

TRIBUTE TO EMS PERSONNEL

HON. BILL LUTHEROF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, in 1997 alone there were almost 960 million ambulance trips made to health care providers in the United States, an overall rate of 3.6 visits for every American. While ambulatory care makes up a relatively small part of the federal budget for health care, paramedics and EMS personnel are providing vital services to our communities. These are the men and women who form an important safety net of emergency care for millions of Americans every year.

Too often we do not take the time to recognize individuals for their outstanding accomplishments serving others. I want to take a moment to recognize the EMS personnel who are there when we need them most.

Every year, those men and women who go beyond what is expected of them and perform truly outstanding acts of service are recognized with the Stars of Life award from the American Ambulance Association. Chosen by their peers, these professionals are selected to represent them in Washington, DC as part of the National EMS Week activities.

This year, 109 individuals from across the United States, including my home state of Minnesota, are honored as Stars of Life for their exceptional service and selfless courage.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the names of the 2001 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees to be printed in the RECORD.

2001 "Stars of Life"

STATES AND STAR'S NAME; AMBULANCE
SERVICE, AND CITY
ARKANSAS—1

Julia Key, Columbia County Ambulance Service, Magnolia

ARIZONA—1

Randy Perkins, Rural/Metro, Scottsdale

CALIFORNIA—11

Timothy Beverlin, American Medical Response, Palm Springs

Adrienne Bosel, American Medical Response, Burlingame

Erin Hughes, American Medical Response, Garden Grove

Lisa LaRusso, American Medical Response, Riverside

Randy Lyman, American Medical Response, Santa Rosa

Joe Matthews, American Medical Response, Cerritos

Steve Prater, Hall Ambulance Service, Bakersfield

Jeff Tanner, American Medical Response, Riverside

Sloane Valentino, Medix Ambulance Service, Mission Viejo

John Van Aalst, American Medical Response, Cerritos

Karen Wright, American Medical Response, Concord

COLORADO—1

Christian Weber, American Medical Response, Denver

CONNECTICUT—4

Sue Bednarik, American Medical Response, Waterbury

Robert Phelan, American Medical Response, New Haven

Lynn Vergnetti, Hunter's Ambulance Service, Meriden

John Worobel, Hunter's Ambulance Service, Meriden

FLORIDA—3

Mary Jo Strosnider, Rural/Metro, Orlando
Armando Toledo, American Medical Response, Miami

Jeff Young, American Medical Response, Largo

GEORGIA—3

Kevin Harralson, Mid Georgia Ambulance Service, Macon

Cedric Scott, Mid Georgia Ambulance Service, Macon

Valerie Spratin, Rural/Metro, Augusta

HAWAII—1

Chris Gilbert, American Medical Response, Kahului-Maui

IOWA—6

David Edgar, Jr., West Des Moines EMS/IEMSA, West Des Moines Kelly

Freeman, Monroe County Ambulance, Albia

Keith Gilman, Lee County EMS Ambulance, Donnellson

James Lange, Medic EMS, Davenport

Max Maes, Medic EMS, Davenport

Nadine Tice, American Medical Response, Charles City

INDIANA—1

Lisa Christen, American Medical Response, Fort Wayne

LOUISIANA—5

Richard Billiot, Priority Mobile Health, New Orleans Anthony

Cramer, Jr., Acadian Ambulance & Air Med Services, Lafayette

Shannon Jones, Med Express Ambulance Service, Pineville

Carl Theriot, American Medical Response, New Orleans

Michelle Wiggins, Med Express Ambulance Service, Pineville

MASSACHUSETTS—16

Teresa Anyon, American Medical Response, Worcester

William Barry, Armstrong Ambulance Service, Arlington

Frank Carabello, Lyons Ambulance Service, Danvers

Rollie Citroni, Lyons Ambulance Service, Danvers

Paul Dalton, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

Davin Fors, Armstrong Ambulance Service, Arlington

John Haley, Cataldo Ambulance Service, Somerville

Scott Jones, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

John Kulis, Armstrong Ambulance Service, Arlington

Vaughan Mason, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

Arthur Melvin, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

Mark Miller, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

Kevin Moore, Lyons Ambulance Service, Danvers

Richard Raymond, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

Kenneth Reynolds, American Medical Response, Natick

Peter Viele, Action Ambulance Service, Stoneham

MICHIGAN—5

Jules Baumer, Medstar Ambulance, Mt. Clemens

Brian Beckwith, LifeCare Ambulance Service, Battle Creek

Chad Crook, Life EMS, Grand Rapids

Tom Mackey, Huron Valley Ambulance, Ann Arbor

Danial Sanchez, Medstar Ambulance, Mt. Clemens

MINNESOTA—3

Gary Olson, LifeLink III, St. Paul

J. Todd Rather, Mayo Medical Transport, Gold Cross Ambulance, Rochester
Michele Sundberg, Allina Medical Transportation, St. Paul

MISSOURI—3

Randall Bennett, Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust, Kansas City

Steven Harris, Taney County Ambulance District, Branson

Scott Wolf, Emergency Providers, Kansas City

MISSISSIPPI—2

Sharon Hinson, American Medical Response, Natchez

Roger Wade, American Medical Response, Gulfport

MONTANA—1

Jason Mahoney, American Medical Response, Billings

NORTH CAROLINA—5

Nathaniel Archie, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte

Phil Carter, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Montgomery EMS, Pinehurst

Robert McNally, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte

Djuna Melton, FirstHealth EMS—Hoke, Raeford

Jeffrey Roberts, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte

NEW HAMPSHIRE—2

Dwayne Hogencamp, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Nashua

Debra McCartney, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Nashua

NEW JERSEY—2

Paul Leidenfrost, Rural/Metro, South Amboy
Nancy Neuhaus, Med Alert Ambulance, Sparta

NEW MEXICO—1

Janet Mauro, American Medical Response, Alamogordo

NEVADA—3

Mark Kelly (deceased), American Medical Response, Las Vegas

Tracy Kramer, American Medical Response, Las Vegas

Kevin Romero, REMSA, Reno

NEW YORK—5

Richard Brandt, Mohawk Ambulance Service, Schenectady

Eric Conley, Rural/Metro, Buffalo

Blaine Fremantle, Mohawk Ambulance Service, Schenectady

Marcus McKenzie, CHS Ambulance Service, Farmingdale

Daniel Smith, Rural/Metro, Syracuse

OHIO—2

Jacqueline Punka, American Medical Response, Akron

Patrick Straker, Rural/Metro, Youngstown

OREGON—2

Lucie Drum, American Medical Response, Portland

Brian Murdock, Mercy Flights, Medford

PENNSYLVANIA—2

Wanda McKinney, Rural/Metro, Farrell

Robert Walbert, Cetronia Ambulance Corps, Allentown

SOUTH CAROLINA—1

Brian Harbin, Medshore Ambulance Service, Anderson

SOUTH DAKOTA—1

Greg Beaner, Rural/Metro, Sioux Falls

TENNESSEE—1

Gary Watlington, Rural/Metro, Knoxville

TEXAS—7

Shay Britton, Dallas Ambulance Service, Dallas

Vickie Elliott, Dallas Ambulance Service, Dallas

Stacy Fisher, American Medical Response, Cleburne
 Kim Higginbotham, Life Ambulance Service, Canutillo
 Joe Kammerling, Prime Care Ambulance, Houston
 Allen Snell, Rural/Metro, Waco
 Kenneth Stanley, LifeNet EMS, Texarkana
 VIRGINIA—5

Ted Marshall, LifeCare Medical Transports, Fredericksburg
 Michael Martens, Sentara Medical Transport, Virginia Beach
 Dawn Novisky, LifeCare Medical Transports, Fredericksburg
 Ben Walker, American Medical Response, Richmond
 Danny Wildman, LifeCare Medical Transports, Fredericksburg

VERMONT—1

Kandis Holden, Regional Ambulance, Rutland

WASHINGTON—1

William Engler, American Medical Response, Seattle

WISCONSIN—1

Tina Nicolai, American Medical Response, Kenosha

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 DISAPPEARANCE OF GENERAL
 YURY ZAKHARENKO OF
 BELARUS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the last dictatorship in Europe—the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka in the former Soviet state of Belarus. The Lukashenka regime is one of the most notorious human rights abusers in the world, routinely suppressing the rights of the Belorussian citizens. May 7th marks the second anniversary of one of the most celebrated human rights abuses allegedly perpetrated by the regime—the not-so-mysterious disappearance of General Yury Zakharenko, former Belarusian Minister of Internal Affairs.

In 1995, General Zakharenko resigned his post in protest and attempted to form a union of officers to support democracy in Belarus. He also supported former Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir in an alternative presidential election held in May 1999 to replace Lukashenka at the legal end of his term on July 20, 1999. On May 7, 1999, Gen. Zakharenko disappeared while walking home and has not been heard from since. Sadly, Gen. Zakharenko is not unique. Others who dared to challenge the regime appear to have suffered the same fate. Victor Gonchar, Deputy Chairman of the legitimate parliament, the 13th Supreme Soviet; his associate Anatoly Krasovsky; and Dmitry Zavadsky, a cameraman for the Russian television station ORT, have all disappeared without explanation.

Since the day Gen. Zakharenko vanished, all evidence has pointed to the Lukashenka regime as being responsible for his disappearance. The regime has not made a serious effort to account for Gen. Zakharenko. Rather than investigate, the regime has targeted the missing general for personal attack, accusing him of fleeing the country or going into hiding

to embarrass Lukashenko. Gen. Zakharenko's family was forced to seek refuge in Western Europe to escape the regime's harassment. The regime has also tried to silence human rights activists, such as Oleg Volchek, who have attempted to find Gen. Zakharenko. Last November, when an anonymous letter reputed to be from officers of the Belarusian KGB (BKGB) accusing Lukashenka of blocking the investigation of disappearances in Belarus became public, Lukashenka sacked the head of the BKGB and the Prosecutor General. The Belarusian dictator also promised a serious investigation, but the regime has made no progress in the intervening six months and reports of increased pressure on investigators have surfaced.

Under the current dictatorship in Belarus, it would be impossible for such stonewalling and denial to take place without the approval of Lukashenka himself. Lukashenka even went as far as to state in November of last year, that he is personally responsible for accounting for Gen. Zakharenko and the other disappeared. This is a responsibility that the international community cannot let the Belarusian dictator escape from. The United States, the European Union, member states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the U.N. Working Group on Involuntary Disappearances, the Swedish Social Democratic Party, and international human rights NGOs have all called on the Lukashenka dictatorship to find the disappeared. I regret that the Russian Government is conspicuously absent from these ranks. This, in my view, sends a negative signal about the Russian Federation's view of its role in promoting democracy outside of its borders.

The Belarusian people also want an explanation, as the repeated statements by Belarusian democratic leaders and human rights advocates show. Even high officials in the regime have expressed privately their displeasure with Lukashenka's handling of the disappearances.

Until the Lukashenka regime accounts for Gen. Zakharenko, Deputy Chairman Gonchar, Mr. Krasovsky, and Mr. Zavadsky, one can neither expect a normalization in the international community's relations with Belarus nor an end to the climate of fear gripping the country. The Lukashenka regime needs to act immediately to find these brave democrats and Belarusian patriots. This issue of Gen. Zakharenko and the other disappeared will not go away, just as the issue of the disappeared in Chile did not go away, just as the issue of the Polish officers "disappeared" at Katyn did not go away, just as the issue of the disappearance of Swedish hero Raoul Wallenberg will not go away. Rather, with each new day the missing go unaccounted for, the call for the truth behind their disappearances will only grow louder, haunting those responsible for these crimes.

"A NEW DEFENSE POSTURE"

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to commend to his colleagues an edi-

torial in the May 3, 2001, edition of the Omaha World-Herald. Of particular note is the editorial's assessment of international reaction to President George W. Bush's May 1, 2001, speech on a national missile defense (NMD) system.

In the weeks approaching the speech, many newspaper and magazines ran articles and editorials which criticized President Bush for his strong and vocal support for the development of NMD and for reassessment of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Domestic opponents claimed that such views strain relations with key U.S. allies in Europe and Asia. And yet, after a major speech outlining the Administration's proposed approach to national security, U.S. allies appear to have reacted fairly positively by agreeing to talk about the approach, if not entirely support it.

The cold war is over, and therefore it is entirely appropriate for the U.S. to re-evaluate the institutions and treaties from that era. It is this Member's hope that our allies will strongly agree and will find upon review that President Bush's initiative to begin the development of a NMD system and to revamp arsenal cuts reflects careful reflection upon the long-term interests of the United States.

[From the Omaha World Herald, May 3, 2001]

A NEW DEFENSE POSTURE

Call it Missile Defense III. It's not the largely discredited Reagan-era Strategic Defense Initiative. It's not the Clinton-nurtured limited shield. In fact, it's not clear at this juncture what it is. But President Bush wants it and is determined to get it if possible. And that may not be bad.

The most salient aspect of Bush's freshly stated commitment to a missile defense system is what didn't happen. The international community didn't, for the most part, start screaming to the heavens that the United States has become frighteningly arrogant and is going to get everybody fried. And that was largely because Bush had the good sense to get in front of his Tuesday announcement with pre-emptive and assuring phone calls to the world leaders who might be most concerned. He and Secretary of State Colin Powell repeatedly made two points:

Although Bush finds the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty outmoded and only marginally effective, the United States is not going to simply abrogate it without something to take its place.

There will be no change in Washington's international nuclear-weapons understandings until such time as a missile defense can reasonably be called workable.

The biggest surprise of all may be that Moscow pronounced itself, though not exactly happy, entirely willing to sit down and discuss the matter rationally. That gets past what could have been a substantial hurdle, because Russia has long seen any sort of missile defense as a direct threat aimed at neutralizing its nuclear strike capability. It has been adamant on the point. But on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said his nation "is ready for consultations, and we have something to say."

The biggest question about a missile defense is whether such a bogglingly complex system can, in fact, ever work. Results to date have not been encouraging. Efforts from the Reagan era forward have cost more than \$60 billion. Tests in the '80s were spotty, and the few seeming successes were later shown to have been either unrealistically simplistic or just plain fudged. Three tests of a scaled-down system in the '90s yielded two failures.

The concept, nonetheless, remains appealing, particularly to those old enough to remember the duck-and-cover classroom drills