

Accordingly, let us honor the sacrifices and patriotic valor demonstrated by everyone involved in this unprecedented effort. Accordingly, I urge my fellow colleagues to support this important measure.

HONORING HERMAN J. RUSSELL
FOR HIS HARD WORK AND HIS
SELECTION AS THE ATLANTA
BUSINESS LEAGUE CEO OF THE
YEAR

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the achievements of Mr. Herman J. Russell of Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Russell has been selected by the Atlanta Business League as its CEO of the Year for 2002.

Herman Russell transformed his father's small plaster business into a thriving conglomeration of property development and management businesses, which now span throughout Atlanta, Birmingham and the Southeast. Mr. Russell's 43-year old company has sculpted a number of major landmarks that are a part of Atlanta's infamous skyline.

Mr. Russell's accomplishments and influence extend well beyond the boardroom and into the community. He actively serves on several corporate boards and participates in many local, state and national charitable educational organizations. A philanthropist at heart, Mr. Russell provides scholarships for area youth, advice for budding entrepreneurs and support for economic development and empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Herman J. Russell, a pillar of the community. I am especially proud to know him and to have received lessons on the value of honesty and hard work. His unwavering integrity, consistent delivery of quality service, and generous community contributions exemplify the markings of a role model. Our community has been made better by his teachings and demonstrations of preparation, sacrifice, and dedication.

WINDSONG FILM FESTIVAL

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, Windsong Pictures, Inc., an independent, nonprofit motion picture company based in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is holding its Third Annual International Windsong Film Festival.

The Windsong Film Festival, which this year is featuring 25 award-winning independent motion pictures, is unique among film festivals because it specializes not only in showcasing professional independent filmmakers and films, but also in working with students of all ages who are interested in film production. This year the festival will show several motion pictures created by students at Elmhurst High School in Fort Wayne, which is also hosting the festival. College students will also be showing their work.

Holding this festival is a tremendous privilege for Elmhurst. It gives the school national

attention while giving students there a rare opportunity to explore the world of filmmaking. It reminds us that even with the financial pressures that are bearing on Elmhurst—and many other schools—it is important to keep fine arts education a part of our children's education.

This film festival, and the tremendous film program at Elmhurst, is due in no small part to Michael Floyd. Floyd is executive producer of the festival and, perhaps more importantly, the leader of Elmhurst Cinema Productions, the club that allows so many students the opportunity to make their own movies.

In addition to showcasing student work, the festival this year includes special screenings of professionally-produced independent movies for students, who after watching the films will be able to talk to the directors and ask them questions about their experiences in creating the films. Also this year, 32 student groups—from elementary age through high school—will receive awards and prizes for their own student productions.

You don't have to be in Hollywood to make movies. As a matter of fact, you don't even have to wait until you graduate from high school. I am proud of our students and our community for holding this festival and displaying once again Fort Wayne's thriving arts community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, because of a commitment to deliver a graduation commencement address in my District, I was unable to be present for all votes on May 21, 2002.

Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ (NJ-13)

Mr. Speaker (Mr. Chairman), On rollcall no. 174, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 175, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 176, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 177, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 178, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 179, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 180, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 181, had I been present, I would have voted Yes. On rollcall no. 182, had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3448
PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND
BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the procedure used by the majority to consider and pass the Prescription Drug User Fee Act also known as PDUFA.

Yesterday we passed the conference report on bioterrorism almost unanimously.

I voted for it.

However, I did so over my unhappiness with the procedure used to consider PDUFA.

Through PDUFA, the drug industry pays fees to the Food and Drug Administration for timely review of drugs and biological agents.

We have heard a lot about how PDUFA works, but at what cost? What have we sacrificed?

What we have sacrificed under PDUFA is honesty, accuracy, and informative labels. These are the duties and responsibilities that affect every American consumer. Therefore, we must be very careful to make sure that we do not compromise safety or effectiveness that the American public has come to expect.

The FDA reached this agreement in closed-door negotiations with the very industry they are supposed to regulate!

I have many concerns with PDUFA, but I was not able to address them because we in Congress were not allowed to bring these concerns to the floor for a full and open public debate.

We weren't even allowed to have a committee markup on it.

Well, for the record my concerns are as follows.

First of all, the FDA is financially dependent upon an industry it regulates, and because under the new agreement user fees are dramatically increased, dependence will grow dramatically.

Instead of using industry funds, Congress should appropriate enough money to ensure FDA's regulatory authority is completely independent, above reproach, and free of undue pressure from the drug industry.

Second, it is more than clear that the approval of a drug or device based on relatively short-term information does not always give us complete information about a drug.

The number of drugs pulled off the market in the last 4 years is 12.

Now, I agree that 3 were pre-PDUFA but that leaves 9 drugs that raced through an accelerated PDUFA approval process with incomplete information.

This brings me to my third point.

Phase IV studies, also known as post-marketing surveillance, are nightmarishly inadequate and neglected to a shameful extent by both the FDA and the drug manufacturers.

The 1997 reauthorization of PDUFA—called PDUFA 2—ordered a study from FDA that would summarize how well the industry complied over the past 5 years with mandates to do phase IV studies.

The results of this study show the vast majority of drug companies do not do their mandated post-marketing surveillance studies.

Now I understand PDUFA 3 comes a long way towards addressing major concerns with post-marketing surveillance, but without any enforcement, there will be no post-marketing surveillance, as we saw in PDUFA 2.

So I suggest that we put civil monetary penalties pegged to the sales of drugs as one option that we should consider.

Another area of concern is the ability of the drug manufacturers to game the system.

While awaiting requested and required information from a manufacturer, FDA should be able to "stop the clock" on the time constraints PDUFA imposes.

Due to extremely tight decision deadlines in PDUFA, manufacturers know they can delay their response to FDA's requests for information long enough so FDA is forced to make a

decision without being able to thoroughly review and doublecheck data.

We had one breast cancer drug, and the FDA got the information one and a half weeks before the PDUFA deadline would run.

My final concern today is that of subpoena power.

The FDA is one of the only health and safety regulatory agencies that does not have subpoena power.

Subpoena power would give FDA the authority it needs to inspect manufacturers' documents.

This is an issue we need to explore, but we couldn't because we weren't allowed to.

And last but not least, safety, adequate labeling, and compliance with federal regulations always seem to fall by the wayside when we rush through PDUFA or whatever it might be.

We did pediatric exclusivity here recently, and we are still waiting for studies.

I recently wrote a letter to Bristol-Myers Squibb in February about a drug called Serzone.

Sixteen other members joined me.

That was a drug that the FDA did a pediatric exclusivity study request in 1994. We are still waiting for the results of that study.

We have young people who have suffered liver damage from this drug, and we can't even get anyone to tell us what the results of that study were, eight years ago. That's ridiculous, and it has to stop.

We want to make sure that drugs are safe, and we want to make sure that we have adequate labeling, and we want to make sure that the FDA has adequate information.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, from subpoena power to enforcement power, the pediatric labeling under the pediatric exclusivity issue—all these issues we were not allowed to bring up before the House.

I will continue to work to make safety, accuracy, honesty, and labeling is put back in the Food and Drug Administration.

I voted for the bioterrorism conference report because it is too important to not implement.

But what about the terror facing people everyday when they take medications that are not established to be safe?

Mr. Speaker I hope issues as important as this one will be debated fully in the future and not subject to such underhanded tactics in the future.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE MEDICARE WAGE ADJUSTMENT PROVISION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Medicare Wage Adjustment Provision. The pure thought of allowing selected hospitals in two states to receive preferential treatment over the hospitals in the other 48 states is simply absurd. Similar to the hospitals in my Colleagues' districts, the 23 hospitals in my district are faced with extreme cuts in funding on the state and federal level and cuts in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. By granting the selected hospitals in

Pennsylvania and New York a wage adjustment, we are taking more money away from the hospitals in other districts.

We do not need unnecessary funding to this already expensive bill. We do not need to give special treatment to a few hospitals and the members which represent them, who did not seek help or adjustment based on procedure by going to CMS or allowing the policy to be considered or reported by the Ways and Means Committee. Instead, the Members of these hospitals were looking for a political shortcut and are attempting to use this legislation.

Every week, Mr. Speaker, I meet with my hospital constituents to discuss the alarming issues the hospital industry is facing, such as the nursing shortage, the cuts in reimbursements to the hospitals and physicians, the cuts in Medicare Indirect Medical Education Payments and the list sadly continues. This provision will only add to the current feeling of distress among our country's hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I stand side by side with my Republican Colleagues and my Democrat Colleagues in support of our troops and homeland security. However, this provision is one which I cannot stand behind knowing the amount of damage that will arise. This is not about the War on Terrorism. This is not a fair provision intended to help all Americans.

LIBERTY MEMORIAL WORLD WAR I MONUMENT REDEDICATION

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2002

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that on May 25, 2002 the citizens of Kansas City and dignitaries from around the world will come together for the rededication of the Liberty Memorial, our nation's only recognized World War I Monument. This monument, originally dedicated on November 11, 1926, serves as a lasting beacon to our men and women of the armed services. I am proud that this distinguished historic landmark is located in the district that I represent.

Following the Armistice on November 11, 1918, the citizens of the heartland rallied to build a memorial in honor of the 116,516 Americans who died in the war. The Liberty Memorial Association made up of greater Kansas City's business and political leaders organized a fundraising campaign with the slogan "Lest the Ages Forget." The goal of \$2.5 million, \$2 million designated to build the monument and museum and \$500,000 for Allied charities, was reached in ten days.

On November 1, 1921, more than a hundred thousand people witnessed the site dedication, an event that hosted the five great Allied Commanders of World War I: General John J. Pershing of the United States; Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain; General Armando Diaz of Italy; Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France; and Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium. General Pershing, a native Missourian, noted on the occasion that "The people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and the heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters

who served in our country's armed forces during the World War. It symbolizes their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited." During the parade that followed the ceremony, the American Legion Vice Chairman of Decoration Committee, Honorable Harry S. Truman, presented their country's flags to the Allied Commanders.

Vice President Calvin Coolidge participated as an honored guest during the site dedication and returned as President five years later as honored speaker for the official Liberty Memorial dedication on November 11, 1926, attended by one hundred and fifty thousand people. In his address at the Liberty Memorial dedication, President Calvin Coolidge noted that, "We are attempting to restore the world to a state of better understanding and amity. It is enough for us to know that the side on which we fought was victorious. But we should never forget that we were asserting our rights and maintaining our ideals." His words are especially true today as we rededicate our efforts to fight for our ideals of peace and liberty against those who threaten us through acts of global terrorism.

Forty years later, Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle proclaimed that a rededication of the Liberty Memorial would take place the week of November 10, 1961 to promote international understanding. Mayor Bartle gave purpose to the rededication with the following statement, "This monument encompasses all the individual efforts of the people of the world to live in friendship and fraternity so that all can assist one another in eliminating hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy so that the world can set aside the hatred, fears, prejudices, and inequities that exist." The ceremonies featured former Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman along with 57 foreign representatives to emphasize international relations and the establishment of People to People headquarters in Kansas City. On Veterans Day, November 11, 1961, President Truman said, "Those who fought in the war thought it was the war to end all wars. It would have been if we had done our duty as a nation. Our failure to participate in the League of Nations was a factor in World War II . . . I was here in 1921, at the original dedication. It is a wonderful thing when people take on themselves a job that ought to be done . . . I hope this day will be a preliminary to continuing world peace." Today we continue to strive for world peace as we continue the job of what ought to be done.

In 1994 the deterioration of the Liberty Memorial had reached a critical stage and had to be closed. Once again the citizens, corporations and government responded. The State of Missouri appropriated the amount of \$15,000,000. The United States Congress approved my request for \$5,000,000. Foundations, corporations, private citizens and a Kansas City sales tax have resulted in an additional \$55,000,000. The culmination of the restoration project will be at the rededication ceremony this Saturday on May 25, 2002, when the Liberty Memorial will once again be opened to the public. The Liberty Memorial has renewed life from the work of artisan craftsmen, priceless oil paintings restored, bronze light fixtures refurbished, sky light in place, and the monument made structurally sound. This Saturday, May 25, 2002 the flame will once again grace the skyline of Kansas