

S. 552

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve family-held forest lands, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 76

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 76, a resolution proclaiming a nationwide moment of remembrance, to be observed on Memorial Day, May 26, 1997, in order to appropriately honor American patriots lost in the pursuit of peace of liberty around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—TO COMMEMORATE THE 1997 NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. KEMPTHORNE (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. FORD, Mr. GLENN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 79

Whereas, the well-being of all citizens of this country is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas, more than 500,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens in their capacity as guardians of the peace;

Whereas, peace officers are the front line in preserving our children's right to receive an education in a crime-free environment that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas, 117 peace officers lost their lives in the performance of their duty in 1996, and a total of 13,692 men and women have now made that supreme sacrifice;

Whereas, every year 1 in 9 officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 is injured, and 1 in 4,000 is killed in the line of duty;

Whereas, on May 15, 1997, more than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in our nation's Capital to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor them and all others before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That May 15, 1997, is hereby designated as "National Peace

Officers Memorial Day" for the purpose of recognizing all peace officers slain in the line of duty. The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this day with the appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution designating May 15, 1997, as National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

This is the fourth year in a row I have offered this resolution and I am proud to be joined this year by 55 of my colleagues in honoring the brave men and women who serve this country as peace officers.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 1997, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is equal opportunity in Federal construction. For further information, please call the committee, 202-224-5375.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 82D ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Each year we remember and honor the victims and pay respect to the survivors we are blessed to have in our midst.

Approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed under the Turkish Ottoman Empire during a 28-year period which lasted from 1894 to 1921. April 24, 1915, serves as a marking point for the government orchestrated carnage that took place. On this date, over 5,000 Armenians were systematically hunted down and killed in Constantinople, including some 600 Armenian political and intellectual leaders.

History records that the world stood by, although it knew. Our Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, telegraphed the following message to the American Secretary of State on June 16, 1915: "Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eyewitnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under the pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

Not only did the world stand by while atrocities took place, but it also refused to learn the awful lessons that were taught during this period. One leader who did acknowledge the Armenian genocide was Winston Churchill, who wrote the following in 1929:

In 1915, the Turkish Government began and carried out the infamous general massacre

and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor . . . the clearance of the race from Asia Minor was about as complete as such an act, on a scale so great, could be. There is no reasonable doubt that this crime was planned and executed for political reasons.

But, for the most part, nations did not learn from history. The world looked away and genocidal horrors revisited the planet.

Each year we vow that the incalculable horrors suffered by the Armenian people will not be in vain. That is surely the highest tribute we can pay to the Armenian victims and a way in which the horror and brutality of their deaths can be given redeeming meaning. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Armenian genocide.●

TRIBUTE TO THE GORHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION" PROGRAM

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to 21 students from Gorham High School in Gorham, NH, who were recently selected to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" program to be held April 26-28 in Washington, DC. These high school students competed on the State level on February 10 for the opportunity to represent New Hampshire at the national competition, and will be among more than 1,200 students from 49 States and the District of Columbia to participate.

The distinguished members of the team representing New Hampshire are: David Arsenault, Jan Bindas-Tenney, Melissa Borowski, Alyssa Breton, Mire Burrill, Kevin Carpenter, Todd Davis, Rebecca Evans, Brad Fillion, Cindy Gibson, Patrick Gilligan, Sean Griffith, Reid Hartman, Sarah King, Michelle Leveille, Monica McKenzie, Ashley Thompson, Michael Toth, Julie Washburn, Tuuli Winter, and Melanie Wolf.

All 21 New Hampshire students will be tested on the Constitution and Bill of Rights before simulated congressional committees to demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional principles and their relevance to contemporary issues. The competition in Washington will consist of 2 days of hearings; and the 10 finalists, with the highest scores, will compete for the title of national winner on Capitol Hill in a congressional hearing room.

Michael Brosnan, a teacher at Gorham High School, also deserves special recognition for helping these students prepare for the intense constitutional testing. Raymond Kneeland the district coordinator of the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" program, Holly Belson, the State coordinator, and Howard Zibel, of the New Hampshire Bar Association, all contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the students reach the national finals. As a former teacher myself, I applaud all of them on their

commitment to enriching the lives of these students.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective about the history and principles of our Nation's constitutional government. I wish these young constitutional experts from Gorham High School and their teacher, Michael Brosnan, the best of luck in preparing for the April national finals. We are proud to have them representing New Hampshire, and wish them luck as they prepare to be America's leader in the 21st century. ●

[At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.]

TESTIMONY OF MAJ. MICHAEL DONNELLY

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, Maj. Michael Donnelly of Connecticut flew 44 missions for the Air Force during the Persian Gulf war. He is now afflicted with a neuro-muscular disorder he suspects was caused by chemical exposure in the war. I had the pleasure of meeting with Major Donnelly last week after he testified before the Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. His testimony provided a special insight into the plight of some Persian Gulf war veterans who fell ill after returning home.

Mr. President, I ask that his testimony be printed in the RECORD.

The testimony follows:

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MAJ. MICHAEL DONNELLY, U.S. AIR FORCE, RETIRED

Congressman Shays and members of this committee, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Major Michael Donnelly. I am not the enemy.

I was medically retired in October of 1996 after 15 years and 1 month of service as a fighter pilot in the Air Force. At the time Iraq invaded Kuwait, I was stationed at Hahn Air Base in Germany flying F-16s. My unit, the 10 Tactical Fighter Squadron, was attached to the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing and deployed to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on 1 January 1991 in support of Operation Desert Shield and then Desert Storm. My unit redeployed to Germany on the 15th of May 1991.

During the war, I flew 44 combat missions. On those missions I bombed a variety of targets, including strategic targets (airfields, production and storage facilities, missile sites, etc.), tactical targets (troops, battle-field equipment, pontoon bridges, etc.). I also flew Close Air Support, and Combat Air Patrol missions. Never during any of these missions was I warned of the threat of exposure to any chemical or biological weapons. Although we expected and trained for that eventuality, we never employed any of the procedures because we were never told that there was any threat of exposure. Had we been warned, there were steps we could have and would have taken to protect ourselves.

Unlike other veterans who have testified before you, I don't have a specific incident that I can remember during the war that might have caused my illness. However, I can tell you that I flew throughout the entire region of Iraq, Kuwait and much of

Saudi Arabia, to include in and around the oil smoke. Evidence now shows that chemical munitions storage areas and production facilities that were bombed by us released clouds of fallout that drifted over our troops through the air, and that's where I was. I know also of other pilots who do remember a specific incident that caused them to later become ill.

So while I cannot point to one event to explain my illness, I come before you today to tell you that I am yet another veteran from the Gulf War with a chronic illness. Upon return from the Gulf, I was reassigned to McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. It was here that I first started to experience strange health problems. It was nothing you could really pinpoint except to say that I didn't feel as strong as I once had or as coordinated. I felt like I was always fighting a cold or the flu.

By the summer of 1995, I was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. It was here that I believe my illness started and that I began to suspect that it was related to service in the Gulf. During the summer, I was exposed several times to malathion, which is a fairly dilute organophosphate-based pesticide used for mosquito control. The base's policy was to spray with a fogging truck throughout base housing where I lived with my family. I was exposed to the malathion fogging while I was running in the evenings. I would like to point out something I learned later: that organophosphate poison is the chemical basis for all nerve agents—it is a poison that kills just like a pesticide does.

It was immediately after my exposure to malathion that I started to have serious health problems. After this time, every time I ran I would get a schetoma—or blind spot—in front of my eyes and my heart would beat erratically. I started to have heart palpitations, night sweats, sleeplessness, trouble concentrating, trouble remembering, trouble taking a deep breath and frequent urination. I noticed that one cup of coffee would make me extremely jittery. I noticed that one beer would have an unusual intense effect on me. I was extremely tired much of the time. I had to put my head down on my desk to rest while I was working and I had to lie down at home before dinner after work.

It wasn't until December 1995 that I started to have trouble walking and experienced weakness in my right leg. It was then that I decided, right after the holiday season, I would go see the doctor. On the second of January 1996, I went to the flight surgeon at Sheppard Air Force Base. When I finished explaining my symptoms to him and mentioned that I had been in the Gulf War, he immediately started to tell me about the effects of stress. He told me that the other problems—heart palpitations, breathing difficulties, sleeplessness—were probably stress related, but that we needed to look into the weakness in the leg more, and I was referred to a neurologist.

During this first visit with the neurologist was when I first heard the line that I would hear throughout the whole Air Force medical system and that was: "There's no conclusive evidence that there's any link between service in the Gulf and any illness." Each time I heard this line, it was almost as if each person was reading from a script.

If an active duty field grade officer walks into a hospital and says he's sick and that he was in the Gulf War, why does the military not seize this opportunity to investigate whether there is any connection between service in the Gulf and this illness? How can they say they're looking for an answer when they deny it's even possible? How can they say there's no connection when they don't study the individuals who present symptoms

that might prove that connection? Instead, he gets "the line," which proves that no one is looking to see whether there is a problem. Only to deny that one exists. Why should I have to call and register for the Gulf War Registry when I'm active duty? I should automatically be put on the list as another person with a chronic illness who served in the Gulf. Again, if they were really looking for a problem, all they have to do is look.

My treatment included several trips to Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio for MRIs, CT scans, muscle tests and multiple blood tests. Each time I mentioned I was a Gulf War veteran, I got "the line." At one point, a doctor in Wilford Hall gave me a three minute dissertation on how my illness absolutely could not be related to my service in the Gulf. One thing I noticed during my four or five visits to Wilford Hall was a room on the neurology ward labeled "Gulf War Syndrome Room." In none of my four or five visits was the door to this room ever open or the light on. I started to realize that because the military medical system would not acknowledge my illness could be related to the Gulf War, I would not get help.

Once I realized that, I began to seek help from civilian doctors, many of whom had already made the connection between service in the Gulf and the high incidents of unusual illnesses among the war's veterans. They had all the proof they needed: the thousands of veterans coming to them desperate for medical treatment. Because the military has not acknowledged this connection, my family and I have been forced to spend over \$40,000 of our own money in these efforts. Our search led us to people around the country with the same illnesses who were also Gulf War veterans. In the last twelve months, I have traveled all over this country and even to Germany looking for help.

Incredible as it may seem, the Air Force medical system initially wanted to retire me with 50 percent disability and temporary retirement with a diagnosis of ALS. Only after we hired a lawyer, at our own expense, and went before the medical board, were we able to change that determination to 100 percent and permanent retirement. All the while, I was contending with my declining health and the trauma to my family. I chose to not to fight over whether my illness was combat related, because I'd already seen the stonewalling that was going on and because I wanted to move my family back home. That was my own personal decision, made at a time when I knew I had other and far greater personal battles yet to fight.

Upon my retirement from the Air Force, I found myself worked into the VA medical system. What alternative did I have after my 15 years of service? I guess I'm one of the lucky ones, since I was:

1. still on active duty when I got sick; and
2. given a poor prognosis, which required them to treat me and compensate me. What alternative did they have?

The VA bureaucracy is difficult and slow at best. I am suffering from a fatal illness, where every month matters. I can sit here today and tell you that despite my situation—which you would think would warrant expeditious treatment and action—I ran into a red tape and paperwork nightmare that continues to consume my life today. However, once I finally got to see them, the medical personnel who have treated me have been very kind and understanding, despite the fact that there isn't much they can do. Maybe if we hadn't had six years of cover-up, there would be something they could do.

To this day, no one from the DOD or VA has contacted me personally to involve me in any tests or studies. I myself have found more than nine other Gulf War veterans, some who have already come before you, who