

However, this number is made all the more egregious because so many young children die as a result of unknown misuse of these devices.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this very important legislation in the days and weeks ahead. And, as Child Passenger safety awareness week, and all of the attention it has received, winds down, we must not relinquish our zeal to ensure that all parents, grandparents, and concerned adults receive any and all of the information and educational tools necessary to protect our Nation's children. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker. The aftermath of the tragic crash of TWA Flight 800 has placed an enormous burden on the resources of the people of New York. Today my colleagues GARY ACKERMAN and MIKE FORBES join me in introducing legislation directing FEMA to reimburse Suffolk County, Nassau County, the city and the State of New York for the expenses they incurred as a result of the crash. These expenses include the State and local costs for salvage operations, investigation of the crash and identification of the victims.

State officials break down the costs as follows: New York State, \$5 million; Suffolk County, \$5.8 million; Nassau County, \$325,000; and New York City, \$1.1 million, totaling over \$12.4 million. New York, especially my home county, Suffolk County, has been at the forefront of the efforts to find the answers to this catastrophe for the victims families and for the American people. State and local governments provided a strong foundation and infrastructure to enable the Federal agencies involved to operate effectively and efficiently. State and local officials provided a number of helicopters and support personnel, divers, housing for Federal officials, morgue services, mental health and crisis counseling for the victims' families. All of which placed a tremendous strain on State and local budgets. It also has taken its toll on the dedicated men and women who have devoted long hours to the salvage operation sometimes under dangerous conditions. Our legislation will ensure that these efforts do not translate into cuts in other needed State and county services.

The cause of the crash remains unknown, and since it happened over the ocean, finding out why it occurred has been extremely difficult. It is not known whether the crash is the result of terrorism—if so, the Federal Government will bear the costs, negligence—then those at fault are responsible for paying, the action of a private party, or something else. Nevertheless, simply because the cause of the crash is inconclusive, the financial burden of the recovery, investigation and identification of the victims should not fall unfairly upon the residents of the State of New York and the County of Suffolk. President Clinton recognized the unusual circumstances surrounding the crash, personally visited the site and pledged his support.

Last September, I asked the President to reimburse New York for the costs it incurred

from the disaster. Further, Governor Pataki and other New York Republicans have formally requested the Federal assistance. Our legislation will ensure that the people of New York will receive the financial relief they deserve, and I ask all members of this chamber to support this important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTER FOR AIDS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Center for AIDS upon the dedication of its new location in Houston on Friday, February 14, 1997. This larger, better-equipped center will ensure that HIV/AIDS patients and physicians have comprehensive and up-to-date information about AIDS treatment and research. I wish to thank and congratulate the founders of the center, L. Joel Martinez, Chris Kerr, and Michael Peranteau, for their life-saving leadership.

With tremendous medical advances such as protease inhibitors, AIDS is becoming more and more a treatable and survivable disease. But successful treatment depends on obtaining the right medical information as quickly as possible. That is what the Center for AIDS is all about.

This new center will provide critical sources of information, including a publicly accessible computer to search the Internet free-of-charge; a collection of medical and scientific journals specifically targeting HIV/AIDS; and a daily bulletin board on HIV/AIDS treatment options that patients can review. Through the work of its founders, the Center for AIDS created a newsletter called Research Initiative Treatment Action [RITA] to distribute to patients and advocates on a weekly basis. Each week, advocates, patients, and medical professionals receive the latest information about world-wide research and treatment options.

The center also provides free literature from AIDS organizations and pharmaceutical companies about various treatment options. With this information, patients and their doctors can make better decisions about their health and be better consumers of health care services. This will save lives and reduce treatment costs.

The center will also serve as a gathering place for community forums and monthly treatment meetings. With more space, the center will be able to serve more clients and help more people.

The Center for AIDS was founded in 1995 by three dedicated individuals, L. Joel Martinez, Chris Kerr, and Michael Peranteau. Both Michael and Joel are HIV positive. These individuals recognized that there was a need for accurate, up-to-date information about HIV and AIDS treatment. The center was created to fill this void. The center currently has a budget of \$238,000 all of which is privately funded.

Mr. L. Joel Martinez, a founder of the center, serves as the scientific and medical expert who analyzes and gathers relevant medical information about HIV/AIDS. Mr. Martinez also works with local medical professionals to ensure that HIV/AIDS patients are included in research protocols at the Texas Medical Center.

I commend the founders, staff, and volunteers of the Center for AIDS for their life-saving work. They are a vital link in our increasingly successful fight against AIDS.

MAKING CHANGES TO THE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES ACT

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the intent of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act [CBRA] to remove Federal incentives for new construction on undeveloped coastal barriers. However, we should not deny Federal flood insurance to individuals who purchased property in developed communities. One example is Huntington Marsh, SC, which was erroneously included in the 1990 Coastal Barrier Improvement Act. For this reason, I am introducing a bill to make technical corrections to maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

In 1988, the Department of Interior issued a report to Congress recommending coastal property for inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System. In a letter I received from Noreen Clough with the Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], she stated: "The service [FWS] did not recommend inclusion of Huntington Marsh area into the CBRS (report to Congress in 1988)." There is no information indicating why Huntington Marsh or the surrounding area known as SC-03 was included in the final map approved by Congress.

According to her letter, "Neither the Department nor the service contacted individual landowners that were potentially affected." Had this community been allowed the opportunity to voice objection, they would not have been included in the act because the property qualified as a developed rather than an undeveloped area. Under the description of the bill, developed communities are exempt from inclusion in the act. A community is considered undeveloped if it contains less than one structure per 5 acres. In 1990, more than 10 homes were built on the 20 acres located in the Huntington Marsh subdivision and many other property owners had plans for construction of homes on their property. This illustrates that the community would have been considered developed under the law.

Adding or removing areas from a CBRA unit requires an act of Congress. This bill does not amend the CBRA, it merely redraws the boundary to omit the 20 acres of Huntington Marsh from the restrictions under the act. This change will only affect property on the southwestern edge of SC-03 along Highway 17 that was erroneously included in the first place. I urge your support for this legislation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, because I was unable to participate in Tuesday's Special Order commemorating Black History Month, I

respectfully submit this extension of remarks on behalf of Sgt. Henry Johnson's candidacy for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Sgt. Henry Johnson, an African-American soldier from Albany, NY, performed extraordinary acts of bravery during World War I. However, he has yet to receive the honor and recognition he deserves from the Nation he so heroically served.

According to the Department of the Army, on the night of May 15, 1918, near Verdun, France, then Private Johnson, a member of the all-Black 369th Infantry Regiment, gallantly fought off an attack from an enemy patrol of at least 12 German soldiers. On that night, Johnson killed four German soldiers, wounded numerous others, rescued a wounded comrade, and captured a stockpile of weapons. He accomplished this feat by using grenades, rifle fire, and engaging in hand-to-hand combat with both the butt of his rifle and his French bolo knife. In the midst of the fighting, Johnson was severely wounded.

To acknowledge and reward this act of valor, the French Government honored Johnson on May 24, 1918—just 9 days after the engagement. Citing "his magnificent example of courage and energy," it awarded Johnson with the Croix de Guerre, for all intents and purposes the highest strictly military honor a foreign soldier can receive. Last year, 78 years after the fact, the Department of Defense finally awarded Henry Johnson the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, he deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor.

During this celebration of African-American History, I need not remind you of the great injustices that took place in our Nation during the years of legalized racial segregation. No one disputes that the values for which American stands were undermined during that period. I simply urge that those who bravely fought for those values, in spite of the then-existing practices of American society, receive their just reward.

The fact is that Sergeant Johnson and many other African-American soldiers performed heroic service during World War I. To date, only one of these men has received the Medal of Honor—and that was awarded 73 years after his death on the battlefield. This is wrong. We must correct this blemish on our history.

If we as a Nation are going to realize, as President Clinton noted in his State of the Union, that our "diversity is our greatest strength," we must settle the errors of our past. If we are going to "give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their greatness," we must honor those who have already earned great distinction.

To be sure, as our colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma, reminded us just a week ago, "Government can't ease all the pain" of racial division. But when Government can effectively act, it should; when Government has been part of the problem, it must be part of the solution. I therefore urge all the Members of this House to do justice to the memory of St. Henry Johnson and support the effort to award him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE LOANS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help our Nation's farmers survive disastrous outbreaks of plant viruses and diseases which virtually wipe out entire crops. This bill would ensure that crop losses resulting from plant viruses and other devastating plant diseases are included under the crop insurance program as well as the noninsured crop assistance programs and that agriculture producers who suffer these losses are eligible for emergency loans.

The current U.S. Department of Agriculture crop insurance and noninsured assistance programs do not specify which crops are eligible for insurance. This makes our farmers very vulnerable to administrative reviews on whether a particular crop is eligible for assistance usually with negative results.

Under current law, crop diseases are not eligible for low-interest emergency loans. Agriculture producers can only qualify for emergency loans when crop damages are caused by adverse weather conditions and other natural phenomena which have caused severe physical property damage or production losses. Since the USDA does not consider plant disease-virus a natural disaster, farmers are limited to USDA funds-resources which are due to weather as causing production or physical losses.

In Hawaii, nearly 300 farmers are suffering from the disastrous effects of the Papaya Ringspot Virus [PRV]. The disease produces lumpy, tasteless fruit and severely reduces production and eventually kills the plants. Papaya farmers estimate that they will incur \$27 million of losses due to the loss of these PRV-infested trees.

A similar situation is taking place in the Southwest and Southeast United States where wheat producers are battling the Karnal bunt fungus. This disease gives a fishy odor and taste to flour made from affected wheat. In one State alone, producers have already lost an estimated \$25 million.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's farmers are the envy of the world. They provide us with the highest quality food and ensure that we will always have a stable food supply. We need to provide financial assistance when they are hit by disaster, natural or disease. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help our farmers survive these natural borne disasters.

COMMEMORATION OF MALIBU CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS DAY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate February 14 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in the city of Malibu, CA. I would also ask that you join me in honoring the American Cancer Fund for Children and its

founder Steve Firestein for their diligent work helping children. The tireless work of this organization has not only highlighted the issue of childhood cancer in the United States, but has provided a positive influence on hundreds of young lives effected with cancer. I am pleased to offer my highest congratulations for the deep sense of community the American Cancer Fund for Children has given to the city of Malibu. I would also like to commend the city of Malibu as it adds itself to the growing number of communities who have adopted a Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in the Los Angeles area. I am very proud to have community-based efforts of this caliber in my district, and am thrilled to have the opportunity to bring such accomplishments to the attention of this body.

Each year approximately 10,000 more American children will be diagnosed with cancer, making cancer the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. Motivated by these losses the American Cancer Fund for Children has worked tirelessly to heighten community awareness of childhood cancer. All too often the costs incurred in the treatment of cancer far exceeds the average family's financial resources. The American Cancer Fund for Children has established itself to provide financial assistance to such families who find themselves experiencing financial hardship with a child undergoing a bone marrow transplant. The organization understands the importance of communities coming together to provide social services to those families in need, not wanting one child in need of treatment to be turned away because their families could not afford them. As the demands for cancer treatment grow each year, the organization has also taken on greater challenges to meet the demand for patient and family services to help ensure the quality of care to better promote the chances of survival. These services have provided an assortment of patient psychosocial services designed to nurture self-esteem, encourage peer interaction and better generate special patient communication. The Main Street Children's Services Program has received praise from across the United States for their efforts in providing gifts via visits for the emotional support of the children. These efforts have lifted the spirits of children nationwide through the simple gift of giving with a human touch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of the American Cancer Fund for Children in cooperation with the city of Malibu, in highlighting childhood cancer with the establishment of a Childhood Cancer Awareness Day.

"TOWNSHIP OF THE YEAR" BESTOWED ON MAINE TOWNSHIP

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the recent news that Maine Township, IL was named our State's "Township of the Year."

Bestowed annually by the Illinois Township Association, the award was presented to Maine Township for its very innovative programs for senior citizens. The award follows a