some of the issues which I feel must be addressed.

Mental health may be affected by numerous factors ranging from outside stressors, presenting in ways that may be difficult to manage, to physical disease or genetic defects that impair brain function. The erosion of our traditional social support systems, including fragmentation of extended and nuclear family structures, have contributed to the morbidity of mental disorders. Increased complexity and stress in society are also responsible for the higher incidence of symptoms.

Consequently, alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health disorders affect 18-30 percent of adults annually. Suicide claims 30,000 lives each year. We are

also faced with skyrocketing costs and utilization of mental health and substance abuse services which now represent 4 percent of the GDP. However, these costs represent only one-fourth of the total price. Employees with behavioral health problems experience higher accident rates, use more health benefits, and have lower overall work performance ratings than other workers. The costs of crimes which are committed as a result of behavioral disorders must also be included.

As a physician and surgeon, I understand the impact of mental illness on the lives of my patients and their families. I also understand the importance of good psychiatric care. Advances in medication and psychological therapeutic techniques have improved our ability to treat these disorders effectively. In addition, the destigmatization of mental illness and chemical dependency have led to a greater willingness on the part of the general public to seek help for these problems.

However, traditional techniques have not been effective in controlling either the costs or quality of care provided in this arena. Reorganization of public sector, local authority, and managed care contracting has begun and a niche industry of specialized managed mental health/substance abuse organizations or carve-outs has developed.

Unfortunately, we cannot necessarily rely on competition and the market to solve these problems. These forces may fail because of externalities and information problems. Even our health care providers have not always received the education about mental illness necessary to perform their tasks. At this point, no one is sure that the new programs are any more effective than the old ones.

As a transplant surgeon, I understand the value of teamwork. I believe that we must use that approach if we are to solve these problems. Government, payers, providers, and consumers must each contribute solutions. Together, we can accomplish the following objectives:

First, parity of coverage between mental and physical disorders must be encouraged.

Second, payers must develop incentives for providers to provide appropriate care as well as information for patients.

Third, we must educate providers about the most cost-effective ways to deliver high quality care. Medical school curricula should be revised to provide more in-depth training on mental health and substance abuse disorders. Reimbursement mechanisms for graduate medical education must be changed so that residents are less tied to acute-in-patient facilities. When they are placed in facilities across the continuum of care they will receive more exposure to issues of chronic behavioral disease management.

Fourth, we must learn how to measure the real value of care we provide in

terms of health improvements per dollar spent on care. We must also consider the social consequences of that care.

Fifth, we must learn how to better estimate the effects of cost containment measures on treatment cost effectiveness.

Sixth, we must encourage the development of consistent standards for use of evidence in policy debates.

Mr. President, this Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion to address mental health parity. As policy makers, we can continue to address the needs of the mental health community by working with educators, health plans, employers, and researchers to encourage them to meet these other important objectives. I believe our health care system can meet these goals. However, it requires cooperation from the entire health care community. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to consider the issues of mental health in this broader context; as well as, to continue to educate ourselves on the mental health issues that impact our health system and society as a whole.●

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Yesterday, President Clinton signed the VA/HUD appropriation bill and the Mental Health Parity amendment which was included in the appropriated bill into law. For all of us who worked so hard to achieve passage of the parity amendment, the enactment of the provision represented more than the insurance policy changes that the provision will actually require. Passage of the legislation is a symbol of fairness, progress and hope for millions of Americans and their families who, for far too long, have been victims of discrimination—families who for far too long have been thrust into bankruptcy, or denied access to cost-effective treatments because their illness was a mental illness and not a physical illness like cancer or heart disease. Mental illness has, in one way or another, touched the lives of many of us who work here on Capitol Hill and I am pleased that the 104th Congress was able to take this first and very necessary step toward parity.

I want to take this opportunity to say that while the passage of this amendment was a historic step forward for people with mental illnesses, the amendment was a first step and a first step only. It does not require parity for copayments or deductibles or inpatient days or outpatient visit limits. It also does not include substance abuse services. My State of Minnesota has passed legislation which goes much further than what we were able to accomplish in this Congress. Minnesota requires that health plans provide full parity coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. The cost impact of this legislation in Minnesota has been minimal according to a recent study based on preliminary data.

Without full parity coverage for mental health and substance abuse, health plans will continue to discriminate against individuals and families in need of services. The responsibility for and cost of care will continue to be shifted from the private to the public sector. For children and adolescents, the burden and cost of care will continue to be shifted to the child welfare, education, and juvenile justice systems. These overburdened systems are often not able to provide needed services, and many are forced to go without treatment. This will continue to be the case.

I have seen first hand in my State at facilities like Hazelden and others, the benefits that drug and alcohol treatment can bring to the lives of millions of Americans. Alcohol and other drug addictions effect 10% of American adults and 3 percent of our youth. Untreated addiction last year alone cost this Nation nearly \$167 billion. Ultimately we all bear the cost of delays or gaps in mental health and substance abuse services. Sadly, that fact has not been changed by the passage of Senator DOMENICI's and my amendment.

We have much more work to do and I look forward to consideration of legislation which would provide full parity coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. I am grateful for the advocacy, hard work, and compassion of the mental health and substance abuse community. Without them, we could not have achieved such success this year. This victory was made possible because families and friends of people struggling with mental illnesses were willing to speak out in public. This issue has a human face now and that made it possible to win votes and enact legislation.

I look forward to continuing to work with Senators DOMENICI, KENNEDY and CONRAD to expand coverage for mental health and substance abuse services and I also want to take this moment to thank Senators SIMPSON and KASSEBAUM who will not be here next year but were critical in enabling us to take the first critical step toward parity.●

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY MARKS-PELTZ

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, every day Americans are exposed to much of what is wrong with America and not enough about what is good and right across our Nation and in our communities.

It is in that light that I rise today to speak about a young man in Florida whose compassion and humanity should serve as a reminder to all of us that there is much about America that is good and right—12 year old Jeremy Marks-Peltz of Kendall, FL.

Last year Jeremy was on a boat tour in south Florida and saw the unfortunate plight of homeless people living in cardboard boxes. He decided he wanted to help them, and began organizing a food, clothes and furniture drive for

some of south Florida's homeless charities.

Jeremy went to Bloomingdale's in Miami seeking assistance for his charity drive; they decided to help. Bloomingdale's recently wrote me about Jeremy's efforts and why they got involved.

We receive hundreds of requests from charities for donations through letters, but this was the first time I was face to face with a twelve year old boy wanting to help the needy. It was touching and in a society that some times only remembers the needy during the holidays, it was refreshing.

With Bloomingdale's assistance. Jeremy's desire to make a difference in his community has resulted in a full-scale campaign called, Making a World of Difference, which will run through the year. The campaign, which began in February, consists of an appeal to all of Bloomingdale's customers for donations for the needy, including food, clothing and furniture.

Over the years I have said many times that individuals must play a greater role in the fight to make our communities safer, more prosperous, and simply better places for all of us to live. Jeremy's work to make south Florida a better place for all its residents to live exemplifies that ideal.

John Randolph once wrote, "Life is not so important as the duties of life." Only 12 years old, Jeremy Marks-Peltz has already learned this lesson well. His compassion, commitment, and understanding of what is genuinely important in this world are truly shining examples for all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO FIRST TENNESSEE BANK

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to salute First Tennessee National Corporation, an innovative company that maintains company success by focusing on a family-friendly environment. First Tennessee Bank's success can be attributed in part to the amount of time and effort they put into maintaining a positive employee-company relationship.

Three years ago, First Tennessee developed its Family Matters program to address concerns that involved the work-family relationship. They realized early on that employee job performance did not rely solely on the working conditions at the office. Personal time influenced employees' overall attitude, and in turn, their attitude toward work. First Tennessee adopted a non-traditional work schedule that gives employees more freedom to adjust their schedules around personal needs or family obligations. Family Matters trained managers and supervisors to work with employees who wanted flexible work hours to give them the time they needed without sacrificing job productivity. Variations of the flexible hours differ, but one good example can be seen at First Tennessee's downtown Chattanooga branch office. Richard Grant, Vice President of