

Principal Perry has served El Capitan for 23 years as a principal, and 9 years as a physical education teacher. He administered the transition to a year round school schedule and the reinstatement of the regular school year schedule. Doug is also an innovative leader; he recognized the necessity of technological improvements as a vital resource for students and teachers. Mr. Perry has supported various programs for his students, such as the district's promotion/retention/intervention programs. Principal Perry has been an instrumental and charismatic leader in his community, and has earned much respect from his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doug Perry for his nomination for the 2001 Educator of the Year Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Perry for his outstanding service to the community and wishing him many more years of continued success.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 181st anniversary of Greek independence that will take place on March 25th. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I once again join my colleagues in paying tribute to the Greek nation and its people.

As we all know, ancient Greece was the fountain of democratic ideals and values for the rest of the world, and on the day of her Independence, we are again reminded of our duty to strive for and defend freedom.

We are also reminded of the debt of gratitude we owe to the country upon which our democratic process is founded, while also recognizing the strong support modern day Greece has given us in our battle with terror. Indeed, the people of Greece and all Greek Americans have cause to celebrate their achievements on this day of Independence.

On behalf of the people of the Sixth Congressional district of Massachusetts, I wish to extend congratulations to the people of Greece and all people of Greek heritage in the United States on this important holiday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DREW SHAPIRO

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Drew Shapiro, an eighth grader from Fenton, MI. In June, 2001, for his charitable Bar Mitzvah project, Drew chose to create snack kits to be distributed to homeless veterans in Flint and Ann Arbor, Michigan as well as Toledo, Ohio.

When the project was finished Mr. Speaker, he had collected enough donated items and money to assemble over 600 individual snack kits containing canned tuna, snack mix, candy,

nuts, raisins and other nutritional food. Some even contained wool hats and t-shirts. On December 21, 2001, with the help of the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital, Drew and his family distributed the kits, along with a note attached to each that read, "Dear Veteran, Thank you for serving our country."

Even though Drew was planning his project well before the tragic events of September 11th, his hard work and compassion for our veterans took on special meaning after that terrible day. The attacks of September 11th were meant to create fear in every American, especially our children. Yet, the terrorists who carried out those evil acts have succeeded in only strengthening our resolve as Americans. It is also clear, through Drew's great example, that our nations greatest resource, our youth, is as strong, brave, and as bright as they have ever been.

Mr. Speaker, this young man exemplifies the spirit of every American at this time in our history. He has set a wonderful example that every American can follow. I ask that my colleagues join with me in saluting Drew's devotion to our country and to its veterans, who themselves have paid such an incredible price so that we may continue to live in freedom.

IN HONOR OF MRS. JOYCE YVONNE CHASE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Joyce Yvonne Chase, member of the Kings County Hospital Community Advisory Board and the NAACP 100 Black Women, devoted parishioner of the John Wesley United Methodist Church and a dedicated community leader, in recognition of the nearly five decades of compassionate and selfless service she has contributed to her community.

A native of Guyana, Mrs. Chase migrated to the United States in 1953. She began her career as a nurse's aide at the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital, and after five years of devoted service, joined the staff of Brooklyn's Kings County Hospital. Through continued education and hard work, while at Kings County Hospital, Mrs. Chase progressed from nurse's aide to licensed practical nurse and then to Registered Nurse, the position from which she retired in 1993 after forty years of enthusiastic, kind-hearted and loving service—service that made a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

After retiring from her career in nursing in 1993, Mrs. Chase continued to carry out her commitment to care and service of the less fortunate as a dedicated volunteer. Since 1993, Mrs. Chase has volunteered as a member of the Auxiliary of Kings County Hospital Center, spearheaded the hospital's One Hundred and Sixty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, which raised \$126,000 to enable the further development of the New Bed Tower of Kings County Hospital, and personally organized a fundraiser for Rhonda Armstrong, a twelve year old Guyanese native with a brain tumor. Mrs. Chase also continues to coordinate an Annual Thanksgiving Party for the children of Bedford Stuyvesant, volunteers at the Brooklyn's Children's Museum, and fulfills her role as the pillar of her family.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that Mrs. Chase is married to Keith Anderson Chase, and is the proud mother of two children.

A beacon of dignity and compassion and a pillar of her community and family, in all that she has done Mrs. Chase has always put others first; she has always been giving, always caring. Her selfless commitment to serving those in need has touched many lives and had a tremendously positive affect on her community. Mrs. Joyce Yvonne Chase is truly an exemplary citizen worthy of our praise. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Member of the Hellenic Caucus to recognize the great nation of Greece and celebrate its 181st anniversary of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

We all know of ancient Greece as the birthplace of democratic ideals, from Solon, the lawmaker who framed Athens' Constitution; to Pericles, the leader of that City-State's democratic political movement; and the philosophers Socrates and Plato.

However, 181 years ago Greece engineered a new democratic movement by overthrowing the Ottoman Empire which had ruled the nation for more than 400 years and declaring independence.

The war for independence began on March 25, 1821, in the monastery of Hagia Lavra, Kalavryta.

It was here that Germanos, the bishop of Paleon Patron, raised the banner of the revolution and blessed the arms of the captains of the revolting Greeks.

The Greeks' struggle for freedom inspired many Americans, who noted the parallels to our own revolutionary battle just 46 years prior.

In fact, many Americans left our country to fight for Greek independence, and the U.S. Congress also provided financial assistance for the war effort.

And today, many citizens of Greek descent—including nearly 1,000 in my district, the 31st District of California—call the United States their home.

Indeed, with more than 3 million people of Greek descent living in the United States, our commitment to this great Hellenic nation has not diminished.

Indeed, it grows stronger every day.

From our mutual efforts to establish peaceful relations in the Balkans to the transfer of the Olympic Games from Salt Lake City to Athens, the United States and Greece have worked hand-in-hand.

It is my hope that this relationship will grow and prosper as the years continue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Greek Independence Day and saluting the people of Greece for their contributions to our own wonderful nation and the world.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A.

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. This valuable organization has been empowering young women to develop leadership skills, along with a sense of determination, self-reliance and teamwork since 1912.

Today, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. have over 3.8 million members throughout the United States. In my district alone, 10,000 Girls Scouts are able to acquire the self-confidence and expertise that is needed to distinguish themselves as leaders in their communities.

I commend the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Girl Scouts of Freedom Valley for their outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service and personal development. Both of these chapters offer young women in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania the opportunity to develop life skills that will enable them to become confident and caring adults.

For 90 years, the Girls Scouts of the U.S.A. have had a positive impact on the lives of countless young women nationwide. It is my hope that the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. continue these strong traditions for the next 90 years and beyond.

THE MENTAL HEALTH EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today celebrating introduction of the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act with my good friend from New Jersey, Mrs. ROUKEMA. Too many Americans have been waiting too long for equal access to the health care they need. I hope by introducing this compromise mental health parity bill we can make it happen this year.

I could give you statistics about the prevalence of mental illnesses and cost of insurance discrimination, but the bottom line is that parity is about people's lives. Tracy Mixson of Asheville, North Carolina watched the downward spiral of her friend, Jeff. He exhausted his health insurance and ran out of medication. He tried to see another doctor, but couldn't afford the costs and had to stop going. In her words, "I watched him suffer for a little while, and then it was over. He ended his life."

This issue is not complicated. Our bill is a civil rights bill. It recognizes that prejudice distorts the markets and requires intervention. It reflects the best values on which this country was built, principles of inclusion and opportunity for all Americans.

Discrimination in any form is a stain on the equality that makes this nation great. And make no mistake, discrimination is at the heart

of this issue. The question for Congress to decide is whether we continue to indulge our old, deep-seated prejudices against the mentally ill or whether policy catches up with science.

We will hear that parity is too expensive. I am confident that nobody in this Congress would countenance rationing health care for cancer or asthma. Like mental illnesses, these are potentially fatal, frequently treatable, chronic diseases. Unlike cancer and asthma patients, however, most Americans suffering from mental illnesses find that their health plans hinder access to necessary medical treatment.

If we would not tell asthma or cancer patients that their coverage is too expensive, why would we say that to the mentally ill? Essentially, we are asking our constituents with mental illness to sacrifice potentially life-saving treatment in order to keep health care costs down for everybody else. The unfairness of that request is manifest.

We don't ask cancer patients to bear that burden. We don't ask any other patients to bear that burden. And that's why this debate is not about cost. It's about prejudice.

We will hear that if we pass parity, mental health care will be abused. This argument is a red herring. It is an invocation of the stereotypes that good people rely on to justify looking the other way in the face of injustice. We should not fall for it.

We have a strong science base and the authority of the Surgeon General, NIH, AMA, and Nobel Laureates saying mental illnesses are diseases on par with physical ailments. We have experience in dozens of states and the federal employees' health program showing that parity results in a more efficient use of mental health resources.

So I ask you, as you consider the merits of this bill, don't let the issue get muddled. I believe the choice is simple. On the one hand is the status quo. It's the denial of medically necessary care because of stereotypes and prejudice. It's suicide and lost jobs and broken lives. It's stories like that of Molly Close from Louisville, Kentucky, who wrote:

In 1998 I was hospitalized 3 times for depression with suicidal intent. Each hospitalization was terminated, not because my doctor felt I was ready to leave, but because my insurance company refused to pay for further treatment. When I left the hospital the last time, I was still severely depressed. I was not healthy enough to return to my teaching career of 24 years. Since I had exhausted all my leave days, I was forced to resign my job. . . .

It is time to end the discrimination that the Molly Closes of this country face.

Our earlier parity bill, H.R. 162, has 203 co-sponsors. We have heard the concerns of employers about cost and the need for flexibility and that's why we are here today introducing this compromise bill. This new legislation makes a major concession in dropping substance abuse. It contains explicit guarantees that plans can manage benefits. It protects the rights of health plans to set medical necessity criteria. A majority of the House supported these parity provisions last year during the appropriations process and I'm hopeful that we will have a chance to see whether a majority will support it on the Floor this year.

Let's give the 54 million Americans with mental disorders full access to the American Dream. This bill is the right thing for them and the right thing for our nation. I look forward to

working with my friends on both sides of the aisle to give all Americans the health care they need and deserve.

HONORING JERRY LEE BRYANT, COMMUNITY LEADER AND FRIEND

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the City of Rome, Georgia, as well as the entire north-west Georgia community, lost a great friend, a member of the Rome City Commission, and a champion to many who grew up spending much of their time at the Rome YMCA. On March 5, 2002, Jerry Lee Bryant, as described by the Director of the local YMCA, was a "Living Legend," passed away.

A native of Corbin, Kentucky, Jerry graduated from the University of Louisville after serving with the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War. He began his career with the YMCA in Waycross, Georgia, in 1953. In 1960, he was one of 32 "Y" directors from across the United States chosen to serve as a leader for the YMCA World Youth Conference in Holland.

Jerry had a passion for the YMCA, his church, his community, the City of Rome, and its schools and young people. Many men who grew up in the Y thought of him as a substitute father.

Jerry and his lovely wife Martha came to Rome in 1962. Jerry became Director of the Rome YMCA and Martha served as the Y's program director. He remained with the local Y for 30 years, and during that time he led the YMCA board in a building project that doubled the size of the Y facility. He was instrumental in leading the YMCA in its purchase of Camp Glen Hollow in 1989. Grown men now remember Jerry as their "daddy"; a hero; one who made an impression on their lives; a second father. Following his retirement in 1991, Jerry spent the majority of his time serving his community and assisting his wife, Martha, in her business, Bryant & Garrett Travel Agency. He was the first chairman of the Heart of the Community Board of Governors, a Seventh District STAR Student chairman, and he served on the board of the Floyd Medical Center Health Care Foundation. Jerry also was a past president of the Rome Rotary Club, and served as chairman of the Administrative Board and Board of Trustees of Rome First United Methodist Church.

Jerry's wife, Martha, his children, Chuck Bryant and Lee Ann Bryant Edwards, as well as two grandchildren, have lost a wonderful husband, a tremendous father, and a grandfather, who loved them dearly. The citizens of Rome and Floyd County have lost a great leader. I have lost a good friend.

DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF FARM SECURITY ACT UNTIL NEXT YEAR

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I understand that yesterday the lead negotiators for the