

HONORING ROMAN, DON AND GLORIA REED FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO FUND SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues the achievements of a remarkable family in my district.

Roman Reed was a star college football player until he was paralyzed by a game injury that broke his neck. Such an injury would devastate most families, but not the Reeds. Roman's father, Don, began tirelessly searching for cures for his son's injuries. Don learned that, while research is moving closer and closer to a cure, insufficient funding is slowing our chances for success.

Roman's parents, Don and Gloria Reed, have become tireless advocates for spinal cord research. They gathered other concerned citizens and founded "Californians for a Cure," a campaign to raise funds for spinal cord injury research. Car accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injury. Recognizing that, they sought state legislation to dedicate a portion of the state revenues collected from speeding tickets to spinal cord research.

The Reed's State Assemblyman, John Dutra, took up their cause for spinal cord research in the State Legislature. In September 2000, after three years of tremendous work, Governor Gray Davis signed the Roman Reed bill into law. For five years, this law will provide \$1 million annually for spinal cord research in California.

Last Friday, March 1, the Roman Reed Laboratory for Spinal Cord Injury Research was dedicated at the University of California, Irvine. This laboratory was created through some of the funds made possible by the Roman Reed Bill. The Roman Reed Laboratory has a simple, important vision: to create a setting where scientists can rapidly translate ideas into research. Furthermore, the laboratory hopes to make it possible for any scientist with a compelling idea to immediately undertake research and experiments. The new core laboratory will help fast-track spinal cord injury research and speed up our chances of finding successful treatments to these devastating injuries.

Today, Roman has regained the use of his arms and is a proud father himself. His parents still tirelessly push for greater strides in spinal cord injury research. Most recently, I've heard from Don Reed regarding his fight to oppose new federal limitations on stem cell research. Stem cells may well be one of the answers to fighting paralysis. Don is taking his fight from California to Washington to make sure that roadblocks are not put in the way of vitally needed research.

I commend the entire Reed family for their dedication to finding a cure for spinal cord injuries—not only for their son—but for everyone who suffers from these devastating injuries. I am honored to know the Reeds, am proud to represent them in the U.S. Congress, and I am pleased to help them in this important cause.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WILLIAM L. JORDAN

### HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Bishop William L. Jordan, Pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church in Harvey, Illinois. Since 1976, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives. Under his leadership and vision, St. Mark's membership has grown to over seven thousand. He preaches two Sunday services each week. St. Mark operates several community based programs, a medical center and a community center. Over twenty-six years of untiring service, faithful dedication to the community and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Bishop Jordan has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state and country. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Bishop William Jordan and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BULAGA, JR., JEREMY GLICK, DEEPA PAKKALA, BRUCE REYNOLDS, JOSEPH VILARDO

### HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals who were killed in the attacks on our nation on September 11th. For the past four months, we have heard and read the stories of countless family members, neighbors and friends who went to work on September 11th and never came home. I ask that the names of five of these men and women be kept in our nation's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—commemorating them as true American heroes.

Our northern New Jersey communities have been particularly hard-hit. We all know someone who was lost. Their stories are heart-wrenching, nearly unbearable in their sadness. Today, in northern New Jersey, families will gather to celebrate the strong and proud American spirits of five individuals taken from our community. ClearChannel Communications will also be present with the United Way to present the families of the victims with a donation. I thank everyone who will be taking part in this for their support and compassion for those who have lost a loved one.

I have spoken to many families in my own attempt to bring them some consolation. Even though there are no words to relieve their an-

guish, I told each family that they should take comfort in the knowledge they are in the hearts and prayers of an entire nation. They are truly American heroes.

Just as I have come to know the nearly 100 residents of my Congressional District who never came home on September 11, I have come to know John Bulaga, Jr., Jeremy Glick, Bruce Reynolds, Deepa Pakkala, and Joseph Vilardo.

John Bulaga, Jr. was a man who loved planning for the future. John and his wife Michelle were within days of closing on a house for a future in Haskell when he was killed while working for eSpeed, with Cantor Fitzgerald. John focused a career on preparing for the future of technology and the internet. His wife finished some of the family's plans for the future, as she recently finished the closing of the house and will move there shortly with their two children, Rhiannon and Alannah.

Jeremy Glick was one of the heroes aboard the fated United Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania. Before Jeremy and other passengers decided to attack the hijackers, Jeremy was able to call his wife, Lizbeth, providing important details about the terrorists' actions over his cell phone and telling Lizbeth how much he loved her. Jeremy's newborn daughter Emerson will grow up hearing of her father's brave actions.

Deepa Pakkala never wanted to call it a day. Determined to not only succeed but excel, Deepa worked long hours in order to provide for her family. A young mother who had just begun working for Oracle Corporation, Deepa was with a client in the World Trade Center on September 11th. Last January, Deepa gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Trisha. The two months she took to spend with her daughter was the only time she has ever slowed down, according to her husband of ten years.

Bruce Reynolds was last seen helping a woman with burns in the south World Trade Center tower. Bruce's father recalls that ever since Bruce was young, he knew he wanted to be a police officer to help people. He became a Port Authority Police Officer in June of 1986. Through his service and bravery, not only did his dream come true, but he has also saved people's lives and therefore made others' dreams possible. From the way people talk about Officer Bruce Reynolds, you can tell he was a truly special husband, father, son and fellow officer. Bruce's children, Brianna and Michael, can be very proud of their father.

Joseph Vilardo loved his family more than anything. Joseph, a Senior Vice President with Cantor Fitzgerald, lived with his wife and children in Stanhope, nearby his parents and three sisters. According to his many friends, Joseph was a well-loved and well-respected individual. Regardless of how much work was required of him, Joseph always made time for his wife Patricia and their two children, Nicole and Matthew. Nicole and Matthew will have many memories of their father's love for them.

These individuals have the admiration and thanks of an entire nation. Their families can be assured that this nation will never forget the atrocities of September 11th or the values for which they died. Out of this tragedy, our nation has emerged stronger and prouder than ever. And we now come together to tell these families they are not alone. America stands with them—now in their hour of grief, and in the days and years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the lives of these noble Americans. May God bless these men and women, and those that are gathered today in their memory. And God bless America.

**A BILL TO EXEMPT THE LST-325  
FROM U.S. COAST GUARD IN-  
SPECTIONS**

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will assist in the preservation and promotion of the LST-325, a symbol of American heroism and patriotism.

The LST-325 is a unique ship that needs and warrants special attention. LSTs (Landing Ship Tanks) were produced by the hundreds in the Second World War, but only a few are left today. Thousands of men served on them in the critical North Africa, Italian, and Normandy invasions. The brave young men who served on the LST-325 and its sister ships are now in the golden years of their lives, and they are spearheading this campaign to restore the LST-325 to its original glory.

Many may remember that the LST-325 was brought back to the United States last year by a group of retired veterans. Against the odds, these veterans sailed the LST-325 from Greece to Mobile, Alabama, facing fierce opposition from the seas and the weather—not to mention the bureaucracies of various nations. They overcame these hardships and succeeded magnificently. I am pleased to share with you that the average age of the crew was seventy-two years old.

Now the task is to restore the ship to create a living memorial and serve as a testament to our history and the bravery of the men who served on LSTs. My bill would specifically exempt the LST-325—like similar special category vessels such as the steamship *John W. Brown* in Baltimore, Maryland, the steamship *Lane Victory* in San Pedro, California, and the steamship *Jeremiah O'Brien*—from certain current Coast Guard technical and legal requirements (USC Title 46, Subsection 3302, subpart (I)(1)(A), (B), and (C).) These regulations apply today's laws to yesterday's ships. They only impede restoration efforts of the ship, and raise costs unnecessarily without any benefit to the ship.

This is problematic because the LST-325 is to be used strictly as a not-for-profit, historical attraction. The objective is to restore the LST-325 to its original condition so that it may tour the nation as a historical vessel to educate Americans about the role these vessels played in WWII, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. In addition, the LST-125 would serve as a monument to memorialize similar ships during the Second World War, and all those who served and died on them.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor the "Greatest Generation" and America with the restoration and memorialization of LST-325. There is clear precedent—and we are only asking to include the LST-325 to this short list of distinguished historical ships. I believe that by adding the LST-325 to this category, we would be appropriately honoring the vessel and her crew, and preserving America's history.

**RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF BORDENTOWN TOWN-  
SHIP**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the 150th Anniversary of the creation of Bordentown Township by the New Jersey State Legislature. Throughout all of my 21-year tenure in Congress, I have had the privilege of representing the residents of Bordentown Township, here in the United States House of Representatives.

I believe that it is fitting and proper for a community that has a long and rich tradition like Bordentown Township to periodically celebrate its history with its current residents, so that community awareness and cooperation are deepened. To understand where you are, you must first understand where you've been.

Throughout its long history, Bordentown Township has been forced to grapple with the challenges of growth, due its desirable location along the Delaware River and its well-deserved reputation as a good place to live and raise a family. Consequently, there has been a sense of commitment among Township residents about the need to create and preserve parks, recreational areas, and open spaces, in order to uphold the character of the township.

From the earliest beginnings of Bordentown, its residents have been civic-minded. Indeed, the creation of Bordentown Borough in 1825 was prompted by the growth of population in the village of Bordentown, and calls for a more representative government. When residents decided that they wanted to have a greater say on their own schools and a separate polling district, they successfully petitioned the State of New Jersey to amend its Borough Charter in 1849.

However, the arrangement of 1849 generated much dissatisfaction because the interests of the rural Chesterfield section of the borough, and the more urban Bordentown section, were mutually incompatible. In 1852 the New Jersey Legislature divided Bordentown and Chesterfield (a more rural neighbor) into two separate communities. A similar division was conducted in 1902, when the City of Bordentown, and Bordentown Township, were separated.

The first meetings of the Bordentown Township Committee were held in an unheated shed. Later, the meetings were held in a private home when it became too cold to hold them in the shed. In 1903 Township Hall was built on Cemetery Lane.

While things are much different in Bordentown Township today, the same spirit of service and willingness to make personal sacrifices for the benefit of local residents still exists in Bordentown's elected leaders. I know, because I am friends with, and work with, many of them. For instance, the current mayor of Bordentown Township, Mark Roselli, once served as my Legislative Director, Campaign Manager, and Policy Advisor.

In addition, the Director of my Burlington/Mercer Constituent Service Center, Joyce Golden, has been a proud resident of Bordentown Township for 22 years. She currently serves on the Township's County Committee, and has often told me that she and her

husband, Marty, would not want to raise their family in any other community. Joyce and Marty are especially proud that their children have chosen to continue to live and work in Bordentown Township. Their daughter and her family have built a home in Bordentown Township, and their son serves the community as a career Firefighter/EMT for Fire District #2.

Mr. Speaker, I once again congratulate the people of Bordentown Township for preserving a community with a high quality-of-life for 150 years.

**A TRIBUTE TO RUBEN S. AYALA  
FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC  
SERVICE**

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2002*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Ruben S. Ayala, whose 45 years in elective office in California made him one of the most respected and influential political voices from San Bernardino County. Mr. Ayala, who is celebrating his 80th birthday this month, is still serving the people of California as a member of the state Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board.

Mr. Ayala began his career in politics in the same way that I and many of my colleagues became involved—as a member of the local board of education. He was elected to the Chino School Board in 1955, and he has been active in education issues throughout his career. In 1962, he was elected as a Chino City Councilman, and became the city's first elected mayor in 1964. He joined the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in 1966 and was chairman from 1968 to 1972. In 1974, he won a special election for State Senate, and served in that body until he retired in 1998.

I was privileged to serve in the Legislature for four years with Ruben Ayala, and found him to be a forceful advocate for the state's school children and a proud proponent of San Bernardino County. After I came to Congress, I always knew State Sen. Ayala could be counted on to work hard for the benefit and improvement of our county. We have watched it grow and mature in many ways over the years, and Ruben Ayala deserves great credit for helping foster the county's economic expansion.

The first Mexican-American to be elected to the State Senate in the 20th Century, Ruben Ayala was almost better known for his U.S. Marine Corps service and the Marine-like attitude he brought to the Legislature. When he became involved with an issue, he took action and was tenacious in pushing through legislation or demanding a response from state agencies. As chairman of the Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, he was one of the most forceful voices on water policy in California—a topic that often defines the state's political and economic agenda. He was also a primary sponsor of the legislation creating the California Conservation Corps, a very successful program that helped many cities complete parks and public works projects.

Mr. Speaker, the quality of Mr. Ayala's work, and the esteem that he has garnered, is evident from the fact that two parks, a street and