

During those years, Merle Brady has been a true asset to the community and a friend and neighbor to all those who know him. A successful business man, Merle owned his own retail clothing store for many years, while operating a successful real estate business. For many years, he was Chairman of the Board of the Van Wert National Bank, and still serves as Director Emeritus.

A true American hero, Merle served bravely in the United States military in World War II where he received the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal. He is a life member of the American Legion, and has served as Post Commander, District Commander, Ohio State Commander, and National American Legion Executive Committeeman. Merle is still active in his American Legion Post.

Mr. Speaker, Merle Brady's service to the Van Wert community is endless. He was elected to the Van Wert City Council, and served two terms as Council President. Merle has been an active member of the Van Wert Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Elks, and the Trinity United Methodist Church. Merle has also given freely of his time and energy to the Van Wert Y.M.C.A. and Associated Charities Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that America prospers due to the outstanding deeds of her citizens. Without question, Merle F. Brady epitomizes that saying. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Merle F. Brady. Thank you for your unwavering contributions to the Van Wert area, and best wishes for the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, July 20th marks the 30th anniversary of Apollo 11's landing on the moon. This historic achievement was born of the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. President Kennedy saw the moon race as a means of demonstrating American technological superiority at a time when the Soviets were garnering all of the "firsts" in space exploration. It was a bold initiative that required the skills and teamwork of tens of thousands of people if it was to succeed. It is to their everlasting credit that the Apollo program succeeded beyond all expectations.

Astronauts Neil Armstrong, "Buzz" Aldrin, and Michael Collins were the emissaries of all of those hardworking Americans when they set off for the moon three decades ago. Yet when Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the Moon for the first time, he represented more than just America—he represented all of humanity. His footsteps marked the realization of a dream that had captivated the minds of countless generations through the ages.

In addition, Apollo was an undertaking that stimulated advances in science and technology. It inspired a generation of students to pursue education in math and science. And the images that the Apollo astronauts took of the bluish-white Earth floating in the black void

of space profoundly changed our perspective on global concerns such as the environment.

Of course, the Apollo program was a unique undertaking that cannot be replicated. Indeed, the Cold War that spawned Apollo is over, and we now are cooperating rather than competing in space exploration with our former adversaries. Moreover, many of our space activities are now focused on directly benefiting our citizens here on Earth—whether through meteorological satellites, communications satellites, navigation satellites, and so forth.

Yet I am confident that one day we will return to the moon, as well as venture to other parts of our solar system. When we do, we will be in the debt of all those who blazed the trail for us thirty years ago with the Apollo program.

NIH OFFICE OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES ACT OF 1999

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Congresswoman MORELLA in introducing the "NIH Office of Autoimmune Diseases Act of 1999." This legislation is intended to enhance the Federal government's research on autoimmune diseases and disorders. Most importantly, the Act highlights the urgency of treating autoimmune diseases as a priority women's health issue.

Many of our colleagues are familiar with diseases such as multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and chronic fatigue syndrome. But what is not well recognized is how these and dozens of other diseases are linked by autoimmunity. As the NIH explains, "If a person has an autoimmune disease, the immune system mistakenly attacks itself, targeting the cells, tissues and organs of a person's own body."

Today, we have identified at least eighty autoimmune diseases which lead to death, severe disability, and vitiate the quality of life. They inflict a tremendous toll on families and our communities. Collectively, autoimmune diseases affect five percent of the population, or more than 13.5 million Americans, causing untold mortality and morbidity in this country, as well as billions in health care expenditures and lost productivity every year.

What is most striking is the disproportionate impact of these diseases on women. Three quarters of those afflicted with an autoimmune disease are women. Multiple sclerosis is twice as common in women compared to men. And the best available research suggests that autoimmunity may be the cause of 50 to 60 percent of unexplained cases of infertility and is also a major cause of miscarriages.

Compounding the uncertainty surrounding the causation of many of these diseases and the need for effective therapies is a persistent lack of information and understanding about autoimmune diseases. The American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association recently found that two-thirds of all women suffering from autoimmune diseases had been labeled "chronic complainers" before being correctly diagnosed. No woman should have to experience such insensitivity and lack of awareness when seeking care for a life-threatening illness.

The Federal government is pursuing a broad agenda of research and education on autoimmune diseases. For several years, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has supported a multi-institute research program on the mechanisms of immunotherapy for autoimmune disease. There is an NIH research program for autoimmunity centers of excellence. And NIH institutes and the Office of Women's Health Research are focusing research funding on the genetic susceptibility to autoimmune diseases, as well as the role of environmental and infectious agents.

But it is clear that more can be done. The NIH recently established an autoimmune diseases coordinating committee, to help facilitate the innovative research being conducted on autoimmune diseases. Congresswoman MORELLA played a leadership role in this regard. The Congress has also dramatically increased NIH funding over the past few years, with the expectation that autoimmune disease research would benefit from this trend.

Our bill would take these promising developments a step farther. Progress on finding cures and treatments for autoimmune diseases would be expedited by a permanent office at the NIH dedicated to developing a consensus research agenda, as well as promoting cooperation and coordination of ongoing research. Such an office could serve as an advisor to the Director of NIH and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and act as a high-level liaison to the many important autoimmune disease patient groups.

The bill is endorsed and strongly supported by organizations including the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, National Coalition of Autoimmune Disease Patient Groups, Lupus Foundation of America, CFIDS Association of America, Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Myositis Association of America, Wegener's Granulomatosis Support Group, Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Coalition of Patient Advocates for Skin Disease Research, the National Alopecia Areata Foundation and the National Pemphigus Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, we urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring "NIH Office of Autoimmune Diseases Act of 1999."

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Gilman-Campbell-Maloney/Crowley, et al. Amendment to H.R. 2514, the American Embassy Security Act. Passage of this secondary amendment to the Smith amendment would allow up to \$25 million to be appropriated for the United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA) in FY2000 for vital family planning and maternal and child health care programs.

Some of my colleagues have suggested that funding the UNFPA would support the Chinese government's coercive abortion activities. Last year, they eliminated all U.S. funding for UNFPA in the omnibus appropriations bill due to concerns about China. This amendment would allow us to fund UNFPA, while actively discouraging the organization from any activity in China; indeed, one dollar of appropriated U.S. funds would be deducted for each dollar UNFPA spends of other donors' funds in China. Any U.S. contribution that would be made to the UNFPA in FY2000 would have to be maintained in a separate account, none of the funds could be spent in China, and UNFPA would have to certify that it does not fund abortions.

The U.N. Population Fund does not support abortion. In fact, UNFPA works to reduce the need for abortion by enhancing access to family planning. In addition to addressing the reproductive health needs of women, UNFPA devotes significant resources to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Cutting of funds to the U.N. Population fund for even one year will lead to disastrous results; it is estimated that the result of the elimination of U.S. funding for UNFPA in FY1999 appropriations will have led to 500,000 more unintended pregnancies and 200,000 more abortions throughout the developing world, along with 1,200 more maternal deaths and 22,000 more infant deaths. We cannot risk results like this for another year.

The U.S. government should not, as a matter of principle, hold family planning and UNFPA hostage to a legitimate concern about the conduct of the Chinese government. There is a well-founded concern about China's family planning program—not UNFPA's. The concerns of the U.S. government should be placed on the U.S.-Chinese bi-lateral agenda, along with other human rights issues, and linked as appropriate to trade and other negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join with me in support the Gilman-Campbell/Maloney-Crowley amendment to fund the United Nations Population Fund.

TRUST IS HIGHEST IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, one of the most frightening times of our lives is when we ourselves or one of our loved ones face a medical emergency. In this emergency situation, trust is the highest for medical professionals who are providing instant care to treat an injury or to save a life. In my own state, we are blessed in having the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians that helps to educate the physician staff of emergency departments at hospitals around Michigan.

The Michigan College of Emergency Physicians, chartered in 1969, was one of the first chapters of the American College of Emergency Physicians. It was only natural that Michigan be one of the first chapters since the American College was founded in 1968 by Dr.

John G. Wiegenstein, a Lansing physician who saw the need to develop the specialty of Emergency Medicine. Starting with 208 members in 1969 under the leadership of Dr. Gaus Clark as President, the organization has grown to nearly 1,100 members today under President Dr. Gregory Walker, and President-Elect Dr. Robert Malinowski.

The Michigan College of Emergency Physicians has sponsored educational programs to help improve the initial care of acutely ill patients. The 26th Michigan Emergency Assembly on Mackinac Island this weekend will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the College. Efforts like this annual assembly and the advanced pediatric life support course, the emergency resident assembly, and the advanced cardiac life support instructor course have helped to make Michigan a nationally recognized academic hub in emergency medicine.

Emergency medical services is a priority for the Michigan College, with its representation on numerous state boards and the EMS Expo—the largest education program for pre-hospital personnel in the state. The College is also proud of its legislative accomplishments in its development of the Michigan Emergency Medical Services law, providing the ability to deliver emergency medical services to the citizens of Michigan, its definition of "prudent layperson", the enforcement of safety belt requirements, and safety helmet legislation.

I recently had the opportunity to monitor emergency room operations at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw to see first-hand the demands of split-second decisions in life or death situations. I want to thank Dr. Mary Jo Wagner, Dr. Brian Hancock, and Dr. George Moylan for their courtesies and professional insights. I encourage each of our colleagues to visit an emergency room to truly understand the needs of emergency medicine.

Mr. Speaker, we rarely think of the need for emergency medical care. We and so many others just assume that it is going to be there. On a day like today, we should stop and thank the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians, and their colleagues around the nation, for working to perfect what we take for granted. I ask you and all of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in wishing the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians a very happy 30th anniversary, and for every success to President-elect Dr. Malinowski and Executive Director Diane Kay Bollman with their efforts to make sure, once again, that when we or a loved one face a medical emergency, a trained professional will be there to respond to our needs.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Gilman-Campbell-

Maloney-Crowley-Greenwood amendment to provide funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The UNFPA has long supported the right of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, and to have the information and means to do so, free of discrimination, coercion or violence. Accordingly, the UNFPA works to provide women and men with access to safe, effective, affordable and voluntary contraceptive methods of their choice, as well as access to health care for safe pregnancy and childbirth.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to address two myths that critics of the UNFPA commonly state regarding official UNFPA policies. The first concerns abortion and let me be very clear on this point. The UNFPA does not support or fund abortion in any way shape or form. UNFPA's activities are mandated by the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning.

Instead, the UNFPA works to prevent abortion through the provision of voluntary family planning services. In addition, the UNFPA has not, does not and will not ever condone coercion in population and family planning policies and programs. They are committed to the realization of the UN's charter and the universal declaration on human rights, and it condemns coercive practices in all forms.

Mr. Chairman, the world has always looked to the U.S. for its leadership in global population and development programs. Restoring our contribution to the UNFPA will again clearly signal our continued commitment to addressing this important global challenge. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to vote for the Gilman - Campbell - Maloney - Crowley - Greenwood amendment.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, each year in the developing world, nearly 600,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications. Maternal mortality is the largest single cause of death among women in their reproductive years. That's why we must support the Campbell/Gilman/Gejdenson/Porter/Maloney amendment to H.R. 2415 which would remove the prohibition against the U.S. contribution to the United Nations Funding Population Fund (UNFPA).

This amendment would authorize critical funding so that voluntary family planning services, like the UNFPA, can provide mothers and families in over 150 other countries new choices and new hope. Further, these services increase child survival and promote safe motherhood for nearly 900,000 women around the