

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ORGANIZATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT, COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an organization in Northern Virginia that has made serving neglected and abused children its priority. Court Appointed Special Advocates has been serving the community for over a decade, and its dedication throughout our region is being rewarded at the Springfield Inter-Service Award Ceremony on March 14, 2001.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, is a national organization dedicated to ensuring that the best interests of abused and neglected children are represented in court. It was started in Washington State in 1976 by King County Superior Court Presiding Judge David W. Soukop. The court found that before the formation of CASA, attorneys did not spend the necessary time and did not have the adequate training to provide the thorough investigation needed in these cases. Judge Soukop decided to recruit volunteers to do the required research and stay with the children as their court cases unfolded.

There are programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. There are 25 CASA offices in Virginia, the largest of which is in Fairfax. The office in Fairfax was opened in 1989 and to date has helped over 3,000 children. With 150 volunteers, it is currently serving 400 children. Working with attorneys, school and medical officials, and social workers, CASA volunteers act on behalf of the children involved in cases so they do not become just another docket number.

CASA volunteers must complete hours of training and are then sworn in by a judge. Before taking on a case, volunteers work hard to attain knowledge of the case by sitting in on a day of proceedings on that particular case. The dedication of these volunteers to the children they are asked to represent helps these children through very traumatic times. The first priority of CASA is to help children. They do not investigate the abuse; they only look into information about the child and the family. Their mandate is "what is in the best interest of the child."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to CASA as it is honored at the Springfield Inter-Service Awards Banquet in Springfield, Virginia. The volunteers certainly have earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding their remarkable achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce legislation which would amend the Constitution to prevent desecration of the American flag. This measure is identical to H.J. Res. 33, which I sponsored in the last session of Congress, and language previously adopted by the House. It is necessary to restore protections for the symbol of our nation and all its honored traditions, which were sadly wiped away in the 1989 Supreme Court ruling on *Texas v. Johnson*.

In that fateful 5-4 ruling, the court cast aside longstanding national laws and 48 state laws recognizing the flag's special status and honoring its place in American society—ruling that its desecration is protected under the first amendment. For those who see our flag as a revered symbol of freedom and the great sacrifices that were made to sustain it at home and abroad, that decision was a horrible affront—and the call to action was immediate.

Inspired to preserve our national trademark and unalloyed symbol of unity, Congress quickly moved to pass a law restoring flag protections. But in its 5-4 ruling on *United States v. Eichman* in 1990, the Supreme Court once again found that flag protections were inconsistent with free expression rights accorded under the first amendment. That ruling made it clear that restoration of flag protections would require a constitutional amendment.

Since that ruling, the House four times has acted on a Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment, passing it three times with well over the two-thirds majority required. The Senate has also acted, failing to achieve the two-thirds votes necessary to move the amendment forward to the states for ratification by a mere handful of votes. With the Senate coming just three votes shy of that goal last year, and a new administration which has expressed its support for the Flag Protection Amendment, we are now within reach of victory.

As a combat veteran who served 20 years in the Navy, there are almost no words adequate to convey the significance of the U.S. flag to me. But I can tell you that each color on that flag, each star and each stripe evokes emotion in me, and together they stand as a symbol of everything I believed in about this country when I fought to defend it. When I heard that some in my country were opposing my military's involvement in Vietnam, that flag reminded me of our tolerance for differences and our endurance through unity. It was a steady symbol of the liberties we enjoy—a way of life that should be protected for future generations and defended for others who aspire to it. And for POWs who endured unthinkable torture and deprivation, it was a source of hope and strength that helped them persevere another day.

There have been several major incidents of flag burning since the Court ruling in 1990. These incidents tear at me, and represent a direct attack on all I hold dear about this country. The Constitution was not designed to protect actions which jeopardize others' rights, and the government has long acted to restrict speech and conduct that could cause harm to others. Those who want to express their anger against this country have options that don't involve destroying the sacred symbol that belongs to all citizens.

At a time when we are faced with increasing youth violence and cultural breakdown, restoring our most recognized sign of unity would be a positive step in the right direction—providing a steady reminder that living free comes with responsibility to respect others.

Mr. Speaker, the state of Israel has laws protecting not only its flag, but the flags of its allies as well. It is inexplicable to me that the United States is being told by its courts to tolerate such acts of hatred and violence against its flag when our allies go to such great lengths to protect it. Over 75 percent of Americans consistently agree: the time to restore protections for our flag is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this constitutional amendment, and to move it back to the American people for speedy ratification.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, I regret that I missed rollcall votes 43, 44, and 45 on the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 (H.R. 3). Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" to Table the Motion to Reconsider; "No" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions; and "Yea" on Final Passage of H.R. 3. As Co-Chairman of the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas, which met in Ottawa, Canada, last week, I had to leave the House chamber following my vote against the Rangel Substitute Amendment to H.R. 3 in order to make my flight to Canada. My attendance at this forum is in furtherance of my official duties as Chairman of the International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. The Forum included representatives from 27 nations, and I was the sole representative of the U.S. Congress in attendance.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY (RSD) MONTH

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of and support for people

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

like Betsy Herman who suffer from an excruciatingly painful disease called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD). RSD is a post-traumatic condition triggered by an injury, surgery, or infection. In simple terms, it is a malfunction of the nervous system in the body's attempt to heal. It may strike at any time, resulting in intense inflammation, swelling, stiffness and/or discoloration of the nerves, muscles, bones, skin and circulatory system.

Because RSD is a complex and little-known disease, Betsy, like scores of RSD sufferers, went for years without being diagnosed with this debilitating disorder. Instead of receiving prompt treatment for RSD after a sprained ankle and pulled muscle when she was 12 (which could have led to full recovery), Betsy was accused of faking and exaggerating her condition and was sent for psychological counseling.

Unfortunately, six years and several surgeries later, Betsy now walks with the help of an implanted device and must drive over 100 miles once a week for treatment. While other teenagers play sports and attend proms, Betsy must wait until classes are in session until she walks the halls of her high school to assure that she isn't bumped, since even the slightest touch can sometimes cause severe pain.

Despite the tremendous physical agony and emotional pain Betsy has suffered at the hands of RSD, she has worked diligently to educate the public about the condition. She recognizes that public education will help lead to correct diagnosis and increased investments in research and treatment for RSD. She also created an on-line support group for teens with RSD, providing a crucial lifeline to other young people afflicted with this incurable disease. In recognition of her efforts, the RSD Hope Group recently presented Betsy with its Humanitarian of the Year Award.

It is for Betsy Herman and other RSD sufferers that I introduce this Concurrent Resolution today expressing the sense of Congress that May should be named "National Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Awareness Month." I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to increase awareness, augment funding, and better diagnose and treat this horrible disease.

HONORING BOB WESTMORELAND
AWARD RECIPIENT, JEANNE
BURNS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a friend of Northern Virginia, Ms. Jeanne Burns, for her many years of service to the community. Her dedication throughout our region is being rewarded at the Springfield Inter-Service Award Ceremony on March 14, 2001.

Ms. Burns' outstanding contributions to Northern Virginia have paved the way for many tremendous achievements. She served on the PTA Board at Crestwood Elementary School, where she assisted in raising thousands of dollars last year alone. The money went to support after-school programs for at-risk children, fund school field trips, provide summer school tuition for children in need,

and to promote art programs through a grant with the Virginia Fine Arts Commission.

Her time is split between her work at the elementary school PTA and the PTA Board at both Key Middle School and Lee High School. Ms. Burns is also active in the schools' booster clubs. Part of her time is spent raising money for all-night graduation parties.

Ms. Burns contributed to the planning of millennium activities in Fairfax County with the group "Celebrate Fairfax." One of her other community endeavors was the Fairfax Fall Festival, which is held every year in the downtown area of the City of Fairfax. She was active in securing health care exhibits for the festival, as well as for a community health fair held at Crestwood Elementary School.

She is currently doing volunteer work at Crestwood Elementary every Monday and Wednesday night, where she works with non-English-speaking adults in literacy classes. Ms. Burns volunteers earlier on those days to teach English to young, immigrant mothers. She provides the classes with supplements that she prepares herself.

Ms. Burns continues to actively support Crestwood Elementary School with fundraising efforts and fulfills her commitment to educate non-English-speaking residents. She reminds us that there are people who are willing to give so much and ask for so little in return.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Ms. Burns as she is honored at the Springfield Inter-Service Awards Banquet in Springfield, Virginia. She certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding her remarkable achievements.

CONGRATULATING THE MONMOUTH "HAWKS"

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, which captured the Northeast Conference basketball championship Monday night. This gives Monmouth University a berth in the NCAA basketball tournament, the second time it has qualified for the national championships.

Monmouth defeated St. Francis of New York 67-64 under the leadership of four-year head coach Dave Calloway. I congratulate Coach Calloway and his team for reaching this impressive milestone.

Monday night's achievement offers me the opportunity to highlight Monmouth University—an outstanding educational institution located near the seashore in Monmouth County, NJ. I have always been very proud of "Monmouth" which has educated thousands of my constituents over the years with the highest academic standards. In recent years, it has grown from a small college to a university. It now has a total student population of 5,635 and an outstanding faculty of 220. It features the only B.S. and M.S. program in Software Engineering in New Jersey, not to mention many other innovative academic offerings.

Originally its only large campus building was Wilson Hall—the summer home of Woodrow Wilson when he was President. In 1961, Mon-

mouth College was bequeathed the summer home of the wealthy Guggenheim family for use as library. Both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places. Since then, many impressive campus buildings have been constructed including one named after my predecessor, Representative James J. Howard.

The success of the Monmouth "Hawks" basketball team has in many ways paralleled the growth of Monmouth University as an educational institution. I congratulate them on their success and wish them the best of luck on their near and long-term endeavors.

WAIVING THE MEDICARE PART B PENALTY FOR MILITARY RETIREES WHO ENROLL IN TRICARE FOR LIFE

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the portion of last year's Defense Authorization Act that extends health care benefits to military retirees.

Congress made great strides toward fulfilling its promise of health care for life for all members of the military when it extended TRICARE benefits to retired members of the military and their families. However, the legislation required that beneficiaries have Medicare Part B.

I have been contacted by several constituents who would like to take advantage of the new health benefits, but never enrolled in Medicare Part B. Current law states that if a person is not enrolled in Medicare Part B, their monthly premium is increased 10% for each year past the age of 65 that they have not been enrolled. For example, an 80-year-old individual enrolling in Medicare Part B for the first time would have a 150% penalty. Their monthly premium would be \$125. The base premium for Medicare Part B is \$50.

My bill waives the 10 percent penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B. It also waives the Medicare Part B requirement for military retirees who are already enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

Military retirees should not be penalized for not having Medicare Part B. In addition, retirees should not be forced to enroll in Medicare Part B if they are already enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORS ROSE SORRENTINO ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor one of New Haven, Connecticut's most treasured residents and my dear friend, Rose Sorrentino, as she celebrates her 80th birthday. Throughout her life, Rose has been an inspiration to all of those who have known her.