

to sign Executive Order 9066. And so without a trial, more than 100,000 people of Japanese descent lost their freedom. It was not until 1983 that a Presidential Commission characterized the internment as an act of racism and wartime hysteria. After all those years the government never uncovered even a single case of sabotage or espionage committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during the war. Yet more than 100,000 people had already lost their freedom as little boys and girls wandered behind barbed wires, guarded by armed guards, what they had done wrong. Indeed we were troubled by Mr. Lee's case as we remembered what happened 59 years ago.

The second part of this year's Day of Remembrance theme is redress. Truly in order to move forward we must address the wounds of the past. After decades of struggle, President Reagan signed the historic Civil Liberties Act into law that finally gave redress to those who suffered by our government's mistakes.

We celebrate this victory even today because the achievement remains monumental. However, we are still only looking over the horizon as we look forward to a new day when this chapter of our history is finally brought to a close. The sun has not risen on the new day because it has not yet set on the old. There is still unfinished work that must be done before we can move forward into a brighter future.

Last year, I introduced bi-partisan legislation in Congress to finish the remaining work of redress. While most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government's activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Recorded thoroughly in government files, the U.S. government involved itself in the expulsion and internment of an estimated 2,000 people of Japanese descent who lived in various Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forced into the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not even directly involved in World War II. These individuals are still waiting for equitable redress, and justice cries out for them to receive it. That is why today I re-introduced the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001 to finally turn the last page in this chapter of our nation's history.

This bill provides redress to every Japanese Latin American individual forcibly removed and interned in the United States. These people paid a tremendous price during one of our nation's most trying times. Indeed, America accomplished much during that great struggle. As we celebrate our great achievements as a nation let us also recognize our errors and join together as a nation to correct those mistakes. My legislation is the right thing to do to affirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

In addition, the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2001 provides relief to Japanese Americans confined in this country but who never received redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 given technicalities in the original law. Our laws must always establish justice. They should never deny it. That is why these provisions ensure that every American who suffered the same injustices will receive the same justice. Finally, we come today to remember because through remembrance scars are healed and we become more careful to guard

against the same injuries again. That is why my legislation will reauthorize the educational mandate in the 1988 Act which was never fulfilled. This will etch this chapter of our nation's history in our national conscience for generations to come as a reminder never to repeat it again.

Let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community through civil rights and redress as we dedicate ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past. This will help us to guard it more closely in the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this much needed legislation.

HONORING THE R.A. BLOCH CANCER FOUNDATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family and a foundation that have changed the lives of thousands of cancer patients in our country—Richard and Annette Bloch and the volunteers of the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation.

In 1978, Richard Bloch was told he had terminal lung cancer and that he had 3 months to live. He refused to accept this prognosis, and after two years of aggressive therapy, he was told he was cured.

Since Richard's bout with cancer, he and his wife Annette have devoted their lives to helping other cancer patients. Richard, one of America's best known businessmen, sold his interest in H&R Block, Inc. and retired from the company in 1982 to be able to devote all of his efforts to fighting cancer.

The Bloch Cancer Foundation, which is fully supported financially by the Bloch family, is fueled by over a thousand volunteers—other cancer survivors and supporters who share the vision of Richard and Annette Bloch, such as:

Doctors who have shared their time, knowledge and expertise;

Home volunteers who call newly diagnosed cancer patients and place the metaphorical arm around a shoulder. These home volunteers guide new patients through their apprehension and fears so they can face their disease with confidence;

Computer specialists who have developed the web sites so patients and survivors can seek help over the Internet;

Volunteers who give their time on a weekly basis to answer phones and e-mail and form the backbone of an organization committed to cancer patients;

The professionals and volunteers of the Bloch Cancer Support Center;

Those who help develop Cancer Survivors Parks;

Volunteers who helped to mail more than 98,000 books that were requested by cancer patients; and

The Board of Directors who help Dick and Annette develop and implement the programs of the foundation.

Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 2001, we will celebrate the 16th anniversary of Cancer Survivors Day, an event that was started by the Blochs in Kansas City and is now celebrated in over

700 communities throughout the United States. June 4th also marks the 21st anniversary of the Cancer Hot Line, which has received more than 125,000 calls from newly diagnosed cancer patients since its inception in 1980.

I encourage my colleagues to join me as I honor Richard and Annette Bloch and the volunteers of the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation for twenty-one years of steadfast commitment to cancer patients and survivors.

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is well remembered as one of our nation's greatest champions not just of the right of women, but of all Americans. In addition to her work for women's rights, she was a leading voice speaking out against the evil of slavery. Her work in turning women away from abortion is regarded as one of her most important contributions. Susan B. Anthony declared that amongst her greatest joys was to have helped "bring about a better state of things, for mothers generally, so that their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them."

Today, on the 181st anniversary of her death, we honor this great human rights crusader and bring her wisdom to bear on one of the great human rights issues of our day—the right of life of the unborn. Susan B. Anthony was clear: abortion for her was nothing less than "child murder," and she devoted much of her energies toward making women independent of what she termed the "burden" of abortion. She did so not just because she knew abortion to be "child murder", but because she understood the lasting harm it has on women. As she noted, abortion could only "burden her conscience in life and burden her soul in death."

Susan B. Anthony fought to lift the unjust burdens oppressing women, including the burden of abortion. As we celebrate her birthday, let us also recommit ourselves to her goal of relieving women of the burden of abortion.

CONGRATULATING TENAFLY MIDDLE SCHOOL ON EFFORTS TO REMOVE LAND MINES

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the students of Tenafly Middle School for the work they have done to raise money to help rid a small Balkan town half a world away of land mines. The work these students have done is an outstanding example of humanitarian concern and compassion among amazingly young individuals—these are students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The Land Mine Awareness Club grew out of a class taught by language arts teacher Mark Hyman, called "Heroes of Conscience" and aimed at the development of student leaders

by focusing on historical figures who were models of compassion and service. Students in the class decided two years ago to focus on the land mine issue, which had been championed by Britain's Princess Diana before her 1998 death.

About two dozen students from the class formed the Land Mine Awareness Club, designed a multimedia presentation on the world land mine problem, and chose the village of Podzvizd in northwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina as a "sister city." The students began taking their presentation to churches, civic groups and other organizations throughout Bergen County, explaining the dangers of land mines and appealing for donations to help remove land mines in Podzvizd.

The students soon formed a non-profit organization, Global Care Unlimited Inc., in order to collect donations on behalf of Podzvizd. In addition to the presentations by the club, the school's 800 students began a campaign of selling paper butterflies—representative of the deadly "butterfly" model of land mine—that raised \$6,000. To date, the students have raised a total of approximately \$15,000 in donations. Last week, Global Care signed an agreement with the U.S. State Department, which will match the private donations dollar for dollar under its Global Humanitarian Demining Program. In all, \$30,000 is now available to remove hundreds of mines from a field near a school in Podzvizd.

Global Care Unlimited declares part of its goal to be "to develop student leadership potential in the areas of organization, communication and technology in the service of humanitarian ideals." The students participating in this project have, in fact, learned how to establish a formal, non-profit organization, have learned communication skills by working with the local media and technological skills in putting together the multimedia presentation used in their fund-raising efforts.

Special recognition must go to Mr. Hyman, a teacher who has made a difference not only in the lives of his own students but for the residents of Podzvizd as well. These students clearly took to heart the lessons they learned in this class and put them to use—in my mind, they have become "heroes of conscience" themselves.

Mr. Speaker, land mines are horrible enough when used during time of war by soldiers of one army against those of another. But land mines are unlike other weapons that observe a cease-fire when the war ends. Instead, they lie dormant, their locations often forgotten and difficult to find even if records are available. Civilians return to areas that were once battlefields and become victims of land mines even years after a conflict has ended. Approximately 110 million live land mines are estimated to be buried around the world today and one blows up every 22 seconds. Of those injured, 90 percent are civilians—more than one-third of them children. In nations such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, thousands of children with missing limbs are living evidence of the threat posed by land mines. And thousands of others have died as a result of the mines.

That is why I wrote to President Clinton last year, urging him to join the world effort led by Canada to ban anti-personnel land mines. In addition, I have co-sponsored the Land Mine Elimination Act, which would prohibit federal funds from being spent to deploy new anti-per-

sonnel land mines. A total of 156 nations support a complete ban of land mines, as do international leaders such as General Norman Schwarzkopf, Pope John Paul II and Bishop Desmond Tutu. I will continue to work hard to achieve the goal of ridding the globe of this man-made menace. This horror cannot be allowed to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these young people on the magnanimous humanitarian effort. We can all learn from the example offered by these youth. If I may quote from the Book of Isaiah, ". . . and a little child shall lead them."

VETERANS' COMPENSATION EQUITY ACT OF 2001

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing H.R. 609, the "Veterans' Compensation Equity Act of 2001". This legislation will provide more equitable treatment to approximately 150,000 older veterans who receive service-connected disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs and who are also eligible to receive retirement pay based upon their military service.

Under current law, the amount of military retirement pay received by a military retiree is reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the amount of VA service-connected disability compensation the military retiree receives. This reduction in military retirement pay when the military retiree is in receipt of service-connected disability compensation is intended to prevent dual compensation. The notion of dual compensation is simply erroneous. Service-connected disability benefits are paid to compensate a veteran for an injury or illness incurred or aggravated during military service. Retirement benefits are paid to military retirees who have spent at least 20 years of their lives serving our country as members of the Armed Forces. These two programs—military retirement pay and service-connected disability compensation—are completely different programs with entirely different purposes. Payments made by these programs are not and should not be considered duplicative.

The current treatment of military retirees who have service-connected disabilities is simply inequitable. A veteran receiving service-connected disability compensation could become eligible for civil service retirement based on his or her subsequent work as a civilian employee of the federal government. This individual, unlike the military retiree, can receive the full amount of both of the retirement benefit which has been earned and the service-connected disability compensation for which he or she may be eligible.

The "Veterans' Compensation Equity Act of 2001" will reduce and then eliminate the offset in military retirement benefits for veterans who are entitled to both military retirement pay and service-connected compensation benefits. Under this bill the offset will be completely eliminated when the retiree reaches age 65.

In many cases, retired military personnel are fortunate enough to have retired from military service unscathed. These military retirees are

not eligible to receive VA compensation due to illnesses or injuries incurred or aggravated during their military careers. In addition to receiving military retirement pay they are able to earn additional income through non-military employment and thereby accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

Military retirees who were not so fortunate, are required to forfeit a portion or all of their military retirement pay in order to receive service-connected compensation benefits due to illnesses or injuries which were incurred or aggravated during their military careers. Before we consider tax relief for our Nation's wealthiest citizens, we should allow military retirees to receive the full amount of the retirement benefits they have earned through many years of devoted military service and compensation for illnesses or injuries which were incurred or aggravated during their military careers. These veterans, as a result of their service-connected medical conditions, face diminished employment possibilities and therefore a diminished ability to earn additional income through civilian employment. They may completely lose the opportunity to accrue Social Security or other retirement income benefits.

In general, Social Security disability benefits received by retirees are offset by monies received under state Worker's Compensation and similar public disability laws. However, the Social Security statute provides that this offset ends when the worker attains 65 years of age. Furthermore, while recipients of Social Security benefits who earn income have their Social Security benefits reduced as a result of their earnings, this offset is eliminated at retirement age (currently 65).

While all veterans who are subject to the concurrent receipt offset are unfairly penalized, my bill would begin to rectify the injustice which falls most heavily on our older veterans. This bill will promote fairness and equity between military retirees and Social Security retirees by eliminating the offset at age 65.

Military retirees who have given so much to the service of our country and suffered disease or disabilities as a direct result of their military service do not deserve to be impoverished in their older years by the concurrent receipt penalty.

I commend Mr. Bilirakis, an original cosponsor of this bill, for his longstanding efforts to address the problems our military retirees experience due to the statutory prohibition on concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to promote fairness for our Nation's older military retirees.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing February as American Heart Month. I commend the American Heart Association and other organizations for their efforts to raise awareness of heart disease. Their work is essential to reducing the physical, emotional, and economic burden of heart disease on the American public.