

We can see where it has helped there has been sweeping change in the Congo, Liberia, and Kenya. These and other cuts to the African accounts have put our Nation's global leadership role at risk. Today Japan, and the European countries provided more aid and support than the United States has done in the last 2 years combined.

Restore the small amount of money to the African Development Fund. It will ultimately save money and lives. We have a moral responsibility to do so.

This is right for America!

PUTTING CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY ON PAR WITH INSURANCE COV- ERAGE FOR OTHER DISEASES

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Substance Abuse Treatment Parity Act, a bill to give alcoholics and drug addicts more access to treatment by prohibiting health insurers from placing discriminatory caps, financial requirements, or other restrictions on treatment that are different from other medical and surgical services.

As a grateful recovering alcoholic, I've seen first hand the value of treatment for people who are chemically dependent. As someone who stays close to recovering people and treatment professionals in Minnesota, I've been alarmed by the dwindling access to treatment for people who need help. That's why I believe it is time to put chemical dependency on par with insurance coverage for other diseases.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are painful, private struggles with staggering public costs. In fact, the direct and indirect costs of alcoholism alone in this country exceed \$90 billion each year. Assuring access to treatment will not only combat this insidious disease—it will save health care dollars in the long run. Treatment helps people stay healthier longer and saves the health care system money.

The empirical evidence supports what I already know as a recovering alcoholic—providing treatment is good preventive medicine.

A Minnesota study to extensively evaluate its treatment programs' effectiveness found that Minnesota saves \$22 million in annual health care costs because of treatment.

A California study reported a 17 percent improvement in health conditions after treatment—and dramatic decreases in hospitalizations.

A Rutgers University study found that untreated alcoholics incur general health care costs that are 100 percent higher. It also found that after treatment, days lost to illness, sickness claims, and hospitalization dropped by half.

A report printed in the 1992 Journal of Mental Health Administration sampled 63,873 hospitalized alcoholics and found medical complications are far more severe among those not treated for alcoholism.

This legislation will help eliminate barriers to treatment—without significantly increasing health care premiums. We have the empirical evidence to support this assertion: A Milliman and Robertson study released today found full

and complete substance abuse treatment parity would increase per capita health insurance premiums by only one half of one percent—without even considering the obvious savings that will result from treatment.

And just like the mental health parity provision of last session, this legislation waives the requirements if premiums increase by more than 1 percent. It also exempts small businesses with fewer than 50 employees.

Mr. Speaker, removing barriers to treatment is a huge step in the right direction. Parity for substance abuse treatment is the right thing to do. It's also the cost-effective thing to do. I urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation and look forward to working with all Members in both the House and Senate in passing this bill.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO- GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I want each one of us to ask ourselves:

Can we go back to our districts and justify to our sons and daughters that we have to cut school loans, while at the School of the Americas, we have more than enough money to teach people like Manuel Noriega?

Can we go back to our districts and justify over \$200 million of hard-earned, taxpayer money spent on the School of the Americas, while we tell our senior citizens they must tighten up their belts?

And what do we have to show for our money? We have six dead Jesuit priests, four raped nuns, nine students and their professor murdered, death squads in El Salvador, death squads in Honduras, murder of United States citizens in Guatemala, manuals on how to kidnap and torture. One can go on and on. Can we go back to our places of worship and justify this?

Newspapers from our districts across this country all tell us "it is time to close this school." The San Antonio Express News editorial stated in April, 1995:

The [millions of dollars] a year the U.S. Army School of the Americas costs to operate would be better spent on aid for foreign students at U.S. colleges than at this breeding ground for human rights abusers.

If we do not stand up for this amendment * * * what do we stand for?

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS COLLELUORI, WINNER OF GENO- VESE DRUG STORES' "FLIGHT OF ACES" CONTEST

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Ward Colleluori, of Centereach, Long Island, the winner of Genovese Drug Stores' Flight of Aces" essay contest. By focusing on the valor of the all-black Tuskegee Airmen fighter unit during World War II, Thomas Colleluori has helped to preserve an important, but little known piece of our American history.

Thomas' research for his essay revealed details of the role that the Tuskegee Airmen had in saving the life of his grandfather, Mario Colleluori, and the other American crewmen aboard a B-24 bomber that was under attack by German fighters during World War II. Those details so moved the 15-year-old student that he has chosen to share his contest award with one of the surviving members of the segregated unit.

On Friday, August 29, when Genovese honored the "Flight of Aces" contest winners by flying them in a formation of historic World War II bombers from Republic Airfield on Long Island, there was more than just a history lesson delivered. Thomas Colleluori, a white Long Island teenager took the opportunity to say "thank you" to George Bing, a black Brooklyn grandfather and surviving member of the Tuskegee Airmen fighter unit that saved his grandfather's life during World War II.

More than 50 years later, with his grandmother Mary Colleluori on hand, Thomas expressed his gratitude to George Bing by inviting him to sit in the position once occupied by his grandfather, during the nostalgic flight aboard one of the last remaining airworthy B-24's.

The purpose of Genovese Drug Stores essay contest was to honor the courage and sacrifices of America's veterans and retired defense workers, while encouraging today's generation of students to discover the historic legacy created by their parents and grandparents. Through his research, Thomas Colleluori learned how the Tuskegee Airmen fought prejudice as often as they did the German Luftwaffe. But it was skill and courage in battle—not the color of their skin—that mattered when his grandfather's bomber came under German fighter attack. Though more than 50 years later, that lesson remains with Thomas and lives on in the words of gratitude expressed in his essay, and in his thanks to George Bing and all Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Thomas Ward Colleluori for his passionate efforts to preserve the heroic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. May his and future generations of Americans learn from the invaluable lessons that Thomas discovered about family, duty, and race.

MY GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY OF DUTY

(By Thomas Ward Colleluori)

My name is Thomas Ward Colleluori. I am very proud to be the grandson of two WWII veterans. My Grandpa Mario Colleluori was a Radioman/Waist Gunner on B-24 heavy

bombers with the 15th Air Force and my Grandpa Frank Ward was an Infantryman with Patton's 3rd Army. Grandpa Frank passed away in 1991 and Grandpa Mario passed away in February of this year.

As I got ready to write this essay, I thought about the many stories my grandfathers told me about the war. As a little boy, I always enjoyed these stories. Now, at the age of fifteen, I wanted to remember everything they had told me. More importantly, I want to apply the lessons they taught to what I do in my own lifetime.

Both my grandpas volunteered for the war at the age of 17. Grandpa Frank grew up in Brooklyn and volunteered for the Air Force but was sent to the Infantry because he was color blind. My Grandpa Mario grew up in Queens. He started out in the Infantry where he became an instructor at the Officer Candidate School but he wanted to see combat. He tried to transfer to the Rangers and Paratroopers but O.C.S. wouldn't let him go. His persistence finally paid off. He went to the Air Force when he found out that O.C.S. could not block that transfer.

My Grandpa Frank entered combat during the Battle of the Bulge. He was assigned to carry the Browning Automatic Rifle but was later given a regular rifle and a satchel charge when his unit went through the Siegfried Line. Finally, towards the very end of the war, when attacks were expected by German tanks, my Grandpa was made part of a Bazooka team. I remember my father joking that his sergeant must not have liked him very much because he kept giving my grandpa the heaviest weapons and the most dangerous jobs. Grandpa Frank said his sergeant gave him those responsibilities because he trusted him.

My Grandpa Mario began flying combat missions over Austria, Poland and Germany in January of 1945. He flew 23 missions and had to crash land several times when his B-24 was badly damaged by flack. His commanding officer was a future U.S. Senator and vice-presidential Candidate named Lloyd Bensten!

My grandfathers won a lot of medals and ribbons. My Grandpa Frank even won the Purple Heart, but neither one ever bragged or told stories about how brave they were. Sometimes they would even say how scared they were and then they would usually make a joke.

I think my favorite story concerned my Grandpa Mario returning from a mission in a badly damaged plane. German fighters began to attack his helpless B-24. My grandpa called into his radio, "Angels, Angels we need you!"

His call to American escort fighters was answered by a P-38 "Lightning" and a P-51 "Mustang". The two American fighters chased off the Germans and the "Mustang" pilot escorted the limping bomber all the way home.

My Grandpa was impressed by the courage of those two American fighter pilots. He always said that he admired the sense of duty that they displayed in attacking a larger German force in defense of one B-24. I remember him saying that he was amazed at the way the P-51 pilot flew with his wing tip "almost touching the waist gun" of the wounded bomber as he escorted the B-24 to a safe landing. My Grandpa would end the story the same way every time. He'd tell how the Mustang flew so close that he could see the pilot's black face and that it was an African-American who saved him from being shot down that day!

In later years we learned that one of those brave fighter pilots was a "Tuskegee Airman"! If not for that individual American's character and determination to overcome prejudice, my Grandfather might not have survived the war.

After the War, both my grandfathers continued their service to their country. My Grandpa Frank became a New York City Fireman and Grandpa Mario became a New York City Motorcycle Policeman. Later Grandpa Mario became a School Board Member.

I have learned a lot of lessons from the stories my grandfathers have told me about WWII. I will never judge anyone by their color or religion. We are all Americans and we must all help to keep our country great. Another lesson is that it is important to take responsibility seriously. If somebody is depending on you, you have to do your best.

I think the biggest lesson I have learned, what can be called my Grandpas' legacy, is that as an American I have a duty to my country and my community and that when there are really big problems, doing that duty is more important than anything else.

My grandfathers emphasized the importance of setting goals. This past year, their example inspired me to dedicate myself to two major goals.

My first goal is to attend the United States Naval Academy and to play Football at Annapolis. The second goal is to become an officer with the United States Navy S.E.A.L.s.

Many people have said that I will never be able to achieve these goals but I am convinced that by following my grandfathers' example of perseverance, courage and responsibility I will be able to carry on their legacy of service to my country.

I am privileged to live in a country that was made great by the sacrifices of countless Americans who, like my grandfathers and that anonymous "Tuskegee Airman", chose to do their duty.

When I visited West Point two years ago I learned that the motto of the cadets is "Duty Honor, Country". That made me think of my grandpas and I felt proud!

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Chairman, I want to urge my colleagues to support the U.S. Army's School of the Americas located at Fort Benning, GA. For over 50 years the School of the Americas has been a powerful force for supporting and expanding democracy in Latin America. I believe that it is very useful for Latin American military officers to come to the United States to learn how to soldier in a democracy, to understand why America has been strong and free, and to study an experience which is totally different than the Latin American tradition of military dictatorship. Cuba, which does not participate in the School of the Americas, is the only remaining authoritarian or totalitarian regime in Latin America.

Since the U.S. military presence in Latin America has steadily been reduced during the

past several years, it is critical that we rely on exchange programs, such as the School of the Americas, to establish and maintain our military and civilian relationships as neighbors and friends with common interests. Like other exchange programs we have with Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union, the School of the Americas promotes American foreign policy and regional stability in Latin America. Moreover, the School of the Americas provides more Spanish language instruction in how to conduct counterdrug activities than any other institution available in Latin America.

Both foreign policy and military experts agree that the School of the Americas plays a crucial role in supporting U.S. interests in the region. As the former Commander in Chief of U.S. Southern Command, responsible for Latin America, and in his current role as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey called the School of the Americas the "preeminent military educational institution" for promoting and protecting human rights and democratic governance as well as fighting the illegal drug trade. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili calls the School of the Americas a critical asset in supporting democracy and combating narcotrafficking in Latin America.

I join the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the President's drug control advisor in supporting the School of the Americas.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Fox amendment. In a misguided attempt to save the African elephant, the Fox amendment would cut funding for the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources [CAMPFIRE]. Such a move would be disastrous.

I recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe, where myself and several of my colleagues witnessed the CAMPFIRE Program first hand. What we found was a program based on sound economic, scientific, and environmental principles. We found a program which works.

The CAMPFIRE Program uses free market principles to promote the conservation of Africa's valuable and irreplaceable natural resources. By providing economic incentives for the conservation of wildlife, CAMPFIRE has instilled a sense of national ownership over their natural resources into the people of Zimbabwe. Rather than viewing the African elephant as a menace, the people of Zimbabwe we now see the elephant as a natural treasure to be preserved. As a result, the