

The Members of the IWG are Chairman Michael J. Kurtz of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Thomas H. Baer of Steinhardt Baer Pictures Company, Richard Ben-Veniste of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, John E. Collingwood of the FBI, former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzmann, Kenneth J. Levit of the CIA, Harold J. Kwalwasser of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), William H. Leary of the National Security Council staff, David Marwell of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Eli M. Rosenbaum of the Office of Special Investigations at the Department of Justice, and William Z. Slany of the Department of State. In addition, a Historical Advisory Panel composed of seven outstanding historians supports the IWG in their endeavors. Two historians, in particular have played a critical role in the work of the IWG—Dr. Richard Breitman and Dr. Timothy Naftali.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a mammoth undertaking. In its interim report on the implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act—a report which is mandated in Sec. 2 (c)(3) of the Act the IWG reported that all agencies completed a preliminary survey of their records which could potentially be covered by the Act's requirement for declassification review. In the first year of its operations, the IWG has screened over 600 million pages of material to identify potentially applicable files, principally at the CIA, Department of Defense, FBI, and archival records in the National Archives. During this initial screening, some 50 million pages of material meeting the criteria of the legislation has been identified and is being further screened to determine if declassification is covered by terms of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act.

This process is massive and tedious. An enormous amount of material needs to be categorized, catalogued, and systematically searched. In the all too frequent absence of an existing catalogue system responsive to the special focus outlined in the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, a line-by-line review of many, many documents has often been required.

Mr. Speaker, additional problems have occurred when documents are found which were given to the United States by allied foreign intelligence services with the understanding that the United States would not publicly disclose them. Special permission to make such documents public in many cases has required careful negotiation.

Despite these problems, in its short life span, the IWG has released 400,000 pages of documents which are now available to the public at the National Archives and Records Administration. In addition, the IWG has published "finding aids" to the records on Nazi war crimes and Holocaust-era assets which are housed at the National Archives in College Park in order to make the released documents more easily accessible and useable to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, while the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act authorizes the funds necessary to conduct all this work (Sec. 2(b)(d)), the IWG did not receive any appropriations for its heroic effort. The Office of Special Investigations (OSI) of the Department of Justice made available \$400,000 for IWG support from an appropriation related to the Act. The National Archives, which is charged by the President with the administrative support of the IWG, will

provide from its own budget nearly \$1 million in staff and other support services by the end of FY 2000. This support falls far short of what is required to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

In addition, the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act imposes a "Sunset Provision" of 3 years after enactment of the bill (Sec. 2(b)(1)). Mr. Chairman, I believe that the monumental task we as Members of Congress have given to the IWG cannot be fully completed in this time. Additional time certainly will be required.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget why these very able people work extremely hard to bring justice to victims and survivors of the Holocaust. It is simply unconscionable that war criminals can escape justice—many times by hiding in the U.S. It is essential that we work so that family members of the victims of Hitler's tyranny can know the fate of their loved ones, and that assets illegally seized from the victims not remain forever hidden.

Mr. Speaker, as this review clearly demonstrates, we have made incredible progress in opening up United States archives to records relating to the war crimes and the crimes against humanity that were perpetrated by the government of Nazi Germany.

The Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act (Sec. 2(c)(1)) defines Nazi war criminal records as those pertaining to persons who have committed their crimes under the direction of, or in association with the Nazi government of Germany, any government in occupied territories established by military forces, any collaborator government, or any government which was an ally for the German Nazi government. This broad definition clearly includes—and the Congress intended that it include—records relating to the Imperial Japanese government and atrocities that were committed under its responsibility throughout Asia.

I welcome and fully support the decision of the IWG to move now to wartime records relating to Imperial Japan in an effort to bring to light the war crimes that were committed by units of the Imperial Japanese military forces during World War II. The task of dealing with the Japanese records are more difficult. This requires the assembly of a whole new team of scholars and historians, and different language capability is required for these documents than is required for the Nazi German records.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the members of the IWG for their remarkable efforts. I also commend Chairman HORN for holding the hearings to review the implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act. The task which is established in the legislation is an important one as we work to bring a conclusion to this chapter in our history.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE CONCERNING USE OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTED SURPLUS FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT MEDICARE FUNDING

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) and programmatic changes by the Health Care Financing Admin-

istration have resulted in America's health care providers undergoing great fiscal adversities. BBA-compelled reductions to the Medicare program have resulted in cost reductions far greater than anticipated. Mr. Speaker, since the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which I supported, cuts in payment rates to Medicare health care providers have been far more significant and onerous than anticipated. As a result, many health care plans have withdrawn or are being forced to withdraw from the Medicare+Choice program because of inadequate reimbursement rates, particularly in rural areas.

Since passage of the BBA in 1997, Medicare spending is projected to have been reduced by more than \$226 billion—nearly \$123 billion more than Congress intended with the passage of the BBA. To alleviate some of these reductions, Congress passed, with my support, the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (BBRA). Nevertheless, according to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) projections, reductions to the Medicare program are more than four times the \$15 billion Congress added as part of the BBRA.

For years, I have been saying we can and must do more to address this healthcare problem. Today, with the CBO estimating that the non-Social Security surplus to the federal budget will exceed \$40 billion, the Congress has no excuse but to address this healthcare problem.

This measure expresses the "sense of Congress" that the House of Representatives that, upon receipt of midyear Congressional Budget Office (CBO) re-estimates of the non-Social Security surplus, should promptly assess the budgetary implications of such re-estimates and provide for appropriate adjustments to the Medicare program during this legislative session.

I would note that just last week, President Clinton proposed \$21 billion over five years and \$40 billion over ten years in restorations for these providers. Regrettably, the flawed Republican prescription drug bill that passed the yesterday failed to include restoration of these BBA cuts, as the President has advanced.

The Democratic Medicare prescription drug plan, that the Republicans were scared to allow this body to vote on yesterday, included these payment restorations. This resolution is a belated recognition by the Republican leadership that the improved budget outlook with larger projected surpluses not only makes these payment adjustments possible, but makes them essential.

Mr. Speaker, in light of economic performance that far surpasses any expectations, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in further relieving some of the unanticipated effects of the BBA 1997 and join me in supporting H. Res. 535.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT OF 2000

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the National Flood Insurance Program

Fairness Act of 2000. This February many of my constituents were placed into a special hazard flood zone, a designation which necessitated the purchase of flood insurance. These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until two months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice. This exacerbated an already difficult situation, as residents who had not seen flooding in decades or a lifetime had little notice to purchase costly insurance.

Several residents who did not believe they were in the flood zone hired a surveyor at their own expense. The data provided by this private surveyor resulted in their homes being removed from the special hazard flood zone. While these residents were not required to purchase flood insurance, they did spend over \$200 each for the surveyor. They were told by FEMA that they were responsible for that expense, even though the mistaken flood zone classification was made by the county engineers.

Clearly the national flood insurance program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice and due process. That's why I am proposing this legislation.

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act of 2000 would do the following: Require the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community affected by changes in Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The Director will be required to provide a copy of the revised map, along with a statement explaining the process of appeal. The director will also provide the affected community sufficient information to identify which homes are affected. Require the Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. Require the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Require FEMA to reimburse a resident for reasonable costs incurred in connection with a surveyor or engineer for an appeal to the Director which is successful. This does not include legal services incurred by the resident.

It is my hope that the legislation will allow communities to better work with FEMA to ensure that residents are given sufficient, fair, and timely notice if they will be required to purchase flood insurance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, during the consideration of H.R. 4762, legislation to require Section 527 disclosure, my vote was not recorded on final passage.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall 341. I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD after Rollcall Vote 341.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SERVICE- MEN OF USAAF B-17 40-2072

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor forty American soldiers killed over fifty-seven years ago in a terrible aviation accident. This mishap occurred in Bakers Creek, Queensland, Australia on 14 June 1943. At the time, it was not only the worst aviation accident in Australia, but also the worst aviation accident of World War II.

The aircraft was operated by the United States Army Air Force 46th Transport Carrier Squadron, 317th Troop Carrier Group (46TCG) of the 5th Air Force, United States Army Air Force, and was one of many B-17 aircraft removed and converted from combat status and placed with the 46th as a transport aircraft. Shortly after takeoff from the Mackay airport in Bakers Creek, Australia, their B-17 flying Fortress lost altitude, falling to the earth in a slow and steady bank and crashed in a ball of flames. In addition to the six crew members, thirty-five soldiers were on board, returning to their posts after being on leave in Mackay. Their names, rank, and units follow:

Crew: 1/Lt. Vern J. Gidcumb, Pilot, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; F/O William C. Erb, Co-Pilot, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; 2/Lt. Jack A. Ogren, Navigator, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; S/Sgt. Lovell Dale Curtis, Crew Chief, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron; S/Sgt. Frank E. Whelchel, Crew Chief, 374th Troop Carrier Group, 22nd Troop Carrier Squadron; Sgt. David E. Tileston, Radio Operator, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 46th Troop Carrier Squadron.

Passengers: Pfc. Arnold Seidel, 5th Air Force, 415th Signal Company; Pvt. Ruben L. Vaughn, 5th Fighter Command, HQ Squadron; T/5 George A. Ehrman, 5th fighter Command, Signal HQ Company; S/Sgt. Roy A. Hatlen, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; S/Sgt. John W. Hilsheimer, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; Sgt. Dean H. Busse, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; Cpl. Raymond H. Smith, 35th Fighter Group, 40th Fighter Squadron; Maj. George N. Powell, 49th Fighter Group, HQ Squadron; Pfc. Jerome Abraham, 49th Fighter Group, Hq Squadron; Pvt. Charles, D. Montgomery, 49th Fighter Group, 7th Fighter Squadron; Capt. John O. Berthold, 49th Fighter Group, 8th Fighter Squadron; Sgt. Carl A. Cunningham, 49th Fighter Group, 8th Fighter Squadron.

Sgt. Charlie O. LaRue, 49th Fighter Group, 8th Fighter Squadron; Sgt. Leo. E. Fletcher, 38th Bombardment Group, 405th Bombardment Squadron; Sgt. Donald B. Kyper, 38th Bombardment Group, 405th Bombardment Squadron; Cpl. Franklin F. Smith, 38th Bombardment Group, 405th Bombardment Squadron; T/Sgt. James A. Copeland, 8th Service Group, HQ Squadron; Cpl. Charles W. Sampson, 8th Service Group, 11th Service Squadron; Pfc. Dale Van Fosson, 8th Service Group, 1160th Quartermaster Company; Pfc. Kenneth W. Mann, 36th Service Group, 374th Service Squadron; Pfc. Charles M. Williams, 455th Service Squadron; T/5 William A. Briggs,

478th Service Squadron, 1037th Signals; Cpl. Edward Tenny, 479th Service Squadron.

Pfc. Norman J. Goetz, 480th Service Squadron; Pfc. Frederick C. Sweet, 481st Service Squadron, 46th Ordnance Company; T/Sgt. Alfred H. Frezza, 27th Depot Repair Squadron; Cpl. Jacob O. Skaggs, Jr., 27th Depot Repair Squadron; Pvt. James E. Finney, 27th Depot Repair Squadron; Pvt. Raymond D. Longabaugh, 842nd Aviation Engineer Battalion; Cpl. Marlin D. Metzger, 374th Troop Carrier Group, 6th Troop Carrier Squadron; Pfc. Frank S. Penska, 374th Troop Carrier Group, 6th Troop Carrier Squadron; Sgt. Anthony Rudnick, 565th Signal Battalion, Company A; Pfc. Vernon Johnson, 440th Signal Battalion, Company A; Pfc. John W. Parker, 809th Chemical Company.

Mr. Speaker, although these men came from twenty different states, were from many different walks of life, and served in many different units, their common purpose was one: service to our nation. Until recently, the details of this mishap were classified by the Air Force, but now that the incident is available for public attention, I desire to honor the memory of these fine young men.

I applaud the efforts of people like Mr. Colin Benson, who is a historian for the Mackay chapter of the Returned and Service League (RSL) of Australia. Mr. Benson's devotion to obtaining the records of the incident and seeking recognition for these men has been long and arduous. As an Australian, Mr. Benson's dedication to our American soldiers is commendable. Rarely does a foreign country applaud the efforts and sacrifices of another, and strive so hard to honor their dead. I also applaud Mr. Eugene D. Rossel's commitment and dedication to the disclosure of this terrible mishap. He is that type of American who will not rest until heroes like the men I listed above are recognized for their personal sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we give thanks to all our veterans for the sacrifices they made for our great nation. Unfortunately, we must also live with the knowledge that some of our servicemen and women do not live long enough to become veterans. They give their lives so that ours might be better, and the men of B-17 40-2071 did no less. May we continue to recognize and memorialize our fallen servicemen and women, long into the future.

CONGRATULATING 30 SIXTH GRADERS OF SHADY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a great day, on which 30 sixth grade students from Shady Lane Elementary School reached all of the appropriate levels on their Terra Nova test. Ms. Pat Campanile's sixth grade class is an outstanding group of young people. I wish the best of luck to the following group of sixth graders: Pedro Alvarez, Angelica Beltran, Jeffrey Clement, Da Juane Collins, Shannon Costro, Casaundra Davis, Erin Feeney, Julia Fluke, Kalem Francis, Lacey Hall, Matthew Hanratty, Gina Hinchliffe, Darrell Jenkins, Sachi Jonas,