

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATIENT
NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH, AND
CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION
ACT OF 2002

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be joined by my Colleague from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, to introduce the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2002.

The existence of significant health disparities in this nation is undeniable. For years, research has told us that minorities and low-income populations are the least likely to receive the health care they need to live a long, healthy life. We've done a very good job of identifying this problem—it's high time we do something to solve it.

That's why I'm very excited about the bill we are introducing today and the strong support we've already received for it. The bill is supported by the American Cancer Society, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the Intercultural Cancer Council and their Caucus, the National Council of La Raza, 100 Black Men of America, the National Rural Health Association, Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center, MHz Networks, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, and Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc.

This bill addresses what I believe are the root causes of health disparities in minority and underserved communities: lack of access to health care in general—and particularly lack of access to prevention and early detection—as well as language and cultural barriers to care.

The bottom line is: the only way to stay healthy is to see a doctor when you are healthy. Yes, there are a number of explanations for the higher rates of disease among minority populations, including higher rates of uninsured, reduced access to care, and lower quality of care. But all of these barriers point to the same underlying problem—minority patients are less likely to receive early screening and detection, so their disease is found at a much later stage and they have less chance of survival.

The bill we're introducing today will ensure that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, or geography, will have access to prevention screening and treatment, and that they will have an advocate at their side, helping them navigate through today's complicated health care system.

It does this by building upon the existing infrastructure of the Consolidated Health Center program, the Indian Health Service, the Office of Rural Health Policy, and the National Cancer Institute.

It creates model programs to ensure that people are educated about the importance of prevention screening and early detection. A key component of the proposal is year-round outreach to the target community, in a language that they can understand.

It funds culturally and linguistically competent providers that reach out into the community, build their trust, build relationships, and educate the public, while providing prevention screenings and follow-up treatment.

And it ensures that navigators are available to help patients make their way through the health care system—whether it's translating technical medical terminology, making sense of their insurance, making appointments for referral screenings, following-up to make sure the patient keeps that appointment, or even accompanying a patient to a referral appointment.

The original concept for the legislation comes from Dr. Freeman's "navigator" program, which he created while he was Director of Surgery at Harlem Hospital. Recently, I was fortunate to get to visit Dr. Huerta's local Cancer Preventorium, which replicates Dr. Freeman's navigator concept within a comprehensive model of prevention services. This bill will translate the work of Dr. Harold Freeman and Dr. Elmer Huerta into a legislative model for cancer and chronic disease prevention and treatment for minorities and underserved communities.

The track record of these programs speaks for itself. It's very clear that these are not new ideas or new concepts—they're models that have been proven to work. And it's time that we take what's worked and use it to benefit underserved populations across the country. That's exactly what this legislation will do.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN
FAGERSTROM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, in Colorado we are experiencing some of the worst wildfires in our state's history. We owe an enormous debt to the men and women who have heroically battled these blazes to save lives, protect homes, and lessen the damage to other resources.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize one such firefighter, Ms. Marilyn Fagerstrom. Ms. Fagerstrom is an example of the people who always strive to use their abilities to make positive contributions to their communities.

At 71 years of age, Marilyn Fagerstrom is an esteemed firefighter—and a grandmother of six. After having moved to the mountains nearly twenty years ago, Ms. Fagerstrom decided that becoming a volunteer firefighter was the best way to give back to her community. Through the years she has stood shoulder to shoulder with firefighters who, more often than not, were much her junior.

In recent days, she has been tirelessly working to help fight the Big Elk wildfire burning between Estes Park and Lyons, Colorado. It has been said that Marilyn Fagerstrom does more in retirement than many people do during their careers. As such, she is a source of inspiration deserving of our respect and commendations.

For my colleagues' interest, I have attached a news story about Ms. Fagerstrom's firefighting efforts. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Marilyn Fagerstrom for her spirit, service and tenacity. I wish her continued health and happiness.

[Denver Post Northern Colorado Bureau]
71-YEAR-OLD STAYS YOUNG FIGHTING FIRES

(By Coleman Cornelius)

Sunday, July 21, 2002—LYONS—Marilyn Fagerstrom's graying hair, pearl earrings and round spectacles form the image of a grandmother. Then there are her Nomex fire-retardant shirt and black lug-soled boots.

Fagerstrom is 71 years old, a grandmother of six—and an esteemed firefighter. She is the oldest firefighter among nearly 400 at the Big Elk blaze and a veteran of the Hayman wildfire. Fagerstrom began fighting fires at age 53, when she retired to a mountain home northwest of Boulder and realized it was the best way to give back to her wildfire-prone community.

"I suddenly realized I live in an area that could burn. I began investigating. 'Do we have a fire department? What's going on?'" said Fagerstrom, a former physical-education teacher. Fagerstrom quickly joined the Lefthand Fire Protection District, a volunteer force that responds to blazes primarily in Boulder County. As part of the district's engine team, she drives the heavy rig, hauls hoses and sprays down threatened homes and structures with water and fire retardant. In the devastating fire season of 2000, she spent six straight weeks in the field on wildfires including the monster at Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado. She slept in tents, bathed in portable showers and ate elbow-to-elbow with sweaty, soot-smudged firefighters, many of whom are younger men and women.

At the Big Elk wildfire, Fagerstrom has an office job. She works as an information officer for the federal team managing fire response.

Her engine crew was in the field protecting homes in the Big Elk Meadows subdivision as Fagerstrom came through leading a media tour.

"She brings us intelligence, charm, wit, wisdom and experience—definitely experience," Lefthand volunteer David Keyek said of Fagerstrom.

Added Dave Nyquist, chief of the Lefthand Fire Protection District: "Marilyn is one of those people who makes things work. She's busier in retirement than most people are in their normal jobs."

Fagerstrom said she has made firefighting her life because it allows her to experience camaraderie, adrenaline-laced physical challenge and the reward of helping others. She also wears the hats of information officer and treasurer for the Lefthand Fire Protection District. "It keeps me going. I'm not ready to sit in the rocker yet," she said with a laugh.

A TRIBUTE TO STANLEY "MIKE"
LARSON: FINALLY COMING HOME

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, fifty-seven years after he died on December 16, 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge, Stanley Larson finally received the funeral reserved for heroes.

He was just a 19-year-old kid, one year out of high school, looking forward to the same things all kids want: lasting friendships, a good job, a loving family. War has a tendency to permanently interrupt dreams of young men. One such was Stanley Larson of Rochelle, a resident of the same county where I live.

I had the opportunity to present an American flag to Stanley's family, the least I could do on behalf of a grateful America.

The enclosed story from the Rockford Register Star, July 23, 2002, tells his remarkable story:

**BELGIANS MAKE TRIP FOR SOLDIER'S
HOMETOWN BURIAL**
(By Gale Worland)

ROCHELLE.—Jean-Louis Seel had always thought of Stanley E. Larson, and the other American soldiers whose remains he had recovered, as a soldier.

But at Rochelle United Methodist Church, as a young boy rounded a corner, Seel made the connection: Stanley the young boy. Stanley the teenager.

Here was his hometown, his past. Stanley, the high school basketball star. The fresh-faced boy who had a kind word for everyone. The young gentleman in glasses whose keen personality and confident smarts had made him student council president his senior year.

Monday was a day of strange contrasts for the Larson family, who laid to rest one of its oldest members, who was also one of the youngest: Pfc. Stanley E. "Mike" Larson, struck down by enemy fire at the age of 19 in a war that most of the people at his funeral were much too young to have seen.

After being buried in a common grave for 57 years not far from where he fell on Dec. 16, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, Larson's remains were discovered last summer deep in the Monschau Forest by a group of Belgian "diggers"—four men, including Seel, who have taken on the recovery of American MIAs as a personal mission.

They had traveled from another hemisphere to see Stanley come back to his hometown, a Midwestern crossroads ringed by tasse-headed cornfields and shingled red barns.

And now they stood in the oppressive summer heat to say farewell to a young man killed on a historic, bitter winter's day. About 200 people gathered alongside them at Stanley's gravesite, including the great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews he never knew but who, today, tenderly walked to his silver casket and left a handful of red poppies.

Stanley's father, Elmer, had bought that plot for his youngest son nearly half a century ago. Now 16 members of VFW posts from throughout northern Illinois saluted their fallen comrade with a color guard. Seven white-gloved men and women sent by the U.S. Army from Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri raised their rifles and sounded the crack of three volleys for one of America's 58,000 World War II MIAs who had finally come home.

And as a bugler played taps, a train whistle in the distance blew in an uncanny, solemn harmony.

"These people are here today to give the family final closure," said Kenneth Seay of Loves Park VFW Post 9759. Seay, the POW/MIA director for the state, held the POW/MIA flag in the formal color guard at the gravesite. On his wrist he wears a thick band engraved with the names of the 98 Vietnam POW/MIAs from Illinois.

"With everything that's gone on in the past year, we really need to pay respect to those who've gone before," said Sen. Brad Burzynski, R-Clare, who attended the funeral.

"I believe God was with Stanley and his buddies when that barrage of hot steel came down upon them," said the Rev. Brian Channel, a military history buff who gave the sermon during the church funeral preceding Stanley's burial with military honors. "Stanley's journey ends today after half a century."

The casket lay in the church draped with a U.S. flag—just as it had at a similar cere-

mony months ago in a village church near where Stanley's body was found. Close to 2,000 people, many of them Belgians wanting to show gratitude to the American troops who helped secure their liberty, attended that day.

On Monday, the flag of Belgium, with its bold vertical stripes in black, gold and red, flanked the altar along with the Stars and Stripes. Belgian "digger" Jean Philippe Speder told the congregation how, when he was a teenager, he'd heard his grandparents talk about the war. But later he realized that those memories were dimming among his peers. "The picture of the GI was fading as a new generation, including mine, grew up," he said. Speder painted the woods where Stanley lay for 57 years as a place of "serene and magnificent deep forest, known for its high marshes and spring waters." More MIAs lie in unknown pockets of those woods. "Those boys will always be home," he said, "and live in our hearts forever."

The friends and family who spoke at the funeral unraveled the compelling tale of how Stanley was searched for and found. In few words, Battle of the Bulge veteran Roger Foehringer reminded all why they had come: "He's the real hero. He gave his life, his life for us."

"Home is where I belong," Foehringer said, speaking for Stanley, "Goodbye, friends."

**THE I.R.I. PROMOTES DEMOCRACY
AND FREEDOM AROUND THE
WORLD**

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the importance of democracy and strong democratic institutions in today's world cannot be overstated; we have too many recent examples of the dangers posed by their absence. I would like to salute the International Republican Institute (IRI) and its dedicated work to promote and strengthen democracy around the world.

It is now impossible for us to ignore the potential that unstable states have as breeding grounds for terrorists and terrorist activities—particularly in Africa, where many weak and undemocratic states make fertile ground for terrorism. Africa has been the scene of past terrorist acts, as we saw in the tragic bombings of U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

In my role as Chairman of the International Relations Africa Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to witness IRI's work in a number of African countries in which political development has been seriously challenged by ethnic and religious conflict, mass violence, and corrupt leadership. In 1999 I led an IRI election observation delegation to observe the historic democratic elections in Nigeria.

In that key country today, IRI is working with Nigerian political parties to prepare for upcoming elections and to encourage the increased participation of women in the political process. IRI also conducted, along with the National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Election Systems, a pre-election political assessment of Angola, a country that may be starting to make democratic progress from a savage civil conflict. A current program in Burundi is providing training and support to a legislature struggling to move for-

ward after a genocide of horrific proportions and ongoing violent unrest that threatens the stability of the entire Great Lakes region.

In these constantly changing political landscapes, IRI continues to work in innovative ways to address democratic priorities. For example, building on several years of successful training with local government in South Africa's young democracy, IRI is now constructing a program which will strengthen a local government and community-level response to the AIDS epidemic, a national crisis which threatens both development and democratic stability.

By working to foster strong democratic institutions, transparency and accountability in government, and political empowerment at the grassroots level, institutions such as IRI promote international political stability and further the ideals of democratic freedom throughout the world.

**TRIBUTE TO PETE SEIBERT,
FOUNDER OF COLORADO'S VAIL
SKI RESORT**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Pete Seibert—a great man and a true pioneer. Mr. Seibert has often been described as a humble visionary guided by his passions more than his quest for material gains. His vision pioneered the Colorado ski industry and will no doubt continue to shape the industry for years to come.

Mr. Seibert started skiing on pair of his mother's wooden skis at the age of seven. He quickly fell in love with the sport and soon decided that he would one day create a ski resort of his own. As a young man, he joined the Army's storied 10th Mountain Division where he learned unparalleled mountaineering skills and served his country honorably during World War II. After being severely wounded in 1945, during some of the most difficult combat of the war, Pete Seibert was sent home from Italy with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart and was told that he would likely never walk again. He did not accept that verdict—in fact, he totally rejected it, and went on to overcome the odds against rehabilitation. So complete was his success that in 1950 he qualified for the U.S. Alpine Ski Team.

A few years later, Pete Seibert set out in earnest to create a ski resort. After considering many possible locations, he chose the site near Gore Creek that is now known as Vail Mountain. With the same tenacity with which he overcame his war injury, Mr. Seibert shrugged off suggestions that the area was too flat, too close to the interstate and too close to Aspen.

Chris Joufflas, a lifelong rancher in the area, tells about tending sheep high on the mountain before it was ever referred to as Vail. He remembers one day encountering two young men scanning the mountain, excitedly pointing out terrain features and taking copious notes. The two men were Pete Seibert and his friend Earl Eaton. Mr. Joufflas asked them what they were doing. They matter-of-factly replied that they were going to turn the mountainside into a world class ski resort. Mr. Joufflas likely had