

exist between states and improving the newborn screening system. The Hereditary Disorders Newborn Screening Act of 2000 will establish a grant program for the states to be administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration to achieve this and other important related goals in an effort to strengthen our nation's newborn screening system.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in eliminating these testing disparities and the preventable tragedies they produce by cosponsoring the Hereditary Disorders Newborn Screening Act of 2000.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNGER AMERICANS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce, along with my colleagues Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. FROST, and Mr. GILMAN, the Younger Americans Act. This is landmark legislation that will dramatically increase after-school opportunities for young children and teenagers by providing them with adult mentors, education, sports, and volunteer activities.

As any parent or teacher knows, the best way to keep kids out of trouble and help them learn and grow is to keep them busy and give them opportunity. Today's bill is an historic opportunity to dramatically expand safe and exciting programs for children and youth after school, a time when too many kids suffer from a lack of activity and adult supervision. A recent Urban institute study found that one in five young people age 6–12 are left without adult supervision after school and before their parents come home from work, a critical period during the day to keep youth both positively engaged and out of trouble.

Thirty-five years ago, Congress made a decision to help seniors and passed the Older Americans Act. In doing so, Congress launched a series of highly effective local efforts that have improved and enriched the lives of our nation's elderly. It helped pay for senior centers, Meals on Wheels, and community service programs like Green Thumb.

For too long, however, Congress has ignored the needs of our nation's young people. It has failed to make the issues of young people a priority and has failed to make an adequate investment in their development and well-being.

Our new bill attempts to correct that oversight. Today, we seek to repeat the success of the Older Americans Act by funding a national network of high-quality programs tailored to the particular challenges faced by youth today.

Too often, we find that public programs for young people focus on the problems of youth and promote piecemeal policies that seek to redress negative behaviors like juvenile delinquency or teen pregnancy.

But the evidence shows that the most promising approaches are those that foster positive youth development, build social and emotional competence, and link young people with adult mentors. This is the future of youth social programs in the 21st century and it is an approach we seek to advance through this legislation.

The Younger Americans Act will help coordinate and fund youth-mentoring, community service through volunteerism, structured academic and recreational opportunities, and other activities aimed at fostering the positive educational and social development of teens and pre-teens.

Under the bill, the federal government would distribute funds by formula to community boards that would oversee the planning, operation, and evaluation of local programs. Funding for local programs in the initial year would be \$500 million, and would rise to \$2 billion in 2005, in addition to matching funds provided by local and state governments and the private sector.

To qualify, each local program would be required to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated system of youth programs with the following five general components: ongoing relationships with caring adults; safe places with structured activities; access to services that promote healthy lifestyles, including those designed to improve physical and mental health; opportunities to acquire marketable skills and competencies; and, opportunities for community service and civic participation.

Thirty percent of funds would be targeted to youth programs that address specific, urgent areas of need such as youth in correctional facilities and situations where youth are at high risk due to neglect or abuse.

The bill has a vast national coalition of supporters including former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the National Urban League, America's Promise, the Child Welfare Leagues of America, United Way, the National Mental Health Association, and others.

I want to thank all of members of the coalition behind this bill for bringing us together. I applaud their work on this legislation and the work that they do every day in each of our local communities.

I want to express special appreciation to all of the young people from these associations, who have rightly played such a key role in drafting and advocating for this legislation.

Congress has enacted many worthwhile programs to help young people. But the bill we are introducing today has a different message. Our bill responds to the tremendous desire of young people to have the greatest opportunity possible to be active, creative, and productive citizens in our society, rather than receiving society's help only after they are in trouble. Kids are asking to be given a chance to make a difference in their own lives. We are saying today that that is exactly what Congress can and should do.

I am confident we can make that happen. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation.

HONORING THE 352ND FIGHTER GROUP, THE BLUE NOSED BASTARDS OF BOSNEY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a special group of World War II veterans.

The 352nd fighter group, known as the Blue Nosed Bastards of Bosney, was named for the

farm land where they were based and the bright blue paint on the cowling of each of their P-51 Mustangs. The primary purpose of the fighter group was to escort bombers across the English Channel to France and Germany (and eventually Berlin) where they bombed the Germans relentlessly. Once the bombers had completed their missions and returned to base, the 352nd would attack various military targets before returning home. The fighter group also participated in D-Day by neutralizing the German Air Force before the invasion and then providing cover for the Allies during the invasion.

Since the end of World War II, the brave men of the 352nd fighter group have reunited every year somewhere in the United States. This year will be their 50th reunion which is being held in Richmond, Virginia. It will also be their last reunion. This historic reunion was brought to my attention by Howard Polin, a corporal in the Army Air Corps, who served on the ground crew with the 352nd fighter group in England from December 7, 1942 until February 4, 1946.

I want to take this opportunity to salute the men of the 352nd fighter group. They, along with the millions of young men and women who served our country in uniform during World War II, served side by side to restore the peace and the freedom to those overwhelmed by tyranny.

Americans of all religions, of all races, and of diverse political philosophies, came together on the battlefield and on the homefront, helping to extinguish the flames of oppression and the evil that infected mankind throughout the world. America provided a beacon of hope in a dark sea of despair.

We must never forget those brave men and women who served in the war that changed our future. Since they have returned home, they have faithfully served this country with dignity and with strengthened character. They have all helped to create the single greatest country on the face of the earth and have altered, for the better, the future of mankind, both at home and abroad.

America can never fully repay her veterans. However, we can honor these courageous individuals by treasuring the freedom they preserved.

Mr. Speaker, the men of the 352nd fighter group all answered the call to duty when their country needed them. They are true American heroes.

CONGRATULATING PORTER-STARKE SERVICES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Porter-Starke Services, located in Porter County, Indiana, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary this Friday, September 22, 2000. Porter-Starke Services will commemorate its 25 years of dedicated service to the community of Northwest Indiana in a gala celebration entitled "A Silver Lining," to be held at the Porter County Expo Center in Valparaiso, Indiana. The celebration will serve as an opportunity for Porter-Starke to reaffirm its commitment to excellence in mental health services for individuals in

Valparaiso, Portage, and the surrounding communities.

Porter-Starke Services grew from a grassroots effort initiated by citizens located within ten miles of a large state mental hospital. Concerned with the quality of care provided by the state hospital, the volunteers sought to provide improved care alternatives for those whose lives are affected by mental illness. To that end, Porter-Starke Services was incorporated in 1967 as LaPorte-Porter-Starke Services, and those volunteers served as its first board of directors. The name of the center reflected the three counties involved in the original effort. By 1968, LaPorte County had withdrawn from the group to form its own center, the Swanson Center for Mental Health. Thus, in 1968, the charter was altered, and Porter-Starke Services was born.

From 1967 through 1973, Porter-Starke Services' volunteer board of directors worked tirelessly to raise the capital to build an adequate facility, find a location suitable for the main center, and organize a comprehensive and effective program. Ultimately, land was donated by the Urschel family, and state and local funding was secured for financing construction of a facility in Valparaiso, Indiana. During the past two decades, Porter-Starke has continued to grow and change, reflecting the needs of the communities while remaining committed to the highest caliber of mental health care.

Over its 25 years of development, Porter-Starke has been fortunate enough to receive support and assistance from numerous community leaders and good Samaritans in Northwest Indiana. This year, Porter-Starke Services and the Mental Health Association of Porter County are recognizing several of these individuals for their dedication and commitment to the mental health field at a special dinner, prior to the gala celebration at the Expo Center. Larry Sheets and Lee E. Grogg will receive the Aled P. Davies Award for Public Policy on Health, the Gale C. Corley President's Award will be presented to Charles Walker, and the Patient Care and Advocacy Award will be given to John Wilhelm. Marilyn Lindner will receive the Porter-Starke Award for Community Mental Health, while Karen Conover will receive the Robert Anderson Community Education and Service Award. The Mental Health Association of Porter County will present Randy Zromkoski the Distinguished Service Award, Julane Corneil the United Way Agency Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Cooks Corners Elementary School, Kenya Jenkins, and Velma Strawhun will all receive the Friends of the Mental Health Association Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the administrators, health care professionals, and countless individuals who, over the years, have contributed to Porter-Starke's success in achieving its standard of excellence. Their hard work has improved the quality of life for everyone in Indiana's First Congressional District.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON BUDGET CONCEPTS ACT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the National Commission on Budget Concepts Act.

Over three decades ago, President Lyndon Johnson established his Commission on Budget Concepts. The Commission's task—to make the Federal budget a more useful document for public policy making—was no easy assignment. Nonetheless, the Commission put forth many sound suggestions that policy makers and the public embraced. That was thirty-three years ago.

Times have changed. Before Republicans balanced the budget, we had deficits as far as the eye could see. Now we are forecasting surpluses in the trillions of dollars. Suddenly everybody agrees that the Social Security surplus should not be touched. We are taking trust funds offbudget. We are paying off principle on the debt.

Mr. Speaker, we are treading on unfamiliar ground. We should establish a new commission that will review the federal budget in today's terms, and figure out how it can best be presented in today's climate.

GAIL M. EDWARDS: A TRUE AMERICAN

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gail M. Edwards on the occasion of his retirement, after nearly thirty-five years as a pilot with Trans World Airlines (TWA).

Gail is an ideal American and a man whose life and career have made us proud. He was born on July 16, 1935 and grew up in Indiana with his mother, Dorris Wannetta Edwards, his father, Harold Perry Edwards, and his brother, Victor Royce Edwards. He was the first of his family to graduate from college, and he received his degree from Indiana University in 1957.

He joined the United States Air Force immediately after college, fulfilling his lifelong goal of flying. As a child, he had spent many hours building model airplanes and hanging them around his room. He volunteered to fly volunteer airlift missions to Vietnam during the Vietnam War and then served in the Air National Guard for many years after the war, retiring as a Full Bird Colonel, Vice Wing Commander, Tactical Airlift Wing. He received two Air Force Commendation Medals.

Years later, when the nation was in the Gulf War conflict, he volunteered again. He ran into the Commanding General of the California Air National Guard and said, "Call me if you need a grizzly, gray-haired old man to fly a 130." They both smiled and Gail knew he wasn't going to get a call, but they also both knew if he did get a call, he would say, "You bet!"

Gail loved the Air Force for opening up vast vistas for him. He believed the Air Force was a "God-send." He loved every minute of it.

While on duty in England and Japan, Gail met and married Kathleen Riley, an English/Speech/Drama teacher on American Airforce bases, in 1962.

Leaving the Air Force in January, 1966, he went to work for TWA and has been a pilot for TWA for nearly thirty-five years. He has said that after the Air Force taught him to fly and allowed him to experience the world, TWA gave him the opportunity to share it with his family and all the other passengers.

Gail lives with his wife of 38 years in Redondo Beach, California. His children are Kimberly Ellen Edwards (32) of San Diego and Jonathan Kyle Edwards (28) of Scottsdale.

He enjoyed working for TWA, and even more, he loved serving his country. He is extremely patriotic, just the kind of citizen we all want to be. He has volunteered with the United Methodist church, Little League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Indian Guides, and Indian Maidens. He built play houses for his children and helped them with their homework. But first and foremost, Gail is an American and a pilot. He loves his family, he loves his job, and he loves his country.

I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Gail Edwards and to thank him for his service to TWA and to his nation.

IN HONOR OF MATHEW LOBAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mathew Lobas, of Parma, Ohio, who was recently elected National Commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. (PLAV). He took the Oath of Office on August 22, 2000 at the National Convention in Tunica County, Mississippi.

Mathew Lobas demonstrated his dedication to his country more than 50 years ago when he served in the United States Naval Construction Battalion in Southeast Asia during World War II. He joined the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) following his honorable discharge from the Navy in August 1946. Throughout his 54 years of membership within the PLAV, Lobas has held a number of important positions, ranging from Post Commander to State Commander to National First Vice Commander. He has continuously advanced PLAV's issues at the local, state and national levels. In 1994, he was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding service in helping to start new posts in Florida and Nevada.

In addition to his noteworthy work on behalf of PLAV, Lobas is remarkably active in numerous other organizations in the Cleveland area, such as the American Legion, the VFW, the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County, and the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland, where he is responsible for the placement of American flags at the grave sites of deceased veterans. He also dedicates many hours to the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma, Ohio, where he served as President of the Parish for over six years.

Mathew Lobas currently resides in Parma, Ohio with his lovely wife of 50 years, Olga; they have two children and four grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in