

YEAR 2002 TAIWANESE-AMERICAN
HERITAGE WEEK

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity during Taiwanese-American Heritage Week to congratulate the Taiwanese American community in Connecticut. Taiwanese Americans have made enormous contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society. They have succeeded in American society because they are instilled with the values that make this country great. Both here and in Taiwan they have demonstrated a commitment to democracy. They also realize the rewards of education, with more than 40 percent of Taiwanese Americans attaining college degrees. They work to develop communities, with home ownership amongst Taiwanese Americans above 70 percent. Their personal achievements are another expression of the secure and fruitful friendship between the United States and Taiwan.

THE NATIONAL DROUGHT
PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2002

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Drought Preparedness Act of 2002. I am fortunate to have the support of the many bipartisan original cosponsors. In addition, this bill is the companion bill to the Domenici-Baucus bill also being introduced in the Senate today. I do hope that both bodies will work together and pass this bill immediately.

I became interested in drought relief last summer when Florida found itself in the most prolonged drought it had seen in nearly 20 years. The water level in Lake Okeehobee, our country's 2nd largest fresh water lake and located in my District, had decreased by nearly 25 percent.

Not only did the water shortage in the lake cause problems for agriculture and water management, but it also destroyed the economic well being of small businesses around the Lake who depend on it for income. Realize this too, the clear majority of these businesses are owned by minorities or families who struggle to get by every day.

As I began to try and help the towns and businesses surrounding the Lake in locating temporary assistance, even if it was only low interest loans, I found that unless you were involved in agriculture, assistance is virtually impossible. When it is possible, the loops folks need to jump through just to get it are so discouraging that they don't even try.

Realize, drought is not just an agriculture issue, nor is it only a water management issue. When droughts occur, forest fires erupt, small businesses close, and in many instances, people die.

Congress and FEMA define drought as a natural disaster, and it's about time that we start treating them as such.

Yesterday, while I was attending the Florida Congressional Delegation meeting, the entire meeting focused on hurricanes and the plans that are currently in place in Florida, which are the framework of how we respond to hurricanes. The bill we are introducing today provides a new focus on an otherwise often ignored natural disaster.

The creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

Mr. Speaker, we must move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a proactive, preparedness approach. Coordination between federal, state, and local governments is the only way we will accomplish this difficult task.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, time is of the essence.

350TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts on its upcoming 350th anniversary. Lancaster was incorporated in 1653, and is the oldest town in Worcester County. Lancaster is the town from which the surrounding towns of Harvard, Bolton, Leominster, Sterling, Berlin, and Clinton were formed. Lancaster was the home to Mary Rowlandson, whose 1682 narrative of her captivity during King Philip's War was one of the most popular books of the 17th century.

Mr. Speaker, the fifth meetinghouse of the First Church of Christ in Lancaster was designed by Boston architect Charles Bullfinch and is a nationally recognized gem of American architecture. The well-known publishing firm of Carter and Andrews issued illustrated children's books and textbooks in Lancaster between 1828 and 1834. Lancaster was the birthplace in 1849 of horticulturist Luther Burbank, the progressive Industrial School for Girls, the first reform school set up on the cottage system, was established in Lancaster in 1854. The South Lancaster Village Church of the Seventh-Day Adventists was dedicated in 1878 and the South Lancaster Academy (predecessor of Atlantic Union College) was opened in 1882. Henry Stedman Nourse, noted historian and public servant at the state and local levels, spent the greater part of his life in Lancaster. The Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears, who wrote the Christmas hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," was the seventh minister of Lancaster's First Church of Christ. The Lancaster Town Library, established in 1862, offers a rich and unusual collection of valuable research materials, including a copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493 and a folio edition of Audubon's The

Birds of America. Citizens of Lancaster have served America honorably in all wars and conflicts since the 17th century.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the many great things about the Town of Lancaster, which I am honored to represent in Congress. I ask that the whole House join me in congratulating the people of Lancaster as they celebrate the town's 350th anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ALL PARTIES MUST ACT NOW TO
STOP ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN
MIDDLE EAST

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the State of Israel and for the security of both the Israeli and Palestinian people and condemn the violence suffered by both communities.

If there is to be a safe and stable environment in the Middle East, the rights and safety of all people in the region must be protected.

Continued military attacks and terrorist activities will only lead to escalating violence and potential destabilization of the Middle East and neighboring regions. For that reason, I believe the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1397 calling for the immediate cessation of all acts of violence between Israel and the Palestinians must be honored.

The United States must do its part and work vigorously and fairly with the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority to help establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, as outlined in House Resolution 394, sponsored by my colleague PETER DEFAZIO.

All parties must act now to put a stop to the escalating violence because all people in the region deserve to live in lasting peace.

MINNESOTA REP. DARLENE
LUTHER'S LASTING LEGACY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, we have all learned in the last eight months how fragile life can be, and how nobility and grace can rise from tragedy and sadness.

We have all mourned recently with our colleague Bill Luther the loss of his beloved wife, Darlene, who was a distinguished member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, as well as a loving wife and mother of Alex and Alicia Luther.

Mr. Speaker, I was profoundly moved by a recent story from the Fergus Falls Journal which reflects the great love Darlene and Bill shared for each other, as well as others.

The story, by Mary Mahoney, also speaks volumes about the enduring power of human kindness.

Because I would like to share this beautiful story of love, sacrifice and the enduring bond of friendship, I respectfully submit for the record the enclosed article from the Fergus

Falls Journal of February 7, 2002, entitled "Family's gift of life leaves enduring bond," by Mary Mahoney.

[From Fergus Falls Journal Feb. 7, 2002]
FAMILY'S GIFT OF LIFE LEAVES ENDURING
BOND

(By Mary Mahoney)

More than 25 years before his unexpected death, Gary Bradow told his wife Norma that he wanted his organs donated. "I told him that if he went first, I didn't know if I could do it," Norma said from her Fergus Falls home. "Gary told me I could, that I would just know it was right."

But nothing could have prepared Norma for the awful day that Gary died. A malformed artery in his brain caused a fatal stroke in March 1998 at the age of 57. Norma was faced with the one decision she didn't want to make.

"People think of 'harvesting' organs as an awful thing," she said. "But I realized we were farmers; harvesting is a wonderful thing for farmers. And in the case of donating Gary's organs, 'harvesting' was wonderful too."

A man in Wisconsin received a kidney. A 63-year-old widow got another kidney. Two others received his eyes.

And State Rep. Darlene Luther was the recipient of Gary's liver, literally occurring hours before she would have died.

A simple thank-you letter written to Norma six months after the transplant established a bond that couldn't be broken—even after Darlene's death on Jan. 30.

"I don't think of myself as one but as two persons," she wrote, signing only her first name.

With those words, Norma knew she had to connect with this woman who had reached out to her.

"Her letter touched my heart in a way I just can't describe and I immediately called LifeSource and said I had to meet her," Norma said. "It took awhile, but two weeks before Christmas 1998, both of them (Darlene and her husband U.S. Representative Bill Luther) were here."

In the four years since Darlene's transplant, the Bradow family became dear and special friends with the Luthers, visiting often and corresponding frequently. Darlene even flew out to Seattle one day to have lunch with Norma and her daughter Pam, who lives in Seattle, and flew back the same afternoon.

"The bond we had was completely beyond words," Norma said. "She was such a kind and generous lady."

Another twist of fate connected the families as well. Bill, who grew up in a dairy farm near Fergus Falls and has relatives in the area, had briefly known Gary before his death.

"I knew of them and had spoken with Gary before all of this happened," Bill said. "And the odds that my wife would receive a liver transplant from a man from my hometown—it's just amazing the way life can bond people together."

To Darlene, it was a sign that more needed to be done to increase awareness of organ donation. She felt she was the perfect person to educate people about the benefits of organ donation as a state representative, and helped enact legislation providing funding for a mobile education unit for LifeSource, the organ donation procurement organization that helped secure her liver.

"She (Darlene) did such a great amount of work, getting families to talk about organ donation," said LifeSource Public Relations manager Susan Mau Larson. "She was a living statement of the wondrous good provided by organ donation."

The mobile unit is similar to a bookmobile, with displays and kiosks about organ donation. In late December, LifeSource presented a plaque that will hang in the mobile unit, thanking Darlene for all the work she's done for organ procurement.

Last week, a bill passed through the House of Representatives—named in honor of Darlene—making a person's organ donation wishes a binding contract, meaning a family member cannot override the decision. The Senate will begin its process on the bill today, Mau Larson said.

But despite the positive work Darlene provided, tragedy struck the Luthers and the Bradows—once again.

"Darlene called me in late October to let me know she had stomach cancer," Norma said. "The anti-rejection drugs masked the cancer and by the time they found out, it was inoperable."

It was then that the friendship shifted and Norma began helping Darlene the way she had been helped after her husband's death.

"I wrote her weekly notes, little inspirational things to encourage her," she said. "Her inner peace was phenomenal; she was such an inspiration to me and I was trying to help her."

When Bill called Norma the morning after Darlene died, she said the news was heart-wrenching enough. But what came next practically took her breath away.

"Darlene had requested she be buried in Fergus Falls, where she could be near us," Norma said. "I burst into tears when Bill said that."

For Bill and his children Alex and Alicia, it was a natural decision.

"We were so appreciative of those four years Darlene received because of the transplant," Bill said. "The Bradows are part of our family."

He insisted that Norma ride in the lead car during the burial procession and that Gary's family, including his mother, Emma and daughters Tara and Debra, take part in the service held Wednesday afternoon at Oak Grove Cemetery.

"That's what they mean to us," Bill said. "And it's what Darlene would have wanted."

great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedrich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments.

At the National Institutes of Health and around the world, clinical trials for Friedrich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. Intensifying cooperation among organizations supporting the research and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals provide powerful evidence of the growing hope and determination to conquer Friedrich's ataxia. There is a growing conviction that treatments can and will be developed for this disease and that the resulting insights will be broadly applicable across a wide range of neurological disorders.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country to increase public awareness of Friedrich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 18, 2002, as Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the plight of low-income uninsured children with the introduction of the Children's Health Coverage, Improvement Act of 2002.

Throughout the United States there are over 11 million uninsured children under the age of nineteen. Over two-thirds of these children live in families with household incomes below 200% of poverty. In my home state of Illinois alone 435,000 children have no insurance, ranking Illinois 24th in the nation in the percentage of uninsured. Over 102,000 of these uninsured children reside in Cook County.

In hope of enrolling those low-income children who are eligible for SCHIP, I am introducing the Children's Health Coverage Improvement Act of 2002 which: Provides \$100 million in grants annually from unspent SCHIP allocations to community-based public or non-profit organizations for the purposes of conducting innovative outreach and enrollment efforts; and It is my hope that through this legislation we can ensure that every low-income child has the health insurance they qualify for and deserve.

FINDING A CURE FOR FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May.

Friedrich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder that is usually diagnosed in childhood. It causes muscle weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood. There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedrich's ataxia.

Although there is no treatment or cure available, Friedrich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. An extraordinary explosion of research findings has followed the identification of the Friedrich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a