

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2002 AAA STARS OF LIFE
STATEMENT

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 2002

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the emergency medical and ambulance services profession who dedicate their lives to helping individuals in need.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is significantly improved by the prompt medical at-

tention provided before arrival at an emergency room. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted men and women, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our sincere gratitude.

I consider myself fortunate to have met with a number of medics from Minnesota and around the country and have heard firsthand accounts of the tireless efforts that they perform on a daily basis for the communities they serve. They are truly America's health care safety net.

For the past nine years, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) has recognized those emergency, medical and ambulance

service professionals who exemplify what is best about their field, and bestow upon them the Stars of Life award. These appropriately designated Stars of Life have been selected by their peers to represent them in Washington, DC as part of pre-National EMS Week activities. The highlights of their visits to our nation's capital are an awards banquet this evening where they are presented with this prestigious award and meetings today and tomorrow with their Members of Congress. The American Ambulance Association is honoring 113 Stars of Life this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the names of the 2002 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees be printed in the RECORD.

State	Name of Star of Life	Company or organization	Town
Alabama	James "Pete" Norris	American Medical Response	Birmingham.
Arizona	Jim Hayden	Rural/Metro	Mesa.
Arkansas	Chuck Creed	Columbia County Ambulance Service	Magnolia.
California	Lon Adams	American Medical Response	Burlingame.
	Tanya Banks	American Medical Response	Concord.
	Sajee DeReauxchette	American Medical Response	Hemet.
	Susan King	American Medical Response	Lancaster.
	Kelly Taddeo	American Medical Response	Los Angeles.
	Jonathan Graves	American Medical Response	Moorpark.
	Brian Mullins	American Medical Response	Palm Springs.
	Jim Sachs	American Medical Response	Roseville.
	Keith Fournier	American Medical Response	San Diego.
	James Bauck (Posthumous)	American Medical Response	San Leandro.
	David Tovar	Medix Ambulance Service	Mission Viejo.
Colorado	Randy Ermer	American Medical Response	Aurora.
	Liz Dienst	American Medical Response	Colorado Springs.
	Wescott "Wes" Hyde	Summit County Ambulance Service	Frisco.
	Charles "Chaz" Gross	Summit County Ambulance Service	Frisco.
Connecticut	Louis Formica	Hunter's Ambulance Service	Meriden.
	Jennifer Giordano	Hunter's Ambulance Service	Meriden.
	Joseph DeAngelis	American Medical Response	New Haven.
Florida	David Twiss	American Medical Response	Fort Lauderdale.
	Kevin Hull	American Medical Response	Largo.
	Jon. C. Thompson	Rural/Metro	Orlando.
Georgia	Misty Hall	Mid Georgia Ambulance Service	Macon.
	Richard Thompson	Mid Georgia Ambulance Service	Macon.
Hawaii	William "Lin" Watkins	American Medical Response	Makawao.
Illinois	Carol Swank	Advanced Medical Transport of Illinois	Peoria.
	Lisa Newell	Advanced Medical Transport of Illinois	Peoria.
Iowa	Thomas Sheetz	Medic EMS	Davenport.
	Jerry Weismann	American Medical Response	Iowa Falls.
	Karla Anderson	Iowa EMS Association	West Des Moines.
	Gary Ireland	Iowa EMS Association	West Des Moines.
Louisiana	Melanie Guidry	Acadian Ambulance and Air Med Service	Lafayette.
	Troy Guidry	Acadian Ambulance and Air Med Service	Lafayette.
	Emily Savoie	Med Express	Melville.
	Robin Rozas	Med Express	Melville.
Massachusetts	Marie Watson	Lyons Ambulance Service	Danvers.
	Stacy Gillis	Lyons Ambulance Service	Danvers.
	Brad Wilson	American Medical Response	Framingham.
	Todd Simoes	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville.
	Robert White	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville.
	Michael Pandora	American Medical Response	Springfield.
	Todd Beaudet	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington.
	Joseph V. Amello	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington.
	Shawna A. Caponigro	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington.
Michigan	Josh Hanson (Posthumous)	American Medical Response	Natick.
	Erik Youngblood	Huron Valley Ambulance Service	Ann Arbor.
	Mike Bentley	LifeCare Ambulance Service	Battle Creek.
	John Pinkster	Life EMS	Grand Rapids.
	Roy Zigler	Life EMS	Grand Rapids.
Minnesota	Toni Tarrant	American Medical Response	Pontiac.
	Joe Martinez	Life Link III	Minneapolis.
	Peter Grothem	Gold Cross Ambulance	Rochester.
Mississippi	Rosa Newman	American Medical Response	Natchez.
	Tammy Holloway	American Medical Response	Jackson.
Missouri	Steve Bell	Emergency Providers/MAST	Kansas City.
	Chad Schipper	Emergency Providers/MAST	Kansas City.
Montana	Jeff Bakker (Posthumous)	American Medical Response	Billings.
Nevada	Ken Kavanaugh	American Medical Response	Las Vegas.
	Don Vonarx	REMSA	Reno.
	Ken Whittaker	REMSA	Reno.
New Hampshire	Dennis Mechem	Rockingham Regional Ambulance	Nashua.
	Rebecca Coltey	Rockingham Regional Ambulance	Nashua.
	Jennifer Shea	American Medical Response	Sommersworth.
New Jersey	Jesse VanMiddlesworth	Med-Alert Ambulance	Sparta.
	Jerome Cuppia	Med-Alert Ambulance	Sparta.
New Mexico	Steve Lovato (Posthumous)	American Medical Response	Roswell.
New York	Alonzo Merchant	Rural/Metro	Bronx.
	Ken Bak	Rural/Metro	Buffalo.
	Ron Barrett	Rural/Metro	Buffalo.
	Gene Buchanan	Rural/Metro	Corning.
	Matthew Kanciruk	CHS Ambulance Service	Farmingdale.
	Larry Baumgart	Rural/Metro	Rochester.
	Kevin J. Sullivan	Mohawk Ambulance Service	Schenectady.
	Lester Freemantle	Mohawk Ambulance Service	Schenectady.
	Jeffrey Jones	Rural/Metro	Syracuse.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

State	Name of Star of Life	Company or organization	Town
North Carolina	Rob Stuck	MetroCare Ambulance Service	White Plains.
	Jay Robbins	MetroCare Ambulance Service	White Plains.
	John C. Crunk	Mecklenburg EMS	Charlotte.
	Eric Morrison	Mecklenburg EMS	Charlotte.
	Bryon Runyon	Mecklenburg EMS	Charlotte.
	Doug Rorie	First Health of the Carolinas	Pinehurst.
North Dakota	Donna Dow	First Health of the Carolinas	Pinehurst.
	Thomas Williams	First Health of the Carolinas	Pinehurst.
	Michael Lineberry	First Health of the Carolinas	Pinehurst.
	Don D. Martin (MN)	F-M Ambulance Service	Fargo.
Ohio	Christopher Wheeler	American Medical Response	Akron.
	Bradley Bell	Rural/Metro	Columbus.
	Lawrence D. Fields	Stotcheck Ambulance Service	LaRue.
Oregon	Gregory Smith	Rural/Metro	Youngstown.
	Victor Hoffer	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Bill Wildman	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Dawn Poetter	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Randy Johnson	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Frank Wallender	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Candy Schneider	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Lindy Boyersmith	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro.
	Sandra Gearheart	Mercy Flights	Medford.
	Forrest Wieder	American Medical Response	Milwaukie.
South Carolina	Jeff Zeiber	Centronia Ambulance Corps	Allentown.
	Donald McCown, Jr.	Exeter Ambulance Service	Reading.
	Steven A. Kelly	Medshore Ambulance Service	Anderson.
South Dakota	Ernest Autry	Medshore Ambulance Service	Anderson.
	Faron Wahl	First Health of the Carolinas	Cheraw.
Tennessee	Darin Hash	Rural/Metro	Sioux Falls.
Texas	JoAnna Burgan	Rural/Metro	Knoxville.
	Clifton Brown	American Medical Response	Greenville.
Vermont	James Collins	LifeNet EMS	Texarkana.
Virginia	Arthur D. White, Jr.	Regional Ambulance Service	Rutland.
	Alison Burkholder	LifeCare Medical Transports	Fredericksburg.
Washington	Bill Munson	American Medical Response	Richmond.
Wyoming	Ivan Maxfield	American Medical Response	Yakima.
			Cheyenne.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the anniversary of the Polish Constitution. The Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791 established a tradition of democracy and human rights in Poland that continues today.

The Polish Constitution has the honor of being the first Constitution in Europe to guarantee inalienable human and economic rights for all. This historic document was modeled after the Constitution of the United States of America.

During the turbulent 1790's of classical Europe, Poland emerged as a light of hope for the future of democracy in Poland, and across the European landscape. While other nations surrounding its sovereign borders engaged in revolution and civil war, Poland maintained its integrity for many years under this Constitution.

The rise of Soviet communism in the post-World War II era stemmed the Polish democratic principle for forty years, but under the capable leadership of Lech Walesa, democracy embodied in this Constitution returned to the Eastern European "cradle of democracy." The human and economic rights that were abandoned by years of communist rule have triumphantly flourished in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the people of Poland, the Polish American community, and their timeless Polish Constitution—on the occasion of the anniversary of its creation—two hundred and eleven years ago.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Small Business Week. Small businesses have contributed and continue to contribute to our nation's economy. They are anchors in our neighborhoods, and employ and train millions of workers every year. Small businesses account for half of our gross domestic product, and I am committed to ensuring that small business owners and workers have the resources and protections necessary to grow and thrive.

There are approximately 25 million small businesses in the United States and they account for 75 percent of all new jobs added to the economy and represent 99.7 percent of all employers. There are over 280,000 employer businesses in the state of Illinois, and over 97 percent of them are small businesses, with fewer than 500 employees. Currently, there are an estimated 6.2 million women-owned businesses, accounting for 28 percent of all privately held firms. These firms generate \$1.15 trillion in sales and employ 9.2 million workers. Also, minority-owned businesses have quadrupled over the last decade. Minorities now own 15 percent of American businesses and 99 percent of these firms are small businesses. But the sad truth is that not enough is being done to provide these businesses with the opportunities needed to survive and compete in today's market.

I recently toured several business areas in my district and met with business owners in Morton Grove, Illinois. I also met with several business groups, such as the Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce. I was proud to see small businesses thriving in the community. The main source of help for these businesses is the Small Business Administration. The SBA has a portfolio of business loans, loan guarantees, disaster loans and venture capital worth more than \$58 billion, and I will work hard to

provide the necessary financial and technological support that will allow the SBA to do its job in an efficient and effective manner. I am working in Congress to improve a number of programs and services that the Small Business Administration provides which will give important resources to small businesses in my district and across this nation.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a prescription drug benefit for all seniors.

As a nurse, I am very familiar with the role of prescription drugs in medical treatment programs. In recent years, more and more drugs have become available to manage medical problems that formerly were left untreated or required periods of hospitalization. These drugs have allowed Americans to live longer, more productive lives.

I also know the importance of taking the correct dosage of drugs, at the prescribed times. Today, too many seniors cut back on the dosage, or alternate the days they take the drugs. By altering the dosage, they do not receive the full benefit of the prescription drug therapy. Some seniors are forced into choosing between buying food or paying for their prescription drugs. Why have they been faced with these decisions? Because they cannot afford to pay for their prescriptions.

It is time for Congress to establish a Medicare prescription drug plan. We need to make prescription drugs affordable for all our seniors, regardless of where they live, what drugs they take, or their income level. We need a plan that provides a meaningful reduction in the cost of prescription drugs.

But more importantly, we must also look at the continuing increase in the cost of prescription drugs. The rising cost of drugs is certainly a consideration in a Medicare prescription