

WE ARE "GREAT BECAUSE WE
ARE GOOD"

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, as we observe the remembrance of September 11th, it is my hope that the citizens of the United States will honor the legacy of those who lost their lives and pay tribute to their survivors in time honored American ways . . . like helping others in need, saying a kind word to a stranger, volunteering at a homeless shelter or sending relief to people around the world who we may never even meet. After all, our country is not great because of our military strength, our free enterprise system or even our right to vote (as awesome as these qualities are!). America is great as we give more than we take and as we are willing to serve and sacrifice for others.

We now know countless stories of heroism and remarkable bravery—passengers on flight 93 that had the courage to stand up to terrorists giving their lives to protect hundreds of others, a Lieutenant Colonial who died trying to get his co-workers to safety or a firefighter who ran up the stairs of a building that was coming down on top of him. Although they didn't sign up to fight in the trenches of the War on Terrorism, fire fighters, EMT's, law enforcement officers, medical professionals and even airline passengers were willing to lay down their lives for people they had never even met.

The sacrifice and courage of our first responders on September 11th caused a swell of pride in all Americans, of every generation. What we witnessed when America came under attack was comparable to the noble actions of the "Greatest Generation" veterans on D-day when they stormed the beaches of Normandy or in the lonely courage of American heroes in the jungles of Vietnam.

The United States of America is at her best not when the Dow Jones average is above 10,000 points, or when we land on the moon, but when our citizens are willing to sacrifice themselves so that others might be secure.

I participated in a historic joint-session of Congress at Federal Hall in New York City, laid a wreath at Ground Zero and spoke at a memorial service in a Brooklyn church. On Wednesday, September 11th I attended the National Memorial Service at the Pentagon with President George W. Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. That evening I listened with the rest of the world to President Bush speak about this past year and America's security in an unstable world.

As we bow our heads in respect, let us all be committed to honoring our country and those that have gone before us by giving of ourselves to help others. After all, every day of life is a gift from God and none of us know which might be our last. Let us stay united and make the most of every day!

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. I'm proud to stand up today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 472 that recognizes the 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Both my wife and I, who I met when we were both Minnesota State 4-H Ambassadors, were born and have lived in rural Minnesota most of our lives.

Until graduating from college, I never lived in a town with more than one thousand people.

4-H enables kids to have fun, meet new people, learn new lifeskills, build self-confidence, learn responsibility, and set and achieve goals!

I will now recite the 4-H pledge

I pledge: My head to clear thinking; my heart to greater loyalty; my hands to larger service; my health to better living; for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

The World would do well to live by this pledge.

DEBORAH HORWITZ 2002 COLONEL
IRVING SALOMON HUMAN RELATIONS
AWARD WINNER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Deborah Horwitz for her selection as the 2002 Colonel Irving Salomon Human Relations Award recipient and in recognition of her outstanding community and civic leadership.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Deborah received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University and Master's Degree from Northwestern University. Deborah has devoted her life to her two passions: her family and the community.

Deborah served as President of the San Diego Chapter of the American Jewish Committee (1988–91) and has actively participated on many national AJC training institutes, commissions and task forces. She currently serves on the Boards of AJC's Belfer Center for American Pluralism and AJC's Project Interchange. She has also been appointed as a National Vice President of the American Jewish Committee—the first San Diegan to hold this honored position.

Deborah is also the Founder and former President of EdUCate!, a non-profit foundation supporting local public schools which is still being used as a model in other communities. In 1999, she was recognized for her support of public education and received the California Woman of the Year Award from the California State Legislature.

In addition, Deborah was on the founding steering committee of the San Diego County United Jewish Federation Task Force on Jewish Continuity and, during her five years of

service, assisted with the creation of several successful community-building projects.

Deborah currently serves on the boards of the Lipinsky Institute for Judaic Studies at San Diego State University and the Northwestern University Alumni Club of San Diego. She is a founding member of the San Diego Women's Foundation, whose mission is to educate women about philanthropy and to improve the greater San Diego community through intelligent, focused giving.

Deborah Horwitz exemplifies a true leader of our community. I offer my congratulations to her on the receipt of the prestigious 2002 Colonel Irving Salomon Human Relations Award.

REMARKS DELIVERED ON THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SEP-
TEMBER 11, 2002

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we come here today, as one community, to reflect on the events of September 11, 2001. On that terrible day, a group of evil men murdered more than 3,000 innocent American men, women, and children—here on American soil—as their co-conspirators attempted to kill thousands more.

Today, we still mourn the loss of our fellow citizens: those trying to reach safety and those who deliberately placed themselves in harms way (who saved literally tens of thousands of their fellow Americans in the process). We will also never forget those who were injured and who are still suffering from the wounds, physical and emotional, that were inflicted upon them. We will never forget the heroism and sacrifice of those—many of whom are with us today—who responded immediately and selflessly, who prevented a terrible ordeal from being even worse.

While we will always continue to remember what happened, we must also continue our nation's effort to bring to justice and punish those who perpetrated these terrible acts and those who are planning new ones. Government's first priority is, after all, to protect the people, and as your representative in Congress, I assure you that Congress is working to see that our government meets our country's needs for our homeland security and for our national defense: from strengthening our borders, to improving law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, to ensuring that our military is fighting with superior forces and weapons. We never forget that we Americans depend on our government to protect us.

We are forever grateful to the men and women in law enforcement and in our armed forces, here and around the world, who put their lives at risk so that we may keep our country and her people safe and free.

Is America a perfect nation? Are we as individuals perfect people? No, America is not perfect, and none of us has ever met a perfect person. But what we have in America is the greatest nation the world has ever known—a country committed to freedom, democracy, and equal justice under the law. An imperfect country, but one whose principles of freedom of speech and expression allow us and even demand us to continually seek to make our

nation more perfect in its realization of our founding principles. We are still the shining beacon of hope and liberty for every nation in the world and every man, woman, and child on this planet.

Finally, we must always remember that in our 226 year history, America has prevailed over many more powerful enemies than the ones we face today. It took the lives and sacrifices of countless numbers of Americans. It took money. It took time. It took patience. And it took perseverance. But we prevailed. Make no mistake about it, my fellow Americans, America will prevail again today.

God bless you, my friends, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNITION OF GAREN AND SHARI STAGLIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Garen and Shari Staglin for their many contributions to the mental health community. As founders of Napa Valley's Music Festival for Mental Health, they have raised community and regional awareness about the importance of mental health services, as well as millions of dollars for mental health research and treatment programs.

Approximately one in five Americans are affected by some form of mental illness. Underfunded research programs and professional shortages, however, mean that those who are suffering from mental diseases and disorders cannot always get the treatment they need.

As long-standing supporters of the mental health community, Garen and Shari Staglin saw this unmet need and made a personal commitment to support programs that research and treat mental illness. Garen and Shari actively work as both fundraisers, and educators, increasing community and national knowledge of mental disease as well as generating the funding that allows substantial progress in research and treatment.

Through the Music Festival for Mental Health, Garen, Shari, their family and their supporters have raised over \$8.6 million since 1995. Funds have been donated to a variety of mental health research and treatment programs including those focusing on brain disorders, schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorders.

Garen and Shari have made a critical difference—but they have done so in the shadows. Not seeking any personal recognition for their efforts, they have advocated tirelessly on behalf of suffering people who may have never heard their name. They are not seeking fame or credit or even thanks; they would much prefer the spotlight to shine on the mental health community.

Desired or not, recognition is sincerely deserved. Garen and Shari's efforts have funded treatment programs, as well as the research that generates the medicines upon which many of those treatments are based. They have improved the lives of countless individuals, and they have done so with a quiet compassion and a singular focus that has prompted the involvement of their family, their friends and their community in their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Garen and Shari Staglin. I congratulate them on the phenomenal success of the Music Festival for Mental Health and I join the mental health community in thanking them for their outstanding efforts on behalf of mental illness.

PANCREATIC ISLET CELL TRANSPLANTATION ACT OF 2002

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus I am pleased to introduce the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2002.

I know first-hand about the difficulty involved in managing this disease, as my daughter was diagnosed with diabetes when she was six. I have hope in the rapid pace of research in this area and believe that one day soon there will be a cure for my daughter and the millions of Americans with diabetes. The legislation we are introducing today is an important step toward this goal.

It is a promising time for research on diabetes, and those suffering from the disease and their families are filled with hope. One of the most exciting recent advances, and the focus of this legislation, is pancreatic islet cell transplantation. Many have hailed the breakthrough in this area as the most important advance in diabetes research since the discovery of insulin in 1921.

In 2000, researchers in Edmonton, Canada were successful in isolating islets from donor pancreases and transplanting those cells into a person with diabetes through an injection. These injected islets then begin to function and produce insulin, and this procedure appears to offer the most immediate cure for diabetes. This procedure has become known as the Edmonton Protocol and of the approximately 100 patients who have been transplanted using variations of this protocol, nearly 80 percent remain insulin independent beyond two years. The research is moving forward quickly, and researchers around the world are trying to replicate and expand on this success and make it appropriate for children. As of January 2002, there were 68 islet transplantation centers around the world.

I am proud that exciting advances are underway in the state of Washington. Recently, a clinical research team at the JDRF Center for Human Islet Transplantation in Seattle has performed the first three human islet transplants in the Northwest. All of these individuals were suffering the effects of advanced diabetes complications prior to receiving the transplant, and all three have now achieved critical post-transplant success in the management of their blood sugar levels. I am heartened to know that the Seattle program plans to continue their research in the future.

The Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act of 2002 contains three provisions that I believe will help to move this research forward. The first section of the bill provides a regulatory incentive to organ procurement organizations (OPOs) to procure additional pancreases. One of the major challenges in promoting research on and transplantation of islet cells is the shortage of pancreases. Approximately 2,000

pancreases are donated each year, and only approximately 500 of those donated are available for use in islet cell transplants. Clearly, this is not nearly a large enough supply considering that millions of Americans have diabetes. Currently, OPOs do not receive credit from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), towards their certification, for pancreases retrieved and used for research or islet transplantation. The OPOs do receive credit for pancreases retrieved and used for whole pancreas transplants. This creates a disincentive for OPOs to retrieve pancreases for research or islet transplantation. My legislation attempts to provide an incentive to OPOs by directing CMS to provide credit to OPOs for pancreases retrieved and used for research and islet transplantation.

The second section of this legislation creates a federal inter-agency committee to coordinate efforts in the area of islet transplantation and to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on regulations and policies that would advance this exciting area of research.

Ultimately, the goal is to expand the human clinical trials, demonstrate success over a longer period of time, and move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to standard therapy covered by insurance and appropriate for all individuals with diabetes. The third section of this legislation directs the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study on clinical outcomes and comprehensive cost-utility analysis that will be important in moving towards this goal.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important legislation.

PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for your support of H.R. 3815, the Presidential Historic Site Study Act, a bipartisan bill I offered earlier this year.

This bill simply begins the normal process for preserving an important American presidential landmark. American Presidents are a hallmark of our society. The way in which Americans forever remember leadership of the "greatest nation" is through their policies, their words, and through the people and places that have shaped their lives. We place a great significance on the homes of Presidents because they are a part of our nation's history. They are where our leaders formed the beliefs and values that shaped their decisions and legacies. Anyone who has visited Mt. Vernon, Monticello, or Abraham Lincoln's birthplace at Spring Creek has felt a sense of the historic value of where they stood and what they saw. The birthplace home of President William Jefferson Clinton holds a piece of our presidential history, and it is only fitting for it to be designated as a National Historic Site.

I share the unique opportunity of being the Representative of former President Clinton's birthplace home, Hope, Arkansas. In fact, I am a 1979 graduate of Hope High School. In that small town called Hope, President Clinton was educated and encouraged by a loving family in