

loses her income and social role, but also her employer-sponsored health insurance. Age and pre-existing conditions make it unlikely that the daughter could purchase health insurance as an individual, so she may have to jeopardize her own medical care for that of her mother. By enabling family caregivers aged 55 or older to buy into Medicare at community rates, with no penalty for pre-existing conditions, we recognize the important contributions made by caregivers and support their valuable work in useful ways.

Second, the legislation proposes a \$3,000 per year tax credit for the primary caregiver of a low-income individual who has long-term care needs. This is important, because the United States is the only developed nation that does not support family caregivers. There is no federal government program to help improve skills, provide respite; indeed, we do not generally demonstrate that we honor their love and loyalty. The tax credit we propose is admittedly not enough to pay for the financial sacrifices of caregivers who provide long-term care, but it will demonstrate support and respect for the significant commitment and contributions made by those who help loved ones to live well despite serious illness.

We have been so focused on learning how to prevent and cure diseases that we have all but abandoned interest in what occurs as those possibilities run out. Most people now die of long-term irreversible conditions like dementia, frailty, heart failure, emphysema, cancer, and stroke; yet there is very little reliable evidence about serious illness and the end of life. This legislation will help provide guidance that the medical community needs to respond more effectively to unique end of life challenges.

Third, the bill authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to establish research, demonstration, and education programs to improve the quality of end-of-life care across multiple federal agencies.

Fourth, the bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement programs to improve the delivery of appropriate health and support services for patients with fatal chronic illness. The Veterans Health Care System has been a leader in end of life care delivery and innovation, especially in advance care planning and pain management. This bill aims to support continued excellence through enhanced education and service delivery for this important care system that now serves so many disabled and elderly veterans.

Our nation will face major challenges in the next quarter century as baby boomers approach old age. We must ensure that people suffering from fatal chronic illnesses live out their lives in a dignified, comfortable, and meaningful way, and we must support and honor the invaluable work of caregivers.

HONORING DHIRUBHAI AMBANI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to mark the passing of one of India's greatest industrialists and entrepreneurs, Dhirubhai Ambani, who died on Saturday, July 6, 2002, at the age of sixty-nine.

Dhirubhai Ambani was the ultimate success story. Born in a rural village in Gujarat, he rose from a small trader of textiles and spices to head the largest and most profitable industrial concern in India, the Reliance Group. Through a series of shrewd business moves and decades of hard work, Dhirubhai Ambani transformed Reliance from a minor retail concern into an entity which included the largest and most modern refinery in Asia, a petrochemical business of unparalleled quality, a five billion dollar satellite and broadband subsidiary, and petroleum and refining businesses which set the standard throughout South Asia. At the time of his death, Dhirubhai Ambani oversaw an economic juggernaut which accounted in almost 3 percent of India's GDP and 16 percent of the value of the Bombay Stock Exchange. He was one of the wealthiest men in the world, a recognized billionaire by Forbes Magazine, and in 2000 he was rightly acknowledged by Business India magazine as India's Businessman of the Century.

Mr. Speaker, although Dhirubhai Ambani became very rich, his wealth was never closely held. Unlike many old line Indian companies, Dhirubhai Ambani shunned debt financing from banks and instead offered shares in Reliance to India's growing middle class. Shares in Reliance were eagerly purchased whenever offered. Today there are more than three million shareholders, almost all of whom are financially far better off as a result of their investment.

For anyone who may wonder about the ability of capitalism to flourish in the Indian economy, despite that country's long dance with government intervention and control, one need look no further than the story of The Reliance Group and its departed Chairman, Dhirubhai Ambani.

Mr. Speaker, as the Former Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and a frequent visitor to India, I had the distinct privilege of spending time with Dhirubhai Ambani both at his office in South Bombay and his lovely residence. He was a gentleman of immediate warmth. A modest man who did not discuss his achievements or his generosity towards his employees, his community and his country, Dhirubhai Ambani immediately made me feel as though we had been friends for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing condolences to Dhirubhai Ambani's two sons, Mukesh and Anil, who have taken over the management of Reliance, as well as his widow, Kokilaben, and his two daughters. Although they have suffered a great loss, their loss is shared, not only by India's citizens, but by many friends of India in the Congress and throughout the United States.

LEGISLATION TO NAME A UNITED STATES POST OFFICE IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA FOR THE HONORABLE WILLIAM C. CRAMER

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning I have introduced legislation to name

the United States Post Office at 3135 First Avenue North in St. Petersburg, Florida for the Honorable William C. Cramer, who represented the great state of Florida in this House for 16 years from January 3, 1955 to January 3, 1971.

Bill Cramer moved to St. Petersburg in 1925 where he attended public schools and The St. Petersburg Junior College. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1943 and served with distinction as a gunnery officer during World War II. In particular he was cited for his service during the allied invasion of southern France. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1946.

Upon leaving the Navy, he graduated from the University of North Carolina and the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1948, when he began practicing law in St. Petersburg.

Bill Cramer began his distinguished career in public service in 1950, when he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where he served until 1952, including one year as the House's first Minority Leader.

It was in November of 1954 that he was elected to the United States House of Representatives, and was sworn into the 84th Congress on January 3, 1955. Bill Cramer was the first Republican from Florida elected to the House since reconstruction in 1875. He was reelected to seven succeeding Congresses.

During his eight terms in the House, Bill Cramer established a reputation for being one of our nation's foremost experts on transportation and public works issues. His career in Congress culminated with his service as the Ranking Republican on the House Public Works Committee, its Subcommittee on Roads, and on the Federal Aid Highway Investigating Committee. He also served as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Following his retirement from the House, Bill Cramer was a distinguished professor and lecturer at The St. Petersburg Junior College, where he taught very popular classes in politics and government.

He is the father of three sons: William C., Jr., Mark C., and Allyn Walters. He and his wife Sara currently live in St. Petersburg.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Cramer is a friend and mentor who served our nation with great honor in this House. The enactment of this legislation will leave in St. Petersburg, the hometown he so dearly loves and served, a lasting tribute to his service, his patriotism, and his devotion to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, regretfully, last night I was unable to return to the House to vote on H.R. 3482, H.R. 4755, and H.R. 3479. I ask unanimous consent that the record reflect that had I been present for the votes, I would have voted no on H.R. 3479, and would have voted yea on H.R. 4755 and 3482.

HONORING TONY RUSSELL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor a dedicated public servant, Mr. Russell Anthony Tuccelli. After a lifetime of hard work and commitment to his family, community, and state, my friend, who was better known as Tony Russell, passed away on April 20, 2002. Having completed an eight-year battle with cancer, he was buried at sea on May 8th. He was 75 years old.

Tony had a long and distinguished career working in the news media and on behalf of state and local governments. During the 1970s he was the news director for both KCRA Radio and KFBK Radio in Sacramento, California. He also was a foreign correspondent for United Press International and a talk show host for KFBK.

In 1980, Tony assumed the role of director of communications for the Senate Minority Caucus in the California State Legislature. Later, he became my district coordinator when I represented the 3rd State Senatorial District. I deeply appreciate the valuable service he provided me. In 1984, he left my office to become an administrative assistant to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. In 1987 he moved over to a similar position for the Sacramento City Council before joining the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning as the chief of communications.

The year 1991 marked the beginning of his decade of service to California's Employment Development Department. Within this agency he worked as a public information officer, marketing specialist, and an associate information systems analyst.

He was known as a leader in the community through his involvement as a youth mentor in EDD's School Partnership Program. Also, he was often the guest speaker at swearing-in ceremonies for our newest U.S. citizens, giving everyone in attendance a brief history lesson and instilling a rousing sense of patriotism.

Tony is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Lenamaria Tuccelli. He is also survived by his son Michael and daughter-in-law Erin, his son Stephen and daughter-in-law Karen, and his grandchildren Angela, Raymond, Stephanie, and Ryan. Tony Russell will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but his legacy of devotion to family and service to the community remains with us forever.

RECENT STEM CELL
BREAKTHROUGHS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, recently a scientific study was published that should have ended the ongoing debate regarding human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Researchers reported that they have identified a cell from bone marrow that is capable of transforming itself into most, or even all, of the specialized cells in the body.

This finding suggests that every one of us may carry our own "repair kit" that can be used to treat countless medical conditions and genetic disorders.

The New York Times reports that these "cells could in principle do everything expected of embryonic stem cells, with two extra advantages." They do not form tumors, which are a serious hazard associated with embryonic stem cells, and they could be derived from the patient to be treated. "Being the patient's own cells, they would be at no risk of immune rejection."

And the Washington Post notes that this discovery "heightens the prospect that therapies scientists are trying to create—cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hemophilia and many others—can be made entirely with adult cells alleviating moral concerns" that exist with the research involving embryos and clones.

Yet, proponents of these unethical and unproven practices have largely ignored these adult stem cell breakthroughs. But the facts are simple.

Research using embryos and clones requires the creation and destruction of a form of human life. Adult stem cell research does not. In fact, adult stem cells are widely available in every one of us.

Research using embryos and clones has yet to produce any clinical applications for human patients. Adult stem cell therapies are currently used to treat a host of medical conditions with new breakthroughs announced on an almost weekly basis.

Without a doubt, embryonic stem cell research and cloning are highly speculative and problematic. Both require the destruction of human embryos and the diversion of finite, and much needed, funds and resources away from more promising research avenues, such as adult stem cells.

[From the Washington Post, Fri. June 21, 2002]

STUDY FINDS POTENTIAL IN ADULT CELLS;
DISCOVERY WILL LIKELY FUEL ETHICAL DEBATE

(By Justin Gillis)

Researchers have isolated a type of cell from bone marrow that seems capable of transforming itself into most or all of the specialized cells in the body, a dramatic new finding likely to fuel the debate over the ethics of stemcell research.

The finding was reported by researchers at the University of Minnesota and published online yesterday by the journal *Nature*. It heightens the prospect that therapies scientists are trying to create—cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hemophilia and many others—can be made entirely with adult cells, alleviating moral concerns over using discarded embryos and fetuses as sources of tissue.

There has been conflicting evidence about whether cells found in adults might be as useful as those derived from embryos. But the work by Catherine Verfaillie, known as a fastidious and cautious researcher, was widely acknowledged as the most definitive evidence to date that adult cells may be almost as versatile as embryonic cells. Austin Smith, a prominent researcher in Scotland who has criticized some prior studies using such cells, called the Verfaillie paper "extraordinary."

The work is still at an early stage, however, and Verfaillie asked that it not be used as a political weapon to fight simultaneous work on embryonic and fetal cells.

"I think it is going to be important to be in a position to really compare and contrast

the cells," she said, with the ultimate goal of determining "which cells are going to work for which therapy."

As if to underscore that point, *Nature* simultaneously published work at the National Institutes of Health showing that embryo-derived cells can vastly improve symptoms similar to those associated with Parkinson's disease in mice. That work, led by Ron McKay, is one of the most convincing demonstrations to date that such embryonic cells may be useful in medical care.

The cells in McKay's experiments, derived from mouse embryos, took up residence at the right spot in the brains of adult mice and produced dopamine—a critical substance that is in short supply in Parkinson's disease—in exactly the way that would be needed to relieve the symptoms of the ailment. It is far from proof of a cure, but "it's absolutely definitive evidence that these cells can work in the brain," McKay said.

The more unexpected finding was that of Verfaillie, director of the University of Minnesota's Stem Cell Institute. With the paper, she joined the company of biologists who are overturning the dogma that animal development proceeds in one irreversible direction, from the unspecialized cell formed when sperm and egg fuse to the highly specialized cells of an adult body.

Hints of her work had been emerging for two years in papers and scientific conferences, and scientists had been eagerly awaiting it. Many other reports, some of them controversial, already emerged in recent years of various adult cell types being able to perform unexpected feats of transformation. But Verfaillie has discovered what appears to be the most flexible adult-derived cell yet.

She calls the cells in question "multipotent adult progenitor cells." She and her colleagues have isolated them from mice, rats and people, though they are only able to do so in 70 percent to 80 percent of the people they test, for unknown reasons.

In animal experiments, the cells proved to lack certain characteristics of embryonic stem cells, which are capable of making every tissue in an animal's body. But they shared many other characteristics and proved to be able to transform into cells of the liver, lung, gut, blood, brain and other organs. They have proven particularly amenable to transformation into liver cells.

Many of the types of experiments Verfaillie reported, which involved injecting the adult cells into developing mouse embryos, cannot ethically be done in humans. But further animal experimentation may clear the way to use the cells in treating human disease. Several scientists cautioned that this will take years, at best.

Verfaillie's results suggest the tantalizing possibility that every adult may carry around the raw material of his or her own repair kit—one that nature is somehow failing to use in many diseases but that scientists might be able to exploit to make new tissues and revivify failing organs.

Cells derived from a person's bone marrow would be unlikely to be rejected by the immune system, a potential problem with treatments based on embryonic- or fetal-derived cells.

Verfaillie said the cells might even be useful for correcting genetic diseases. They could be taken out of the body, a repaired gene could be inserted, doctors could grow many copies and then the cells would be inserted into a deficient organ such as the liver, along with proper manipulations to get them to turn into functional liver cells.

The Verfaillie work "is a nice research paper," said John Gearhart, a biologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and one of the two American scientists known