

concerns regarding housing and employment, participating colorguards, burial details, and educating our Nation's youth about the sacrifices made to our veterans.

□ 1530

The events of the past year that coincide with our ongoing war on terrorism have underscored the important role played by our veterans in the defense of freedom. Many Americans now recognize veterans in a new light, one of greater respect than ever before. This resolution expands this improved view, declaring July 23 to be AMVETS National Charter Day. There is no finer tribute to our Nation's esteemed veterans' service organizations than by honoring them in this manner.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this timely and appropriate measure.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 314.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 314.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT CONTINUAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INTO CAUSE AND CURE FOR FIBROID CANCER BE ADDRESSED

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 165) expressing the sense of the Congress that continual research and education into the cause and cure for fibroid cancer be addressed.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 165

Whereas the vast majority of fibroids occur in women of reproductive age, and between 20 and 40 percent of women are diagnosed;

Whereas African American women are twice as likely to be diagnosed with fibroids than Caucasian women;

Whereas fibroids are the most frequently diagnosed tumor of the female pelvis and range in size from 1mm to more than 20cm (8 inches) in diameter;

Whereas they are not associated with cancer and almost never develop into cancer (less than one percent becoming malignant);

Whereas the symptoms of fibroids can include excessive bleeding during menstrual periods, spotting or bleeding between periods, frequent urination, and/or lower back pain;

Whereas the preferred method of treatment for fibroids is a hysterectomy, which is the complete removal of the uterus, leaving the woman unable to bear children for the rest of her life;

Whereas diets rich in fatty foods have been a contributing factor to an increased risk in fibroid tumors;

Whereas there are alternative methods to a hysterectomy available, but they are less permanent, and have menopausal symptoms;

Whereas, in cases of hormonal treatment, the fibroids will regrow should the treatment cease; and

Whereas research conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health indicated that while estrogen and progesterone are contributing factors, fibroids can be targeted by environmental chemicals whose effects are mediated through the estrogen and/or progesterone receptors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) the Congress recognizes the health and educational needs of women in the United States who may be suffering from fibroids;

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that the medical community should explore alternatives to hysterectomies in greater detail, so that women who choose to bear children in their lives may do so, while eliminating recurring fibroids; and

(3) the Congress—

(A) encourages women to pay greater attention to their reproductive health by making regular visits to their OB/GYNs; and

(B) encourages women and their physicians to know all safe options available for the prevention and cure of fibroids.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 165, which expresses the sense of the Congress that research and education on fibroid tumors be increased. This resolution was unanimously approved by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 24. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which will help place a much-needed focus on fibroid tumors and their prevention.

As a firm believer in prevention, I am pleased that this resolution places such an emphasis on providing women with the information they need to make smart decisions about their health. For example, fibroid tumors are linked to diets rich in fatty foods. Women need this important information so they can modify their eating habits to reduce their risks of developing fibroid tumors.

The vast majority of fibroid tumors occur in women of reproductive age. Today, a hysterectomy is the most common treatment for women with fibroid tumors. This procedure has devastating consequences for women as they are unable to have children, as we know, after a hysterectomy.

The resolution calls on the medical community to explore alternatives to hysterectomies for the treatment of fibroid tumors. We must focus research efforts on the development of alternative therapies that will increase the treatment options for women. Therapeutic advances are the surest way to enable women to receive care and preserve their ability to bear children.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her good work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 165.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House is considering my bill, H. Con. Res. 165, which deals with uterine fibroid tumors. I want to express my gratitude to the House leadership and to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Health.

My thanks also to the ranking members, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and my dear friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), for their efforts to bring this measure to the floor for consideration.

I also want to recognize the respective majority and minority committee professional staff for their work.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, expresses a sense of Congress that continual research and education must be directed to the causes and cures for noncancerous uterine fibroid tumors. These tumors afflict women of reproductive age and affect African-American women 2 to 3 times more frequently than other women. Although the tumors are usually benign, they are quite painful, troublesome and dangerous, depending upon their size and their location.

It has been estimated that 20 to 30 percent of women experience fibroid tumors, even though many of the cases

are not diagnosed. Although these tumors can be quite small, they can multiply and cause great physical discomfort. For many years a surgical procedure known as a hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus, has been used to eliminate the tumors. This surgery unfortunately also eliminates a woman's ability to have children. Therefore, it is imperative that women become more educated about the nature of fibroid uterine tumors and the possible implications for women who suffer from this debilitating health problem.

The best approach for women to effectively deal with this unique health dilemma involves regular exams by their doctor. Furthermore, it is paramount that the medical community explore alternatives to eliminate recurring fibroids by other than a woman having to undergo a hysterectomy.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H. Con. Res. 165 has been brought before the House for consideration. For much too long women have suffered terribly with uterine fibroid tumors. I applaud my colleagues for bringing this bill before the House for a vote. This legislation, when enacted, will be implemented to encourage women to seek early detection of uterine fibroid tumors and will further enable doctors to pursue research concerning better treatment to avoid unnecessary and painful surgery.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 165.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF GOOD CERVICAL HEALTH AND DETECTING CERVICAL CANCER DURING EARLIEST STAGES

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 309), recognizing the importance of good cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 309

Whereas approximately 12,900 women are diagnosed with, and 4,400 women die from, cervical cancer in the United States each year;

Whereas women who are members of certain racial or ethnic minorities and women who have a low income are more likely than other women to die from cervical cancer;

Whereas cervical cancer is primarily caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) and can be detected by a Papanicolaou test (Pap test) or other early detection tests;

Whereas the earlier cervical cancer is detected the better chance a woman has of surviving cervical cancer;

Whereas women of certain racial or ethnic minorities, women who have less than a high school education, and women who have a low income are less likely than other women to receive a Pap test or other early detection test for cervical cancer; and

Whereas cervical cancer survivors have shown tremendous courage and determination in the face of adversity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of good cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages;

(2) urges health care facilities and other medical institutions to continue to raise public awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of early detection;

(3) urges the people of the United States to learn about cervical cancer and the importance of early detection; and

(4) recognizes the survivors of cervical cancer for their tremendous courage and determination.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the legislation under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 309, which recognizes the importance of good cervical health and detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages. This resolution, which was unanimously approved by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 24, would help increase the public's awareness of cervical cancer and the importance of early detection.

Approximately 12,900 women are diagnosed with, and 4,400 women die from, cervical cancer in the United States each year. I was pleased to sponsor legislation in the 105th Congress, the Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendments of 1998, that included provisions to increase the emphasis on the early detection of this terrible disease. I am, therefore, pleased we are considering this important resolution today that will help us to continue focusing on prevention and early detection of cervical cancer.

Since many vulnerable groups of women are less likely to receive

screening tests for cervical cancer, it is critical that we continue our commitment to education programs so that these women increase their utilization of these important preventative services. This resolution is another positive step in that direction.

We are again indebted to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for this legislation, and I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in support of H. Con. Res. 309.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise representing the 62 women Members of the House who have worked tirelessly to address these issues, thereby choosing the theme in this 107th Congress, The Wellness of Women.

Today, the House is considering H. Con. Res. 309 as one of these important pieces of legislation. This resolution recognizes the importance of good cervical health and detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages.

I want to thank the Committee on Energy and Commerce chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), for their leadership, and also the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for their efforts in the committee to report this bill favorably out of that committee.

I also want to commend the committee staff for their work.

H. Con. Res. 309 is important because cervical cancer can be fatal for a woman if it is not detected in its earliest stages. In 2002, the American Cancer Society estimates that there will be approximately 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer and, of that number, approximately 4,100 American women will die from this disease.

Cervical cancer can be detected by screening via a Pap smear test. Public awareness of utilizing Pap smear tests is especially important for racial and ethnic minority groups, and those segments of women who exist at or below the poverty level.

I cannot overemphasize the need for early screening because statistical data indicates that the 5-year survival is 70 percent for all stages of cervical cancer when it is detected early. Early screening can also detect pre-cancerous lesions, which can ultimately protect against a woman's contracting cancer.

Mr. Speaker, today the House has taken a huge step forward in educating women and potentially saving lives by passing this legislation. It is often said that acquiring knowledge can be empowering. In the case of cervical cancer, this is absolutely true.

Women throughout America can and will be destined to gain more peace of mind and even greater longevity by