

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S
CENTENNIAL YEAR

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the following resolution recognizing the beginning of Northeastern University's centennial year.

Initially, founded in 1898 in a few rooms at the Y.M.C.A. in Boston, Northeastern University is now a national research institution enrolling more than 11,000 undergraduates, 5,000 graduate students, and 10,000 part-time students in seven colleges and nine graduate and professional schools. It offers a variety of educational programs including nursing, pharmacy, health sciences, business, computer science, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences.

Northeastern University holds a special place in the heart of Boston and in the higher education community. The university was initially created to provide educational opportunity for working families in Boston and its surrounding towns, and has remained fully committed to that mission as it has developed into a world-class research university. Today, the school boasts of its reputation for a top-notch faculty and it attracts students from across the United States and dozens of other countries.

Northeastern University developed an innovative model of cooperative education that is practical in today's workplace. Throughout their schooling, students combine their classroom instruction with on-the-job experience. Cooperative education has enabled Northeastern students to gain practical experience and job skills, thus giving them an edge over other recent college graduates.

Northeastern University has never forgotten its roots. It is deeply committed to its original purpose and it continuously reaches out to its surrounding communities by helping to prepare middle- and high-school students for college. In addition to providing health care services for children and families, and scholarships for hard-working students, the university generates innovative housing and economic development proposals to improve the quality of city life.

Northeastern University's 100 experience years of worthy of congressional and national acclaim.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL
BUSE

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Buse of Stanwood, WA, who was selected as the winner of the 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for Washington State.

His essay "Democracy—Above and Beyond" compares American democracy to an eagle perched for flight as we look into the new millennium. American democracy soars above and beyond all other forms of govern-

ment. He concludes that it is our duty to go above and beyond as citizens to preserve and protect our form of democracy.

I would like to congratulate Michael again for his success in this program and thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars for their support of America's youth. I ask unanimous consent that Michael's award-winning essay be included in the RECORD:

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"

Like an eagle perched for flight, American Democracy stands ready, looking into the twenty-first century; a new millennium. As it spreads its wings and gazes over the Earth, American Democracy soars above and beyond all other forms of government.

Why? Perhaps it is because our democracy is above indifference to the wants, needs, and wishes of its citizens. Our democracy is run for, of, and by its people. American Democracy is beyond the control of a single despot or a celebrated few.

Our democracy is founded on the idea that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary individuals. Abe Lincoln, our sixteenth President, comes to mind as a young man who rose from the depths of poverty to become perhaps the greatest President our country has ever known. His example—and a number of others—have proven repeatedly that no matter how humbly a child is born, he or she has a chance to engage the minds and capture the imaginations of our whole country. Our democracy is above and beyond all others simply because we have a chance. Under American Democracy we may do as we please, as long as we remain responsible citizens.

The beauty of American Democracy is that we all—man or woman, rich or poor, of whatever race, creed, or religion, have value and are valued. General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, "Hero of the Little Round Top", addressing his soldiers before the Battle of Gettysburg explained the notion of American Democracy by saying, "It's not the land, there's always more land, it's the idea that we all have value."

Today, our American Democracy is the wealthiest, most powerful and freest nation on Earth. Our people are free to criticize their leaders and to elect new ones. We have freedom of the press, religion, and speech. We are free from unjustified arrest by police and have the right to trial by a jury of our peers. Our system of Democracy, as laid out originally in the Constitution and Bill of Rights, was not perfect, but our forefathers anticipated the future, and insured us the power of amendment, which has allowed us over time to continue to work for civil rights for all of our people. Perhaps that is why the world looks to American Democracy as a model. Of the 191 nations listed in the World Almanac, 167 have written constitutions that were either influenced by or modeled after American Democracy.

In a speech delivered to the U.S. Congress, Vaclav Havel, President of the newly formed Czech Republic, asked: "Wasn't it the best minds of your country who wrote your famous Constitution and Bill of Human Rights? Those great documents which insure American Democracy inspire the world. They inspire us to be citizens."

As participants in what George Washington called the "great experiment of American Democracy" it is our duty to go above and beyond as citizens to preserve and protect our form of Democracy.

IN MEMORY OF RAY PEELER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Ray Peeler, Jr., whose death on June 26 at the age of 68 marked a great loss for the city of Bonham, TX. Ray was a popular local attorney, banker, and community leader. He also was a loyal Democrat whose close friends included the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson and the late Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Sam Rayburn. For many years Speaker Rayburn kept his local office on the third floor of the Peeler Building on the Bonham Square.

Ray was the third generation of his family to live in Fannin County. He graduated coaledictorian from Bonham High School, received his B.A. with high honors from the University of Texas at Austin and his L.L.B. in 1951. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean conflict.

He returned to Bonham, where he began his practice of law in 1953 and served as district and county attorney from 1960 to 1961. He was a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, and served as vice president of the State Jr. Bar of Texas from 1959 to 1960. He was active in Democratic politics and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1960.

Ray was a prominent member of the community and devoted his professional and personal talents to a variety of civic organizations. He served as chairman of the Bonham United Fund and was active in bringing new industry to Fannin County through his service as president of Bonham Industrial Foundation for 10 years. Ray was an honorary life sponsor of the Fannin County Historical Society and was past president and member of the Bonham Chamber of Commerce, Texas Pecan Growers Association and Texas Horticulture Society. He also was a member of the Bonham Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge. Ray served as president and chairman of the board of directors of Fannin Bank and chairman of the board of First National Bank.

Ray was selected for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi gamma Delta and Phi Alpha Delta and was named to Who's Who in the South and Southwest in 1993. He was a member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, where funeral services were held.

He is survived by his wife, R'Cella Dean Peeler, son and daughter-in-law William Bryan Peeler and Amy Peeler of Bonham, daughter and son-in-law Maribel Peeler Griffon and Mark Griffon of Friendswood; stepchildren, Cressie Renfrow Todd and Larry Renfrow; sister Virginia Cothran of Forth Worth; and several grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, it is a privilege for me to pay my last respects to a man who gave so much of himself to his profession, his community, and his country—Ray Peeler. He will be missed by all those who knew him and who loved him, and I am honored to have been his friend.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STANLEY B. PRUSINER, A "MOZART OF SCIENCE," ON HIS RECEIVING THE NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and pleasure to hail the accomplishments of Dr. Stanley B. Prusiner, the 1997 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr. Prusiner, a professor at the University of California San Francisco, joins 30 other Nobel laureates in the UC system, including UCSF's two previous medical honorees—microbiologists J. Michael Bishop and Harold Varmus, the current head of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Prusiner was awarded this premier distinction for his landmark discovery of prions, rogue protein particles that function as infectious agents. This remarkable innovation could eventually lead to a cure for dreaded neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. In the citation announcing Prusiner's \$1 million prize, Sweden's noted Karolinska Institute lauded the social impact of his achievement.

"Stanley Prusiner's discovery provides important insights that may furnish the basis to understand the biological mechanisms underlying other types of dementia-related diseases, for example Alzheimer's disease, and establishes a foundation for drug development and new types of medical treatment strategies."

For Dr. Prusiner and for his entire research team at UCSF, this recognition marks the zenith of a 15-year battle for a revolutionary theory that flew in the face of earlier scientific judgments about the causes of communicable brain diseases.

Prusiner's commitment to using his medical genius to helping others began long before his discovery of prions. Born in Des Moines, IA, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and, after long doing biochemistry research at the National Institutes of Health, moved to the Bay Area in 1972 to begin his residency in neurology at UCSF. That year, a pivotal event shaped the direction of Prusiner's expertise: He began treating a Marin County woman affected with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, an exceptionally rare and always fatal condition that mercilessly destroys the brain. Prusiner's patient passed away after 7 weeks in the hospital, but her sickness impelled her doctor to examine further links between Creutzfeldt-Jakob and similar neurological illnesses, and to seek the cause of these devastating diseases. "At that time," said Prusiner years later, "most people believed that the brain diseases were caused by slow viruses, but since I didn't know any virology, I figured I ought to look for some other explanation—and that's when I started hunting for proteins that might be involved." This research continued throughout his tenure as a Howard Hughes Investigator at UCSF from 1976 to 1981, culminating in his development of the prion theory in 1982.

Prusiner's then-radical pronouncement stated that the cause of Creutzfeldt-Jacob and related maladies was not a virus at all; rather, these illnesses emanate from prions, bio-

logically unique proteins which contain no DNA. Rather, in place of genetic reproduction, prions convert neighboring proteins, creating more disease-causing agents. This phenomenon has a devastating effect on nerve cells in the brain, ravaging tissue and leading to a certain death.

The scientific community greeted the prion theory with disbelief and outright criticism that targeted not only Prusiner's conclusions, but his ethics as well. His financial grants quickly vanished, and he was forced to operate for years with only in-house grants from the loyal UCSF administration. These frustrations strengthened Prusiner's dedication to his work and as the years progressed, the case for the prion theory became stronger and stronger. His opponents found little evidence to discredit his conclusions, and Prusiner and his dedicated team of researchers, notably brain pathologist Stephen DeArmond and pharmacologist Stephen Cohen, published hundreds of papers substantiating the role of the prion in a variety of contagious neurological diseases.

The grants returned, with significant contributions including a \$2.5 million prize from the W.M. Keck Foundation in Los Angeles and the Israeli Government's prestigious \$100,000 Wolf prize. Such resources enabled Prusiner to tie the existence of prions to the recent British epidemic of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, better known as mad cow disease, and to chart the course for eventual cures to BSE and other disorders. He also won the coveted Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award in 1994, generally regarded as a strong indicator of a future Nobel Prize. In the words of his colleagues, neurologist and biochemist Jiri G. Safar, Prusiner "carried on his shoulders the burden of proving this extraordinary new idea. * * * He single-handedly validated his theory. To do that, it takes a person of strong conviction and real guts." Mr. Speaker, we are all in debt to the courage of this outstanding man.

Dr. Prusiner's next challenge is to eradicate these diseases from the face of this planet. In the aftermath of the BSE outbreak in Great Britain, he has used his findings concerning the replicating and infectious nature of prions to lobby the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture to protect our food supply and make sure that such a plague will never occur in this country. Prusiner's research will also continue to seek the causes of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, and ALS. Once the origins of these diseases are discovered, treatments such as gene therapy and prion-blocking medications may be created to cure them or to prevent them from spreading. Prusiner expects that within the next 5 to 10 years we will see a drug to stop the progression of Creutzfeldt-Jakob, the disease that led him to this area of neurological research a quarter century ago.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Prusiner has earned our utmost gratitude and respect. As his UCSF colleague Dr. DeArmond remarked, he is truly a "Mozart of science." Prusiner's brilliance, dedication, and, most of all, his persistence are a credit to his country and to the San Francisco community where he has lived with his wife, Sandy, and his family for over 25 years. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 1997 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, Dr. Stanley B. Prusiner, for his most-deserved award, for his devotion to

finding answers to questions that have vexed the scientific world for generations, and for his dogged commitment to standing up for his life-saving beliefs in the face of cynicism and skepticism.

SALUTING PEG LEG BATES ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Peg Leg Bates on his 90th birthday. Mr. Bates is a world renowned entertainer, a successful businessman, and a local legend for Kerhonkson, NY, who has been a good friend to many people and warmed the hearts of even more.

Mr. Bates performed with some of the greatest names in show business: Pearl Bailey, Ed Sullivan, Sarah Vaughn, Cab Calloway, Nat King Cole, Lena Horne, Billy Eckstein, and many others. With his indefatigable spirit, determination, and considerable charm, Mr. Bates showed the world that there were not obstacles, only opportunities, and not insurmountable barriers, but barriers to be danced over. He did this, and so much more, with class, poise, and brilliance.

So on his 90th birthday this weekend I would like to have my fellow Members of the House of Representatives join me in saluting Pet Leg Bates and wish him many years of good health and happiness to come.

TRIBUTE TO CELIA CRUZ, THE QUEEN OF LATIN MUSIC

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Celia Cruz—world renowned singer of Latin music. The Smithsonian Institution will honor her on October 16, during a special program entitled "¡Azúcar!." The Smithsonian Honors Celia Cruz.

The Smithsonian will present Celia Cruz with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Music from the National Museum of American History's Programa Latino. Celia Cruz, popularly known as the "Queen of Latin Music", will donate one of her most famous costumes to the National Museum of American History.

Cruz first rose to fame in her native Cuba as one of the most exciting and creative performers of "mambo" of the late 40's. Since then, Cruz has achieved one success after another. In 1950, she joined the legendary orchestra La Sonora Matancera with whom she recorded 20 gold albums and toured the United States and Latin America. Her artistic alliance with Tito Puente—"the King of Latin Music"—as well as with Johnny Pacheco, Willie Colon, and the Fania All-Stars in the 1970's resulted in numerous albums and enduring fame. More recently, she has performed with David Byrne, Ray Barretto, Emilio Estefan, Willie Chirino, and Olga Tañón.