

young people the realities of science and America's space program. Let us get them off of these electronic games and get them into the real world and the real world may well be dealing with threats coming to us from outer space from great distances away, asteroids and comets that we should know about.

Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring the Charles Pete Conrad Astronomy Award Act, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and seeing that we get young Americans looking up just like Pete Conrad, always looking up and getting involved.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 15th annual National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, to highlight and bring attention to the cancer care needs of socioeconomically disadvantaged and medically underserved communities.

I come to the floor today to recognize the American Cancer Society, the Intercultural Cancer Council, and the National Center for Minority Health and Disparities at the National Institutes of Health for their continued work to increase the awareness of cancer and reduce health disparities among minorities.

While there has been a decline in cancer mortality since 1991, cancer still is the second leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for more than 555,500 deaths each year. That is more than 1,500 deaths a day. But what is most disheartening and most disturbing is that minority and medically underserved populations continue to bear a startling disproportionate share of the Nation's cancer burden.

According to the American Cancer Society, African American men and women have a cancer death rate of about 33 percent higher than whites. Among women younger than 50 years of age, African Americans are more likely to develop breast cancer than whites. Prostate cancer will claim the lives of more than twice as many African American men as men of other racial and ethnic groups. African Americans are at a significantly higher risk of death from intrauterine and bladder cancers. Hispanic women have nearly twice the rates of cervical cancer than non-Hispanic white women. Hispanics are less likely than other minorities to have a regular source of health care, visited a physician in the past year, and received a routine physical examination. Native American women with breast cancer have the lowest 5-year survival rate of any United States racial/ethnic group. And native Hawaiian women have the highest incidence and mortality rates of endometrial cancers of all United States women.

There is something equally as important as statistics, and that is the question, why our cancer rates are disproportionately high among minorities. According to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association on April 23 of this year, higher cancer rates in minorities seem to stem from difference in treatment, not biological or genetic differences.

I say to my colleagues, to be truly effective in eradicating all types of cancer, the Federal health agenda must address low-income minorities and medically underserved populations. I think Congress can be instrumental in helping to accomplish this goal in this country. In fact, at my request during the 106th Congress, the Committee on Government Reform held a hearing that afforded us the opportunity to engage in a more exhaustive investigation of the disparities in cancer treatments of minorities. This hearing was a positive first step in addressing the issue of disparities and cancer treatment of minorities in the United States.

In keeping with this point, Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, chaired by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), met to discuss a report which had been requested by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) and others, from the Institute of Medicine and that report was titled "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care."

This report concluded that Americans of color tend to receive lower-quality health care than do whites; and these disparities contribute to high death rates of African Americans from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and other life-endangering conditions.

The American Cancer Society, health care providers, community organizations, and State and local agencies and many other participants agree that we need to do more; that there needs to be more cooperation between the Department of Health and Human Services, local and State health agencies, medical schools, businesses, et cetera, to address the disparities in minorities health care treatment but especially for life-endangering illnesses like cancer. Let us recognize the National Minority Cancer Week as an opportunity to increase awareness in the knowledge of cancer detection treatment and risk through, among other things, target outreach programs to minorities and other underserved communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHOWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BANNING COCKFIGHTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to spend a moment on the floor of the House this afternoon dealing with an issue that passed this House by voice vote overwhelmingly during the discussion on the agricultural bill earlier this session.

We now have in conference the ag bill that seems to be moving forward. I have grave concerns in one particular area, Mr. Speaker, that I am going to be working over the course of the next few days to seek clarification because I want to make sure that the intent of the House and the Senate are preserved in the final form that comes out of conference.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a practice of cockfighting, game hens, that has been tolerated by this Congress even though it is now illegal in 47 States. The public long ago has come to the point that this practice is inherently inhuman and barbaric.

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The handlers of these fighting birds drug the animals to heighten their aggression and to clot the blood. They affix knives or ice picks like gaffs to their legs and place them into a pit to fight until one of them is dead, all for amusement and illegal gambling.

Mr. Speaker, this barbaric practice is slowly being made illegal around the country. It is currently legal in only three States. The problem is that under current law it is still legal to transport these birds from States where it is illegal to States that it is legal, and this loophole is exploited to allow people to maintain, to train, and it facilitates illegal game bird fighting.

Last October, my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), and I offered two amendments to the farm bill that would close these loopholes and strengthen the penalty for violations of animal fighting laws. These two amendments were passed overwhelmingly by this body by voice vote, adopted in identical form in the Senate. This, in fact, should not even be a conference item. Identical language was adopted by both the House and the Senate. The intent of both Chambers was to close the loophole, ban foreign export of fighting animals, and increase the penalty.

According to the House Agriculture Committee's Web site, a conference committee is permitted to deal only with matters in disagreement between the House and the Senate. It may not change language that both have previously approved.

Unfortunately, it is pretty clear to me that people are, in fact, looking at watering down the penalty provisions in particular, and to deal with problems, some people are saying, I have been told by one high-ranking member of the conference committee that they are concerned that there is not a problem with 4-H clubs dealing with raising these chickens that the 4-H'ers produce.

Well, first of all, to prosecute a cock-fighting case, law enforcement officers must have evidence of the illegal activity. The birds intended to be used in these cock fights are identifiable by several indicators, including the special structures that they are kept in, the fighting paraphernalia, the specific drugs that are provided to them to heighten the aggression and to aid the blood clotting.

The Animal Welfare Act already prohibits interstate transports for dogs for fighting purposes, and we have not had anybody come to this floor and say, well, we have these provisions in Federal law and we cannot have legitimate show-dog activities, that it is interfering with the buying, transport, and delivery of animals for purposes that do not impact animal fighting. Of course not. Reasonable people apply the laws reasonably, and this is absolutely specious.

There is a problem, however, because people will run through this loophole to continue to exploit the illegal game fighting that is happening in these States where it is illegal but it is legal to grow them, legal to train them, legal to transport them.

One of the problems is that the current penalties are 26 years old. They are not high enough to warrant prosecution of violations. What we hear from the U.S. Department of Justice and the USDA, that they have indicated that they would give more consideration if they were a felony and included higher fines and jail time.

That is what the House passed. That is what the conference committee should protect, and if we are not able to do that, Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to bring a motion to this floor to instruct the conferees to respect the rights and the will of the House and the Senate and to do what the American people want and end this cruel and barbaric practice.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BALDACCI (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. HOLT (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of attending a funeral in the district.

Mr. RANGEL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 2:00 p.m. on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHOWS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ISSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.R. 4167. An act to extend for 8 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 29, 2002, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6386. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter providing information on a report entitled, "Support for Child Care Services and Youth Program Services"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6387. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Administration's FY 2001 Annual Report on Initiatives to Address Management Deficiencies, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1709(v); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6388. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences, Fiscal Year 2001," pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5848; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6389. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning compliance by the Government of Cuba with the U.S.-

Cuba Migration Accords of September 9, 1994, and May 2, 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

6390. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the 6-month period ending September 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6391. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the semi-annual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2001, through September 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6392. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Report of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2001 (Financial Report); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6393. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6394. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the twenty-fifth Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-Up, covering the period from April 1, 2001 to September 30, 2001 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app.; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6395. A letter from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the 2001 Annual Report of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6396. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Commercial Activities Inventory for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6397. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Commercial Activities Inventory for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6398. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6399. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2001 through September 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6400. A letter from the Assistant Administration for Human Resources and Education, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6401. A letter from the Assistant Administration for Human Resources and Education, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6402. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6403. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's Performance Report for FY 2001; to the Committee on Government Reform.