

Americans have kidney disease. Many of these Americans do not know they suffer from this condition and therefore do not take advantage of beneficial prevention measures. In February 2002, the National Kidney Foundation called for earlier screening for kidney disease in reaction to the near doubling of the illness in the U.S. in the last decade. Their screening campaign focuses on those at high risk for developing chronic kidney disease including people with diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of the disease, older Americans, African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Hispanics.

Expanded prevention services for chronic kidney disease patients are long overdue. The preventive measures in this bill will minimize the damaging impact of this chronic illness and allow Medicare to slow the growth of the ESRD population. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Medicare Chronic Kidney Disease Management Act so we can make these vital improvements to the Medicare program for those who suffer from chronic kidney disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on May 7, 2002. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 127 and "yea" on rollcall vote 128. I was also unavoidably absent for a few minutes on May 9th and would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 139 and "no" on rollcall vote 140 and "yea" on rollcall vote 152.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY
ELIZABETH PARKER COLLINS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with regret and deep sadness to announce the passing of Inland Empire community leader and dear friend Mary Elizabeth Parker Collins who died at the age of 73 on May 6th. I first got to know Mary when I was elected to the California Assembly. Mary volunteered in my San Bernardino office as I was beginning my political career. Her enthusiasm and wisdom were an inspiration to me and all who knew her.

Mary was a great advocate of equality and humanitarianism her entire adult life. Her experience as a single mother of five children in the 60's instructed Mary on the inequalities in society and was the catalyst for her commitment to social change. She became active in the Urban League of Indianapolis, where she dedicated herself to motivating the disenfranchised. Mary was involved in a wide variety of crucial movements such as tenant strikes, community based programs for at risk teens, and voter registration and participation programs.

While continuing to seek a better life for her family, Mary moved her family west to Southern California. She spent time in Los Angeles before moving and settling in the Inland Empire. Mary continued her commitment to civil rights while in the Inland Empire, by participating in the "Gates Must Go" and "Tyisha Miller Justice" campaigns. She then served as President of the Fontana/Rialto NAACP, where she fought to reinstate the jobs of countless people of color who had been arbitrarily laid off. Mary also spearheaded the establishment of a Police Review Board in Rialto, which helped reduce the number of civilian shootings by Police and led the way for the first Black Police Chief of Rialto.

Mary had a clear political gift, and she later served as President of the Inland Empire Democratic Club. She was not afraid of hard work and contributed greatly in my office by volunteering during my years as a newly elected California Assembly Member.

Mary is survived by her only son, Stephan Collins, four daughters, Karen Collins Lewis, Remelle Lumpkins, Terry Hunter and Carolyn Gullex, 15 grandchildren and 9 great grand children.

Mary has left behind a wonderful legacy of social justice and community activism. She will be missed by family and friends alike. Mary touched us all with her kind deeds and leadership in our community. Barbara and I extend our deepest condolences to her family and may God bestow his comfort upon them at this time.

DAM SAFETY AND SECURITY ACT

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will prevent us from repeating the past. Specifically, the National Dam Safety and Security Act reauthorizes a program that has directly helped the states and protects the citizens of this great country.

Dams provide tremendous benefits including water supply for drinking, irrigation and industrial uses; flood control; hydroelectric power; recreation; and navigation. At the same time, dams also represent one of the greatest risks to public safety, local and regional economies, and the environment. Historically, some of the largest disasters in the U.S. have resulted from dam failures. The 1928 St. Francis Dam failure killed more than 500. During the 1970's the Buffalo Creek, Teton and Toccoa Creek dam failures collectively cost 175 lives and more than \$1 billion in losses.

One dam failure hits a little closer to home for me. On May 31, 1889, the 72-foot high South Fork Dam above Johnstown, Pennsylvania, burst. Twenty million tons of water took its natural course, dropping 450 feet in 14 miles, at times 70 to 75 feet high and reaching speeds of 40 miles per hour. In 40 minutes, three miles of water drained into the valley below.

At 4:07 on the chilly, wet afternoon the inhabitants heard a low rumble that grew to a roar like thunder. Most never saw anything until the 36-foot wall of water, already boiling with huge chunks of debris, rolled over them at 40 miles per hour, consuming everything in

its path. Making the wave even more terrifying was the black pall of smoke and steam that hung over it—the "death mist" remembered by survivors. Almost 113 years ago to the date, more than 2,209 people lost their lives when the dam failed. In their memory, we must not let this happen again.

Unfortunately, even today many dams are not maintained properly. Dams require ongoing maintenance, monitoring, frequent safety inspections, and rehabilitation. More than 90 percent of the nation's approximately 100,000 dams are regulated by the states. Further, many dam owners, including most private dam owners who own over half of all dams, lack the resources necessary to perform dam maintenance or to make significant repairs.

In the past two years more than 520 dam incidents, including 61 dam failures, were reported to the National Performance of Dams Program. As a matter of fact, the number of high-hazard potential dams whose failure would cause loss of human life is increasing, due to development of downstream land. Today there are 9,921 high-hazard potential dams.

Even more alarming, states presently report approximately 2,100 "unsafe" dams, which have deficiencies that leave them highly susceptible to failure.

The combined effect of rapid downstream development and aging or noncompliant structures, coupled with a predicted increase in extreme events, demands fully funded and staffed State dam safety programs as well as substantial and proactive funding for dam repairs.

In an effort to ensure dam safety, Congress passed the National Dam Safety Program in 1996. Under this program, State dam safety agencies have received grants totaling \$7 million to assist them with improving dam safety regulatory programs by procuring equipment, implementing new technology, and enabling more frequent inspections. The program also provided opportunities for continuing education to dam safety engineers and funding for research to advance the technology of investigations, construction and rehabilitation of dams.

I am pleased to report that this program was successful and deserves to be continued. It is important to note that this model program sent the money directly to the States—where it was used, to educate, inform and help protect the people.

My State of Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of the nation's dam safety efforts over the last two decades and our program has been cited as a role model for other States in developing new and expanded programs. Of the three thousand two hundred dams in Pennsylvania, nine hundred and fifty are now classified as high-hazard potential structures, meaning their failure could cause loss of life or substantial damage to properties. This determination helps our State dam officials identify which dams deserve regular inspection and those that require more infrequent inspection. In conversations with the Pennsylvania State dam officials, they confirmed that they couldn't have done it without the National Dam Safety Program.

My bill reauthorizes this successful National Dam Safety and Security Act by updating and

fine-tuning the underlying language and providing a modest boost to the funding for research and development. Importantly, my legislation will provide States the technical assistance necessary to maintain security for the nation's dams.

Specifically, the program will:

Ensure new and existing dams are safe through the development of technologically and economically feasible programs and procedures for national dam safety hazard reduction;

Encourage acceptable engineering policies and procedures to be used for dam site investigations, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness;

Encourage the establishment and implementation of effective dam safety programs in each State based on State standards;

Develop and encourage public awareness projects to increase public acceptance and support of State dam safety programs;

Develop technical assistance materials for Federal and non-Federal dam safety programs;

Develop mechanisms with which to provide Federal technical assistance for dam safety to the non-Federal sector; and

Develop technical assistance and encourage appropriate security for the nation's dams.

I want to point out that this program is truly a State-based program—because that is where the money goes and is used. The money in this program is not swallowed up in some nameless and faceless bureaucracy here in Washington, the money goes directly to the States.

It is also important to note that this program does not provide funds for constructing or fixing dams due to the cost of such activities. These funds are to identify and educate the public and dam owners about dam safety and conduct necessary research to ensure dams are as safe as possible.

For less than \$10 million, this program authorizes:

Provides \$6,000,000 per year 2003–2006 National Dam Safety Program;

Provides \$500,000 per year for National Dam Inventory;

Provides \$500,000 per year for Dam Safety Training;

Provides \$1,500,000 per year for research; and

Provides \$600,000 per year for staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind everyone how important dams are to this country. Dams provide hydroelectric power to almost every State in the union, habitats for fish, birds, and other animals, recreational activities from bird watching to water sports, flood control and are a source of water. Maybe because of the positive impacts of dams more and more people are building downstream from dams. This is not dangerous, as long as the dams are monitored and maintained.

For these reasons, and in memory of the lives lost one hundred and thirteen years ago in Johnstown, I ask that the House favorably consider this legislation.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 146 IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TENNESSEE

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, my home state of Tennessee's nickname "The Volunteer State" dates all the way back to the War of 1812 when thousands of Tennesseans enlisted in response to Governor Willie Blount's call for volunteers. The volunteer spirit that moved so many Tennesseans to service then remains alive and well in our beautiful state almost 200 years later.

Today, the volunteer spirit is manifested by the thousands of Tennesseans in the armed services and by the countless civilian volunteers from Memphis to Bristol and Chattanooga to Clarksville.

One such group of Tennessee volunteers is American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 in Lawrence County. I am proud to commend them today for the fine work they do.

From children to veterans, Unit 146 exemplifies the volunteer spirit, that call to help the community, to ease the pain of those less fortunate and to lift us all by their example of caring and compassion.

For "Make a Difference Day" this year, Unit 146 made yarn angels for every patient in local nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Last Christmas, they made and filled stockings, complete with an American flag, for veterans at the VA hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro.

Together with their local American Legion post, they host bingo games for veterans in VA hospitals.

Each year, Unit 146 remembers our veterans and the heroes who gave their life for their country by participating in Memorial Day ceremonies and Veterans Day parades.

In addition to supporting our veterans, the unit looks to the future by supporting important programs for children and youths. Throughout the year they pass out flags, Halloween safety brochures, pamphlets on how to say "No" to drugs and suicide prevention books.

Unit 146 provides their local sheriff, the Tennessee Highway Patrol and their hospital's emergency room with stuffed animals and coloring books to ease the pain for traumatized children.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 truly represents the best of the volunteer spirit in the Volunteer State.

I commend them for the fine work they do throughout the year. Their acts of goodness are a common thread in our state running all the way back to 1812 when Tennessee first needed volunteers to come to the assistance of her people. Their acts of kindness touch all and spawn other acts that will keep that

thread strong for the next 200 years and well beyond.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the "National Hospital Week" (NHW). This year, the theme is "Where Miracles Happen Every Day". That theme portrays the uniqueness and necessity of the field of healthcare. This period of time will recognize and honor health care professionals, volunteers, and other health professionals for their continued dedication to healing our communities. The celebration of National Hospital Week began in 1921. A magazine editor developed an idea to place more information about hospitals in communities to help erase public fears and uncertainties about healthcare at that time. Since NHW's origination, it has developed into the nation's largest health care event.

This prestigious event is sponsored by the American Hospital Association (AHA). The AHA has been in existence since 1899. It started as an association of Hospital superintendents with a mission to facilitate discussion among hospital administrators. Overtime, its members and mission has develop into a membership which embodies all health care workers and a mission that stresses leadership in public policy, representation and advocacy, and services. Today, the AHA focuses on enhancement of health status, health promotion, ongoing care and rehabilitation of patients, education, research, and that all these activities are conducted with an overriding concern for the values and dignity of patients.

As I stated earlier, I am an advocate of this celebration. This week will help us to focus on universal health coverage by allowing health care workers across our nation to share ideas and thoughts on the coverage issue and others. In a time of state budget cuts and Medicaid cuts, this week will display the need for appropriate funding of the health care system. In the past year in Illinois, hospitals grappled with Medicaid funding cuts of \$340 million. Nursing homes in Illinois dealt with Medicaid funding cuts of \$170 million.

Additionally, this week will help us attack the issue of health care access as grass roots discussions take place and solutions are developed from individuals at the fore front of health care.

In the 7th Congressional District, there are twenty-five community health centers, twenty-three hospitals, three veteran hospitals, and four medical schools. These institutions help sustain my district. I urge my colleagues and constituents to join me in this celebration which is vital to the health of our Nation.