

HONORING MARCUS THAMES, THE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER, MISSISSIPPI'S LATEST SPORTS LEG-END

### HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the exploits of baseball's, and Mississippi's, newest hero, Marcus Thames, rookie outfielder for the New York Yankees.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we Mississippians can speak kindly about New York, as long as it is really about another Mississippian!

On Monday, June 10, Marcus Thames of Louisville, Mississippi, made his Major League Baseball debut against the defending World Champion Arizona Diamondbacks. And whom should he face on the pitchers' mound? None other than Cy Young Award winner, World Series MVP and future Hall of Famer Randy Johnson, that's who! All 6 feet, 10 inches of him!

Did Marcus Thames, this proud Mississippian, crumble under the pressure of the moment? Did he let the sound of almost 50,000 cheering fans get to him? No, of course not, he's from Mississippi. Marcus Thames slugged the first big league pitch he ever saw over the fence for a home run!

This graduate of East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi, is the 82nd player in baseball history to go deep in his first career at-bat, and the 32nd to do it on the first pitch of his career.

But Marcus Thames won't let stardom go to his head. Like all good Mississippi boys, the first thing he did after the big game was to call his mama, Veterin, back home in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Marcus Thames, baseball's newest hero from Louisville, Mississippi. The good people of Louisville and East Central Mississippi already know about him, and no doubt all Americans will become very familiar with the newest Louisville Slugger for years to come.

### ATHLETES UNITED FOR PEACE

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Athletes United For Peace (AUP), a nonprofit organization based in Berkeley, California, which is committed to promoting peace, education, friendship, and understanding through programs and events for young people.

AUP is a member of the United Nations Department of Public Information's worldwide team of non-governmental organizations (NGO), and represents the voice of young people throughout the Bay Area counties of Alameda and Contra Costa. Some of the organization's duties as an NGO include attending international conferences; developing programs; and disseminating information on the United Nations' current issues, initiatives and projects to constituents in the Bay Area

through workshops and media projects. AUP regularly conducts media projects in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In 1997, AUP established the Digital Technology Academy, a ten-week summer media arts program that trains inner-city young people in the ever-growing field of digital technology with an emphasis on digital video production and multimedia integration. The program was designed by the AUP staff to address the growing concerns and issues surrounding the "Digital Divide" in relation to access and training for disadvantaged youth in the East Bay. The AUP membership association with the United Nations has offered members of the Digital Technology Academy opportunities to engage in interactive teleconference and media presentations to the UN General Assembly.

In 1999, the Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services Department's Service Integration Program (Martinez) formed a partnership with AUP to conduct the Digital Technology Academy for groups of economically disadvantaged teens from the county's unincorporated and under-served communities of North Richmond and Bay Point. In addition to receiving comprehensive training in the areas of digital camera operation, audio, lighting, script writing and desktop editing, each of the teen participants were required to conduct research on the history of their respective communities. Research performed by the teen groups at the public libraries and local historical societies was refined and developed into scripts for the academy's series of award-winning community history documentary film projects.

The current documentary film "An Exploration of Our History: The Story of East Contra Costa County," was produced during the Summer/Fall of 2001 and competed in the Spring of 2002. The documentary objectively examines the areas history from 1900-1944 from both social and economic perspectives. Presentation of the historical content was conducted through on-camera interviews with several residents and local historians from the Contra Costa County, Pittsburgh and Concord historical societies.

During this period of East Contra Costa County's community history, several events of national prominence occurred. The most notable events include:

(1917) Walnut Creek Land developer Robert N. Burgess received a \$20 million contract from the federal government in Washington, D.C., to build 10 cargo ships for the war effort during World War I. The ships were built at his Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Company located at the deep water port in Bay Point next to the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe trans-continental railroads.

(1942) The United States Army constructs Camp Stoneman military base in Pittsburgh, which served as one of the largest embarkation centers for soldiers preparing for combat during World War II in the Pacific.

(1942) The United States Navy constructs the Naval Ammunition Depot in the town of Port Chicago, where enlisted African American sailors (material handlers) unloaded and loaded ammunition that was transshipped by rail onto cargo ships at the deep-water port facility.

The U.S. Justice Department's Relocation Order in February of 1942 forced hundreds of Italian residents of the East Contra Costa County area to relocate away from the newly built Camp Stoneman military based in Pittsburgh. All Italian residents who were not legal citizens of the United States were labeled "enemy aliens" and deemed a threat to national security by the government.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2002, "An Exploration of Our History: The Story of East Contra Costa County" will be presented at the Ambrose Recreation Center in Bay Point, California. Athletes United For Peace is thankful to Contra Costa County's Service Integration Program and the local historical society for having an opportunity to train young people in digital technology for the purpose of documenting and preserving the community's history through this innovative intergenerational program that blends multimedia integration and education.

### COMMENDING THE KING'S KIDS OF AMERICA

### HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the King's Kids of America, Inc. for their outstanding service to our nation and the young people of America. Founded in Suffolk, Virginia in 1989, the King's Kids of America has selflessly worked to develop our youth into well-rounded young adults. The King's Kids of America is a volunteer, non-profit community outreach program for all of America's youth. Their motto is: "striving to make a positive difference."

Unfortunately, the evidence is all around us that our young people today need some extra care and support. Our youth today face challenges and obstacles that I never dreamed about when I was growing up. We know that one caring adult can make a world of difference in the life of a child. The King's Kids of America is committed to making sure that our youth make wholesome decisions that will lead to positive outcomes in their future. America and Virginia need the King's Kids of America now more than ever.

Through the tireless efforts of the King's Kids of America over the years, and its numerous programs dedicated to developing our youth, the world is a better place. I applaud the King's Kids of America's history, and herald its future. I join with the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and my colleagues in the House of Representatives in thanking the King's Kids of America and all its members for their service, dedication, and contributions to our state.

### THE HEPATITIS C CRISIS

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the health care crisis posed by Hepatitis C infection, and to highlight promising news about awareness of the need for

testing and the development of new treatment options. As the attached article from The New York Times demonstrates, Hepatitis C, estimated to affect more than 4 million Americans, is a growing public health threat that rivals that of AIDS. Although new infections are decreasing, the incidence of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is increasing as individuals who were infected years ago are just now learning of their infection. Even as recently as last week, a Boston Globe article discusses significant increases in Hepatitis C cases, noting that public awareness campaigns encouraging people to get tested are having an impact.

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne disease that can lead to liver scarring, liver failure or cancer. It is the leading diagnosis leading to liver transplantation. Hepatitis C affects people from all walks of life, although veterans, individuals who received blood transfusions prior to 1992, intravenous drug users, health care and emergency workers and hemophiliacs are at greatest risk of infection. Because of the long period of time between HCV infection and the onset of symptoms, health experts believe that the incidence of known Hepatitis C infection will continue to increase substantially in the coming years. The costs associated with Hepatitis C, estimated at \$5.6 billion in 1997, can also be expected to rise.

The good news is, as more people become tested and learn of their HCV infection, medical science has made important treatment advances. In the early 1990's treatment for Hepatitis C was only moderately successful at eliminating the virus from the bloodstream. Advances in the past decade have made marked improvements. The Hepatitis Foundation International estimates that currently 50 to 60 percent of patients respond to treatment initially and that lasting clearance of the virus occurs in about 10 to 40 percent of patients. Additionally, some patients who are not cured find that treatment can delay the need for a liver transplant, an important consideration given the critical shortage of organs available for transplant.

Despite these advances, new treatment regimens are desperately needed in this area. Other options are in various stages of research and development for these patients and I have sent a letter with several of my colleagues to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to encourage him to expedite review of such products as determined appropriate by the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, I have also sent a letter to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee requesting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to include language that will recognize and address the intensity of Hepatitis C and language that encourages research for better treatment options for those in high-risk populations.

In the meantime, a growing number of Americans, like the patient described in The Times article, will discover their infection in the coming decade. I am hopeful that medical science, together with sound public policy, will do everything possible to help these Americans fight their disease and continue to lead productive lives.

[From the New York Times, May 14, 2002]  
MORE ARE FINDING PERMANENT CURES FOR  
HEPATITIS C  
(By Julie Bain)

Five years ago, R. Scott Bromley, then 57, was returning from a trip to Sicily with friends when he felt a nagging pain in his right side. He was scheduled for an annual checkup the next day, and he learned from a blood test that his liver enzymes were elevated.

Not a big drinker, Mr. Bromley, a New York architect, told the doctor that while in Italy, "You have a little wine before dinner on the piazza, a little wine during dinner, a little wine after dinner," and suggested maybe that was the cause of the unusual numbers.

Two weeks later he was tested again, with the same result. He was referred to a specialist in liver disease and, after further tests, hepatitis C was diagnosed. The doctor told him he could have been harboring the virus for 30 years or more with no symptoms. What's more, the disease could be life threatening. Mr. Bromley was devastated.

More than four million people have hepatitis C in the United States, five times as many as are infected with H.I.V.

"It's the bulk of my practice," said Dr. Hillel Tobias, the medical director of the Liver Transplant Service at New York University Medical Center.

The reason is not that new cases are being contracted. New cases have declined 80 percent in the last decade, mainly because blood transfusions have not been risk factors in that period, thanks to testing for the virus. But because the disease takes so long to progress, more patients are learning that they have hepatitis C while in their 40's and 50's and that they contracted the virus many years ago.

The annual death toll, about 10,000 a year in the United States, is expected to increase for another decade to as many as 30,000 before declining, according to the American Liver Foundation.

Unlike hepatitis A and B, there is no vaccine for hepatitis C, and the virus can lead to serious liver disease, like cirrhosis or liver cancer. Hepatitis C patients make up the largest percentage of people requiring liver transplants. But with new treatments, more are now finding permanent cures.

Some misconceptions exist about the way the hepatitis C virus is spread, said Dr. Eugene R. Schiff, a professor of medicine and the director of the Center for Liver Disease at the University of Miami School of Medicine. "The unequivocally major mode of transmission is blood to blood," he said. An estimated 300,000 Americans now infected got the disease from a transfusion before 1990.

"Sexual transmission has been way overplayed," he said. "So has transmission from mother to baby. It's uncommon, probably less than 3 percent for either of those, quite the opposite from hepatitis B."

Drugs injected by needle also pose blood-to-blood risks. "The classic hepatitis C patient today is a very upstanding 50-year-old lawyer who once tried a needle when he was in college," Dr. Tobias said. "In the 70's, a lot of kids in college tried needles once."

Tattoo needles can also spread the disease. Because of the lack of symptoms, many cases go undetected until the disease is advanced, although a test can detect antibodies to the virus before it affects the liver.

Starting in 1992, the treatment of choice was alpha interferon, injected three times a week for a year. This antiviral protein can kill the virus, as well as boost the immune system. The rate of permanent viral clearance was 8 to 10 percent, Dr. Tobias said. About five years ago, this treatment was

combined with ribavirin, another antiviral agent. With both drugs taken together, a permanent cure rate of about 25 percent was achieved. One reason the rate was not higher was that the interferon was cleared out of the blood so quickly.

Current treatment is pegylated interferon, a long-acting form of the treatment that maintains a sustained blood level for a week. Approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2001, it brought the cure rate up to about 50 percent. "And if you add ribavirin to it," Dr. Tobias said, "you get to over 60 percent."

Five years ago Mr. Bromley began treatment with alpha interferon, and within two and a half months he was down to a level of zero virus. But the side effects were devastating. "I didn't sleep well, my sex life was all screwed up, I lost 40 pounds and the interferon changed my whole personality," he said.

Then, just a year after he was off the drug, the virus rebounded, even higher than it was before.

There is no clear correlation between the viral count and what's going on in the liver, the real danger zone.

"I have patients with advanced liver disease whose viral counts are fairly low," Dr. Tobias said, "and I have patients with very little liver disease whose viral counts are very high. Similarly, there are people who have normal enzymes and still have significant hepatitis C."

That's why a liver biopsy is usually required to help determine treatment.

For Mr. Bromley, whose tests showed little damage to his liver, it was a tough decision whether to undergo a second treatment. But a year and a half later, he began 48 weeks of interferon and ribavirin, and this time the side effects were even worse. "I couldn't sleep," he said. "I began forgetting things. I would fall down in the middle of the street. I became very depressed."

But the treatment worked, and Mr. Bromley has been free of the virus for more than three years.

Other patients refuse a second treatment, saying the side effects, including flu-like symptoms and depression, aren't worth it.

"But," said Dr. Tobias, "they should be retreated with the pegylated interferon because a significant number of them will respond to it."

Those who previously did not respond with interferon have about a 20 percent chance of being cured if they are retreated with the pegylated interferon. Those who have relapsed after successful treatment have a chance of receiving a permanent cure of greater than 50 percent. Evidence also suggests that even if a patient doesn't lose the virus, the anti-inflammatory activity of the pegylated interferon slows the progression of the disease. Some patients who have advanced liver disease go on lifetime reduced-dose interferon, which can delay the need for a liver transplant.

New treatments in development may replace interferon and ribavirin, or be added to them in a drug cocktail, similar to AIDS and H.I.V. treatments. Vertex and Eli Lilly recently announced that they were developing a protease inhibitor that could prevent the virus from making infectious copies of itself. Even more promising, say doctors, is a polymerase inhibitor, which may also stop the virus from replicating. Another possibility is a ribozyme, which may cut the hepatitis C virus "like a scissors," said Dr. Schiff.

None of these treatments, however, will be available for several years.

A vaccine remains a challenge because hepatitis C has eight different molecular configurations that are constantly changing and mutating. A vaccine would require developing an immune response to a part of the

virus that is relatively stable across all the variations.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST NA-  
TIONAL THROCKMORTON RE-  
UNION

**HON. DEBORAH PRYCE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first national Throckmorton Reunion, to be held in Williamsburg, Virginia from June 16th through the 20th. The Throckmorton family's legacy in the United States is as storied and proud as any lineage in our nation's history. From the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 to the present, the Throckmorton name has embodied public service and patriotism. They were involved in the founding of our country from early colonial times through the Revolution, into the Civil War and Reconstruction. Throckmortons from around the U.S. will meet in the colonial city of Williamsburg to celebrate their illustrious heritage and retrace the steps of their forefathers as founders of Virginia and Colonial America.

Their story in America begins with the travels of Kellam Throckmorton to Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. Kellam was among the settlers of England's first colonial establishment on our soil. Kellam was sadly among the brave adventurers who did not survive the harsh winter of that first year in Virginia. Even Sir Walter Raleigh, a founder of Virginia, was connected to the Throckmortons; marrying Elizabeth Throckmorton the daughter of Queen Elizabeth's Ambassador to France. The next chapter of the Throckmorton legacy was the following generation and the travels of John Throckmorton with Roger Williams. Admitted as a Freeman on May 18, 1631 in Salem, Mass., John, along with Williams, settled most of Rhode Island and other parts of New England in the 1630's and 40's.

Several family members were guests of George and Martha Washington's and served under him in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Families such as the Throckmortons are more than worthy of recognition for their immeasurable sacrifices to our nation's birth and cause.

The Civil War era saw two prominent politicians and soldiers from this family. James Webb Throckmorton was a soldier in the Mexican War and a Confederate general from Texas. He worked closely with American hero Sam Houston as a Texas state senator leading up to the war. Although he fought for the South, Throckmorton was one of seven delegates who voted against the 1861 Texas Secession Convention. After the war, James Webb Throckmorton was elected governor of Texas and later served for over a decade in the House of Representatives before his passing in 1894. This era also includes the services of Oliver Hazard Perry Throckmorton as Governor of Indiana and as a close advisor of President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. Oliver Throckmorton served as an American envoy to Great Britain as well.

More recently, the proactive work of Mrs. Clare McClaren-Throckmorton and Dr. Caroline Throckmorton Lewin, a psychologist from

my district in Ohio, has been commendable. It's important to remember the bravery and service of others to our country throughout history. The Throckmorton reunion in Williamsburg, Virginia is a gathering of a great American family and a salute to times past. I'm confident that generations from now the Throckmortons will continue to be a proud family of patriots. It's my honor and privilege to recognize the Throckmorton family, and extend my best wishes to them all. The United States is in their debt.

IN HONOR OF THE HEROISM OF  
JOHNNY SHERRILL

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the heroism of a brave civil servant, Mr. Johnny Sherrill of New Castle, Delaware. His bravery and heroic actions resulted in a life being saved.

Mr. Sherrill, a mail carrier with the United States Postal Service, deserves a hero's recognition for his actions that save the life of 95-year-old Elsmere resident Almira Francisco. While on his delivery route, Mr. Sherrill heard a smoke detector alarm and noticed smoke coming from Mrs. Francisco's residence. Mr. Sherrill alertly checked on the residence, escorted Mrs. Francisco safely outside, and called the Elsmere Fire Department. After waiting for emergency personnel to arrive, Mr. Sherrill simply continued on with his delivery route.

Mr. Sherrill displayed a quality that all Delawareans should look for in a role model—selfless concern for fellow citizens. We should all hope to emulate Mr. Sherrill's actions. In times like these, America needs everyday heroes who display courage and bravery when called upon to help their fellow citizens. I am proud to say that Mr. Sherrill exemplified these qualities with his actions, and his recognition, Mr. Speaker, is duly deserved.

Ordinary people, like Johnny Sherrill from my great State of Delaware, are the true heroes in today's world, and are the true role models for the next generation of leaders, both inside and outside of Delaware's borders.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ANDREW KAMEI

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the achievement of Mr. Andrew Kamei of Bishop, California. Andrew Kamei was awarded first place in the Junior Historical Research Paper category at the California State History Day competition held in San Jose, California. Having accomplished this, Andrew has earned the honor of representing California in the National History Day Competition this month, an event honoring the scholarship and creativity of students across the nation.

Andrew Kamei is a 12-year-old seventh grader with an inspirational work ethic and a

remarkable understanding of history. His award winning research paper, titled "In Times of War the Laws are Silent": The Fair Play Committee, Heart Mountain Relocation Camp, Wyoming, 1944" is a written testament to these qualities. The paper describes the experiences of the Fair Play Committee, a group of Japanese Americans who were sentenced to extended terms in federal prison for refusing to appear for draft induction while being held in internment camps as potential enemies of the United States.

The sixty-three members of the Fair Play Committee unanimously agreed to serve in the military on the condition that their constitutional rights be restored, a remarkable historical event that Andrew Kamei explored with tremendous determination. By talking to former internees, scouring state archives, and meeting with surviving members of the Fair Play Committee, Andrew has put together a research paper of the highest caliber. Furthermore, Andrew draws on his own experiences as a Japanese American and the son of a man born into internment to give his work an added depth and gravity. The result is an important historical document worthy of competing in the National History Day Competition.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Andrew Kamei for his spirited pursuit of academic excellence and historical perspective. Balancing national security and civil liberties is an important issue, one that Andrew can continue to study and apply to what will certainly be a bright academic and professional future.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE EMANU-EL

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th Anniversary of Bayonne's Temple Emanu-El. This momentous event took place on Sunday, June 9, 2002, at Temple Emanu-El, and featured the television personalities, "The God Squad", Msgr. Thomas Harman and Rabbi Marc Gellman.

Initially formed in 1911 as a response to the Conservative Movement of America, Temple Emanu-El, with its modern outlook, has served and continues to serve as a inviting place of worship for Bayonne's Jewish community. In a departure from the Orthodox practice, in 1913, it was decided that men and women should sit together, demonstrating the Temple's enlightened vision, as well as its commitment to the congregation.

The Temple's first President was Hyman Lazarus, followed by many outstanding leaders, all of whom contributed greatly to making Temple Emanu-El the esteemed place of worship it is today. The Temple's first building was purchased in 1912 and completed in 1913. In 1953, the building was completely renovated, and continues to serve as the congregation's meeting place.

Over the past nine decades, Temple Emanu-El has established itself as Bayonne's leading Jewish religious institution with a beautiful house of worship, exceptional religious instruction for its students, and countless social functions for its congregants and their family and friends.