

political status options. Our approval of the \$2.5 Million request evidences our expectation that the White House will provide realistic options upon which to base a future status referendum. It can only responsibly allocate the funds for the consideration of options that are realistic.

Puerto Rican Americans have contributed to this Nation for over 102 years, both in peace and in wartime, and deserve the opportunity to resolve the uncertainty regarding their political status based on clearly defined status options consistent with the Constitution and U.S. law and with the support of Congress. This legislation along with realistic status options to be provided by the Administration will help us honor their contributions by moving the process of self-determination forward towards the establishment of a permanent and final political status for Puerto Rico.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. THELMA F.
RIVERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Thelma F. Rivers of Timmonsville, South Carolina, prior to the celebration of her 115th birthday.

Mrs. Rivers was born on November 3, 1885, in Darlington, South Carolina, to a mother and father who were born into slavery. This makes her one of the few people to have ever lived to experience three centuries of American history. Her sharp memory is treasured by all. When Mrs. Rivers reminisces about her youth, she remembers picking two bales of cotton every day and sewing quilts with tobacco thread.

Remarkably, Mrs. Rivers remains independent and capable despite her years. She is on no medication, and has no use for eyeglasses, hearing aids, or canes. Living alone until last year, she even chopped her own wood, being that she chose to remain living in a home still furnished with a wood burning stove. Many of her younger counterparts can't even boast of this type of health and autonomy.

Mrs. Rivers has been blessed with several children, nearly 100 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren, and the list continues. She attributes her long life to her faith in God and allowing Him to "hold her hand while she runs this race."

Mrs. Rivers has won no gold medals or Nobel prizes, but today, having lived through 115 years is a tremendous and commendable achievement. It is a testament to faith, strength, love, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to this miraculous South Carolinian upon the celebration of her birthday.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE CEN-
TENNIAL OF SYMPHONY HALL IN
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to one

of America's most historic crown jewels, Symphony Hall, as it celebrates its centennial and its many contributions to Boston, the Nation and the world.

The Hall was the brainchild of "Major" Henry Lee Higginson, founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO). In the early 1890s, Higginson made the decision to build Symphony Hall due to the fact that the Boston Music Hall was no longer meeting the needs of the BSO and its patrons.

Major Higginson chose Charles Follen McKim of the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White as the architect of the Hall. At that time, McKim was the most prominent architect in the United States. However, one of the most influential persons involved in the project was a Harvard physicist by the name of Wallace Clement Sabine. Mr. Sabine, the founder of the science of architectural acoustics, served as acoustical consultant during the construction of the Hall. As a result of Sabine's input, Symphony Hall became the first concert hall designed with the aid of modern acoustical science, and today is ranked among the three best acoustical concert halls in the world.

Ground breaking on the Hall took place on June 12, 1899 and it opened its doors on October 15, 1900. Ever since its opening, Symphony Hall has played a major role in new music activity. It has been the scene of more than 250 musical world premiers, including major works by Samuel Barber, Aaron Copeland, George Gershwin, and John Williams.

Though it is principal home of the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops orchestras, other performing artists use it 60-70 times a year. It is also interesting to note that for many years Symphony Hall was the largest public building in Boston and served as the city's major civic gathering place. Among such civic events were: the First Annual Automobile Show of the Boston Automobile Dealers' Association (1901); a debate on American participation in the League of Nations, advocated by Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell and opposed by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge (1919); and all the inaugurations of Boston's Mayor James Michael Curley.

The Hall has regular radio and television broadcasts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops. The first radio broadcast took place on January 23, 1926, with the first national radio broadcast took place on October 4, 1930 in honor of the BSO's 50th anniversary. Television broadcasts from Symphony Hall began in 1963 and in 1969 the program Evening at Pops was launched in co-operation with WGBH. This program has gone on to become the second longest-running series on public television, after Sesame Street.

Today, Symphony Hall continues to have a profound impact on the world of music and maintains its distinction as one of the world's finest concert halls. The Department of the Interior recently paid fitting tribute to Symphony Hall's national and historic significance by designating it a National Historic Landmark. I have no doubt that Symphony Hall will continue to be a strong influence in the world of music for the next century and I want to extend my heart-felt congratulations to all those persons that have been entrusted with maintaining the legacy of Symphony Hall. So I close with wishing Symphony Hall a happy birthday and the good fortune of celebrating at least another one hundred.

RECENT VIOLENCE IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, after learning this morning about the latest violence in Israel. News reports indicate that two Israeli reserve soldiers were killed in the West Bank town of Ramallah. The Israeli soldiers were detained by the Palestinian police after they inadvertently made a wrong turn down a street, and were taken to a police station. Apparently a mob of Palestinians broke into the police station, slaughtered the Israeli soldiers, and paraded their bodies through the streets.

I call on Mr. Arafat to live up to his obligations under the Oslo Accords, and to maintain public order and calm in the West Bank through a vigorous use of the Palestinian police force. Let us remember that the Palestinians now fully control over 40% of the West Bank and Gaza, with over 95% of the Palestinian population under the civil administration of the Palestinian Authority. As the Palestinians gain greater authority and control over their domestic affairs, they also must shoulder the additional security responsibilities that come hand-in-hand with territorial control. The Palestinians must ensure the safety of both Israelis and Palestinians within their areas of control.

Mr. Arafat has personally assumed responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure the maintenance of peace, law, and order in the West Bank. Just a few days ago Mr. Arafat allowed a Palestinian mob to destroy Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish holy site in the West Bank, just hours after Israeli troops withdrew and allowed the Palestinian police to take control.

Mr. Speaker, each of us prays for peace in the Middle East. The only way to achieve peace is for the Palestinian leaders to not only condemn but to take steps to stop terrorism and violence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES COMMISSION ON SECU-
RITY IN AN OPEN SOCIETY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the United States Commission on Security in an Open Society Act, expressing an idea I have been working on for two years. Before our eyes, parts of our open society are gradually being closed down because of fear of terrorism. This act would begin a systematic response that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat terrorism poses.

The bill I introduce today is being simultaneously introduced by the gentleman from New York, Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, who is retiring this year. His unique career, as the Senate's intellectual leader, and as architect of the revival of Pennsylvania Avenue and

a good deal of the rest of the renaissance of the Nation's Capital makes him the perfect partner for this bill. Because the bill embodies much of the breadth of concerns of the man and his career, I believe that the passage of the United States Commission on Security in an Open Society Act during this Congress would be another fitting tribute to Senator MOYNIHAN's service.

Recent history has been marked by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country. As a result, American society faces new and unprecedented challenges. We must provide higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. As yet, our country has no systematic process or strategy for meeting these challenges.

When we have been faced with unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply and to move to resolve them. Examples include the Warren Commission following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the Kerner Commission following riotous uprisings that swept American cities in the 1960's and 1970's.

The problems associated with worldwide terrorism are of similar importance and dimension. The Act requires that a commission be presidentially appointed because to be useful in meeting the multiple problems raised, a careful balance of members representative of a cross section of disciplines will be necessary. To date, questions of security most often have been left to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but they cannot alone resolve all the issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the balance required by our traditions, constitution and laws, a cross cutting group representing our best and wisest minds needs to be working at the same table.

With only existing tools and thinking, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades and other denials of access. The threat of terrorism to our democratic society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and then come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society with free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level presidential commission of wise experts from an array of disciplines who can help chart the new course that will be required to protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions.

2000 ORGAN COORDINATOR IMPROVEMENT ACT AND ORGAN DONOR ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce two bills to address organ scarcity, The Organ Coordinator Improvement Act and The Organ Donor Enhancement Act. These bills complement each other in their purpose to increase the number of recoverable organs

and make the best use of available organs for transplant.

Every 14 minutes, a new person is added to the list of patients in need of an organ transplant. This list is 72,000 patients long today. Last year, we recovered over 21,000 organs for transplant from just over 10,000 individuals. In the same amount of time, we added 38,850 people to the list. These numbers illustrate the urgency behind this issue. Ten people die every day because there was no organ available for transplant. The single greatest barrier to saving lives with organ transplants is the scarcity of available organs.

I realize that we are at the end of session and the likelihood of these bills being enacted is minimal. But it is a crucial time to introduce these concepts and ask for support on this vitally important legislation. I am hopeful we can use this time between now and the start of the new Congress to build consensus on these initiatives. I want to gather opinions and expertise from my fellow members and the patients, organizations, and experts in their districts. The sooner we can get the ball rolling on this issue, the faster we will be able to save lives. We must act now to make progress on this heartbreaking inadequacy.

The problem is easy to define. There are simply not enough organs to meet the needs of the patients waiting for them on the transplant lists. The challenge before us is to maximize the number of available organs and to maximize the recovery of organs available for donation. When an organ becomes available for transplant, we must spare no resource to ensure that it is delivered to a patient in need. We can do this in three ways. We must first educate more people about organ donation and encourage them to become organ donors. HHS should be congratulated for their efforts in this regard. Next we must invest in research and resources for hospitals and medical schools to improve the success rates of organ donation and options available to those who are in need of organ transplants. Finally, we must make absolutely sure that no organ goes to waste. Currently only a fraction of organs available for donation are actually recovered and made available for transplant. That's where this legislation comes into effect.

Today I rise to introduce the Organ Coordination Improvement Act, which would dramatically improve the organ recovery rate. I asked the experts in hospitals and in organ procurement organizations what the single best thing Congress could do to assist with organ recovery efforts. The answer was simple: provide more staff in the hospital dedicated to this effort. This deceptively simple answer points to a greater truth. Only a very few hospitals and Organ Procurement Organizations actually have specifically trained and dedicated staff in the very setting that they are needed most—the front lines of our health care system. When those staff do exist, they make a dramatic difference. A pilot program through HHS to put specifically trained Organ Coordinators in hospitals in Maryland and Texas had a dramatic effect. In one year, Organ Coordinators more than doubled the recovery rate for organs. By placing Organ Coordinators in the hospitals, hospital consortiums or OPOs with the greatest potential for organ coordination, there is a tremendous opportunity to double the number of lives saved through organ transplants.

This legislation does just that. The bill provides grants to fund staff positions for Organ

Coordinators. A person in this position would be charged with coordinating the organ donation and recovery efforts within a hospital, or in some cases, a group of hospitals.

Half of Organ Coordinators would be employed by hospitals and the other would be employed by Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs). Both hospitals and OPOs are leaders in organ recovery efforts and both should be involved in this process. To build on this positive partnership, a control board would be established to coordinate the activities of the Organ Coordinators. The control board would have representation from both the hospital and the OPO, irrespective of which entity received the grant.

By placing Organ Coordinators in the hospitals, hospital consortiums or OPOs with the greatest potential for organ coordination, there is a tremendous opportunity to double the number of lives saved through organ transplants. Hospitals and OPOs share an important goal and this bill will serve to augment local success stories and local partnerships that already exist in our communities.

The second bill that I am proposing is the Organ Donor Enhancement Act, which would establish a national living donor registry based on the National Bone Marrow Registry. Last year, 10,538 people made their organs available for transplants. Of these, 4,640 people were living donors. Last year there were 9,237 kidney transplants performed, 4,441 transplants from living donors. Clearly, organ transplants have progressed to the point where nearly 45 percent of all kidney transplants done in 1999 were from living donors.

Mr. Speaker, no longer must a patient on the transplant list wish for an organ to become available from a horrible accident. Now kidneys and livers may be transplanted from one person to another and we have an obligation to help save the lives of the more than 62,000 people waiting for them.

The National Bone Marrow Registry has operated successfully since 1986 by registering people who are willing to donate their bone marrow to save somebody's life. Sometimes these are family members, friends or even strangers who possess the courage and compassion to be a living organ donor. While maintaining the highest privacy protections for registered volunteers, doctors are able to search and locate potential organ matches. The sheer scale of a national organ registry will enhance the practice of organ transplantation with increased speed and efficiency that no other resource could offer.

The National Living Donor Registry aims to break down the largest barrier to organ transplantation. It increases the number of potential donors and establishes a mechanism for doctors to match organs to patients. Here in the shadow of the Capitol Dome, the Executive Director of the Washington Regional Transplant Consortium reports that more than 2 people a week contact her and inquire about becoming a living organ donor. Currently, living donors comprise 45 percent of all kidney transplants that are performed. The availability of living donors means particularly strong hope for liver and kidney transplants, especially because kidney patients make up two-thirds of the transplant wait list. The time is now for a voluntary, national list to enable these everyday heroes to become life-savers.

In the midst of a tragedy, an organ transplant can create something awesome. A tragedy can save a life. For grieving families, it