

INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROVIDE MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR COM- PRESSION SLEEVES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to provide Medicare coverage for compression sleeves and stockings used to treat lymphedema.

Lymphatic obstruction is the blockage of the lymph vessels, which drain fluid from tissues throughout the body. Lymphedema causes painful swelling in the arms or legs.

Lymphedema occurs in 10-15% of the women who receive mastectomies, but lymphatic obstruction can be caused by many things including trauma, tumors, and post-surgical and post-radiation therapy.

A compression sleeve or stocking will compress the swollen tissues caused by lymphedema and prevent fluid from building up. A compression sleeve can help control the pain, yet Medicare does not cover compression sleeves and stockings. My bill will correct this oversight.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and help women who have undergone a mastectomy and now suffer from lymphedema.

THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Taiwan Relations Act, which has enabled Taiwan to prosper and grow to become an ally of the United States. In the last two decades, Taiwan has had many achievements. The economy of Taiwan has flourished to the point where the country is regarded as an economic superpower. Politically, Taiwan has transformed into an open, multi-party democracy, home to more than 93 political parties, and a nation that respects the human and civil rights of its citizens. There are many reasons for Taiwan's phenomenal success, but one reason is the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Over twenty years ago, the United States signaled to the world that we recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people of Taiwan, and over twenty years ago, the United States created a mechanism to preserve and protect the freedom of the Taiwanese people. The Taiwan Relations Act worked, and has been instrumental in preserving peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979.

Taiwan is a model for democratic transformation that I hope the People's Republic of China will one day emulate, not threaten. I join the Taiwanese people in seeking a peaceful resolution to the tensions between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. The United States will continue to be an ally of the Taiwanese and assist in maintaining the security and stability of Taiwan. We must also help Taiwan to participate in international activities

and organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the United Nations. I look forward to broadening and deepening our friendship with Taiwan for the mutual benefit of the people of both the United States and Taiwan.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and the world community in commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Scarcely 50 years ago we saw the end to World War II and one of the most heinous atrocities humanity has ever borne witness to. Hitler's Nazi regime was responsible for the murders of nearly six million Jewish men, women and children and more than 11 million people in total.

This memorial holiday is intended to insure that we never forget that tragedy and the lives lost. At a time when our own nation is battling similar destructive forces of hatred in the form of terrorism, it is imperative that we never forget our history and evil's legacy.

To keep this critical knowledge from being lost, it is our responsibility as a nation to teach our children about their past. In this spirit, I have introduced H.R. 1620, the Holocaust Education Assistance Act. This bill will provide funding to educational institutions and organizations, enabling them to teach the generations to come about the crimes of the Holocaust.

Upon receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace, the late Prime Minister of Israel Yitzchak Rabin said:

"We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all its enemies, because the alternative is grimmer for us all. And we will prevail."

Ensuring that we never forget the past is a crucial step to realizing peace in our future.

IN TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MATTHEW A. COMMONS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Private First Class Matthew A. Commons, an American hero.

PFC Commons died on March 4, 2002 in Afghanistan while trying to rescue another American soldier. He was one of eight servicemen killed that day during an intensive battle with the Taliban and al Qaeda. PFC Matthew A. Commons was a professional soldier, a man who had earned the respect of his fellow soldiers, and he is remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Matthew Commons was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, raised in Indianapolis and also lived in Boulder City, Nevada and Alexandria, Virginia. In high school, Matthew was an

accomplished honor student and class officer. He then spent a year at the University of Nevada at Reno, but decided in July 2000 to become an Army Ranger because he wanted to serve his country. He had planned to finish college after his four-year tour and become a history teacher like his father. In December 2001, he visited his father's history classes at Carl Sandburg Middle School in full battle fatigues to discuss his life as a Ranger. Matthew had also recently celebrated his 21st birthday with his Army buddies, a celebration that included hats and banners sent by his mother Patricia Marek, who had just moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

Matthew's Army unit had been sent to Afghanistan on a secret assignment in January. Through he frequently spoke by telephone with his father, he had not been allowed to disclose his location. In speaking of his son, Greg recently said, "I'm real proud of him. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved the Rangers. . . . He gave his life to save the life of another Ranger."

Military service is not new to the Commons family. Both of Matthew's grandfather's served in World War II, where his grandfather Marek earned a Purple Heart. Additionally, Matthew's father Greg served in the Marines in the Vietnam War.

Besides his mother and father, Matthew leaves his brother Aaron, his father's second wife Linda Chapman, and two half-brothers, Thomas and Patrick. Matthew, who was buried at Arlington cemetery, has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, I hold out the example of this fine young man, a great American, who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and liberty. I know I speak for the entire Congress when I extend sympathies to the entire Commons family and friends who are grieving during this difficult time. May they be comforted by the precious memories of their beloved son and brother.

As a veteran myself, I greatly appreciate the unique challenges faced by the men and women serving in our military today. It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Matthew Commons and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the past 226 years.

Matthew Commons answered the call of his country, and his death will forever place his name on the roll of heroes who sacrificed their own lives to protect the lives of others. His life and unyielding commitment to duty and honor should remind us all that the liberties we enjoy do not come without a price. Let us always remember these costs, and always remember Private First Class Matthew A. Commons.

THE FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, Representative Howard

Berman, a bill that will enhance the operations of our federal courts: H.R. , the "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2002."

In July of 2001, H.R. 2522, the "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2001", was introduced by Mr. Berman, and myself, at the request of the United States Judicial Conference. It contains provisions that the Conference believes are needed to improve the Federal Court system. These proposals cover judicial process improvements and judiciary personnel administration, benefits, and protections.

On July 26, 2001, the Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 2522. Based on the testimony received and the discussion of the entire text, Representative Berman and I are introducing a new bill which contains those proposals that we believe will be most successful in improving the Federal Judicial System.

H.R. is necessary legislation for the proper functioning of our Article III U.S. Courts. It is non-partisan and non-controversial. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute an outstanding young woman who has been honored with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Gold Award by the Girl Scouts-Wagon Wheel Council in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is Alicia Wadle, of Girl Scout Troop 446.

She will be honored in June of 2002 for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls, age 14-17 or in grades 9-12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four Interest Project patches, earn the Career Exploration pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Award project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

As a member of Girl Scouts-Wagon Wheel Council, Alicia began working toward the Girl Scout Award in 2000. She completed her project in the area of beautification of school property. Alicia assisted a local elementary school in updating a school playground in need of repair. She completed a ground mural of the United States, enabling children to learn about each state. Alicia also scraped and painted and refurbished playground equipment.

The earning of the Girl Scout Award is a major accomplishment for Alicia, and I believe she should receive the public recognition due

her for this significant service to her community and country.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL ETHNIC COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND RECOGNIZING THE ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work accomplished by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), recognize the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and commend its founder and chairman William Denis Fugazy.

NECO's mission is to preserve ethnic diversity, promote equality and tolerance, combat injustice, and bring about harmony and unity among all people. Since its founding in 1984, the multi-ethnic coalition has sponsored programs, activities, and education initiatives designed to break through the walls of ethnic misunderstanding and ignorance. NECO is the largest organization of its kind in the United States consisting of more than five million family members. It serves as an umbrella group for over 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritage, culture, and religion.

In the past, NECO has raised more than \$1 million during the refurbishing of Ellis Island for its Immigrant Wall of Honor, where the landmark names of 200,000 immigrants to the U.S. are inscribed. They also contribute resources to the Forum's Children Foundation, a sister humanitarian organization, whose mission is to bring children requiring life-saving and life-enhancing surgery from disadvantaged countries to the United States.

NECO also is involved with immigration/racial issues and community relations. They have worked with the New York City Mayor's Office, the New York State Governor's office and the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) on developing strategies to eliminate anti-immigrant feelings, promote ethnic tolerance and understanding, and prevent hate crimes. They have worked to enhance the quality of living among all Americans by collaborating with community groups in the coordination of programs such as the Family Exchange Peace Program that bring thousands of school children and their families together to raise awareness of the City's diverse racial and ethnic heritage and the James Byrd Jr. scholarship that provides tuition support for students graduating from high school.

In 1986, NECO established the Ellis Island Medals of Honor Award that pays tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Over 17,000 individuals are nominated each year. To date, approximately 1,400 American citizens have received the award. These individuals are remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Past Ellis Island Medals of Honor recipients have included several U.S. Presidents, entertainers, athletes, entrepreneurs, religious leaders, and business executives, such as William Clinton, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford,

George Bush, Richard Nixon, Mario Cuomo, George Pataki, Bob Hope, Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Barbara Walters, and Attorney General Janet Reno.

Finally, the success of NECO can be attributed to its Founder and Chairman of the Board, William Denis Fugazy. The energy that Mr. Fugazy brings to his philanthropic work is evident in the numerous accolades bestowed upon the NECO. His passion for honoring ethnic Americans, who through their achievements and contributions, have enriched this country and have become role models for future generations, is truly a blessing.

HONORING ASSEMBLYMAN

MICHAEL N. GIANARIS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a rising star in New York politics, Assemblyman Michael N. Gianaris, for his deep commitment to public service and his neighborhood of Astoria in New York City. Assemblyman Gianaris will be honored this coming Saturday, April 13th by the Powhatan and Pocahontas Democratic Club for his contributions to the organization and the entire community.

A native and lifelong resident of Astoria, Mr. Gianaris was born to Nicholas and Magdalene Gianaris. After attending Public School 84, Junior High School 141 in Long Island City, he went on to prestigious pursuits by graduating Summa Cum Laude from Fordham Law School, and earning his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. Civic service became a passion early, beginning in 1988 when he served as Chair of a voter registration committee which registered more than 10,000 voters in the New York metropolitan area. He quickly plunged into public service as an aide to my predecessor, Congressman Tom Manton and later served as Governor Mario Cuomo's Queens County Regional Representative. In both of these positions, Mr. Gianaris worked to ensure that the residents of Queens had full access to government services.

Before he sought elected office, Mr. Gianaris practiced as a litigator in private practice for more than two years. He also served as Associate Counsel to the New York State Assembly, where he worked on several measures that were enacted into law.

In addition, Mr. Gianaris has served the his community in many capacities, including serving as a member of Queens Community Planning Board #1, Legal Counsel to the United Community Civic Association, and a Board Member of the Eastern Orthodox Lawyers Association.

In 2000, Mr. Gianaris took his legislative knowledge and extensive familiarity with the community to the voters of New York's 36th Assembly District, winning the seat by a large margin. Since his election to the New York Assembly, Mr. Gianaris has exhibited strong leadership on environmental issues by fighting to reduce pollution from Queens powerplants and other sources. Environmental protection and the health of Queens residents will continue to be the top priorities for Assemblyman Gianaris.