

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Breast Cancer Month. Today, 3 million American women are living with the disease—2 million who have been diagnosed and 1 million who do not yet know they have it. These women are our sisters, daughters, coworkers, neighbors, and friends.

But there is good news. Due in large part to federally funded research, we know more than ever about what causes breast cancer and how to more effectively treat the disease. In fact, since 1990, we have increased Federal funding for breast cancer research by nearly 600 percent. We also have made tremendous progress in increased access to mammography, which is the most effective way to diagnose breast cancer early. If detected and treated early, breast cancer has one of the highest survival rates.

I also want to pay tribute to the many wonderful organizations that provide support to breast cancer patients and their families, like Y—Me in my home State of Illinois. These organizations offer invaluable services to the millions touched by this disease and have been crucial in bringing this issue to the forefront of the healthcare debate.

October may be National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but every day of the year this issue deserves our attention. I thank my colleagues for their support, and encourage them to continue to work for the millions touched by this disease.

IN MEMORY OF 1LT DAVID R. BERNSTEIN OF THE U.S. ARMY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man, First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. He died on Saturday, October 18, 2003, when his patrol was ambushed in Taza, Iraq. First Lieutenant Bernstein was just 24 years old.

For me, the news of David's death was particularly shocking and hard to bear. I had the honor and privilege to nominate this fine young man to the United States Military Academy at West Point, a nomination that he accepted and fulfilled with exceptional honor, ability and accomplishment.

First in his class at Phoenixville High School, where he excelled in swimming as well as academics, David was the Valedictorian of his High School Class of 1997. Upon entering West Point, he continued on his path of personal excellence by maintaining an arduous schedule of academics, training and sports, activities that distinguished him, and earned him the respect and admiration of his

superior officers, instructors, and fellow cadets at the Academy. He graduated 5th in his class at West Point, and was one of the brightest stars among an incredible constellation of talent that graduated from the Academy in 2001.

Soon after graduation from West Point, David volunteered for Army Ranger School. He excelled there, acquiring additional skills and advanced training, and became Ranger qualified. Having a pick of assignments based on his standing at West Point, David chose duty close to the hot spots in the world, and joined the Army's 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, the storied "911 squad" of Europe, headquartered at Camp Ederle in Italy.

As a member of the 1st of the 508th Regiment of the 173rd, Lieutenant Bernstein, parachuted into Northern Iraq in the early morning darkness on March 27 of this year, one of only approximately 1,000 soldiers from the 173rd sent to secure the Bashur airfield in the north of Iraq. As those who followed the war well know, this small band of soldiers performed magnificently and heroically behind enemy lines to establish the important "second front" in the struggle to liberate Iraq and the world from the grip of Saddam Hussein.

This brave and gifted officer shouldered the burdens of command with uncommon ability, intelligence and grace. He was a natural leader who inspired those in his command, always leading by example and with an unwavering commitment and dedication to his men and to the service of his country.

He last spoke with his parents, Richard and Gail Bernstein, only a week before his death. The call was brief, lasting less than 10 minutes, because of the long line of soldiers waiting their own turn. In that short call David told his parents of the pride he felt for his men and their mission. He also conveyed his own sense of pride in being able to answer the call of duty by serving as an Army officer. As his father has said, David was "a soldier who appreciated serving his country."

In his final moments, even though mortally wounded and under continuous enemy fire, Lieutenant Bernstein maneuvered his way to the driver's seat of his Humvee and moved the vehicle off of a soldier in his command who was trapped under its wheels and badly wounded. His unselfish act of bravery likely saved the life of his comrade.

All of Pennsylvania mourns the loss of this brave and good young man who will be laid to rest this Friday, October 31, 2003 at West Point. Our hearts go out to his parents, Richard and Gail, to his sister Michelle, to his brother Doug, and to all of his friends and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, exemplified the spirit of service that has made this nation great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he stood for. Our pride in David shall live on—his life, his courage, his sacrifice and strength of character. The example of his citizenship and dedication to duty will be his enduring legacy. Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, life and service of First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, and in sending our heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends, and community.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for their support of the "Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act," H.R. 1616 and the bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., S. 470. These bills extend the authority for and make possible the construction of a national memorial commemorating the achievements of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his commitment to the struggle of civil rights for all Americans.

Dr. King dedicated his life to the realization of full equal and civil rights for all Americans irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. He stood on the front lines in the struggle against social injustice, discrimination, and inequality, often at great risk to himself. Despite numerous death threats, Dr. King never wavered in that commitment.

Madam Speaker, the Lewis and Sarbanes bills are a win-win situation for all parties involved. The National Park Service currently owns a vacant lot that does not have any significant historic value. The city of Atlanta would like to acquire this land for the sole purpose of encouraging commercial development within its city limits. In addition, the land on which the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum currently sits is land-locked and lacks adequate emergency access. Exchanging this land within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for property in which the National Park Service could establish easy access to the Visitor Center and Museum would be mutually beneficial to both parties. This would simultaneously resolve the National Park Service's access issue and give the city of Atlanta much needed commercial space.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to support both bills—the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Land Exchange Act and the bill to extend the authority for construction of the MLK Memorial. I would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues Mr. LEWIS and Senator SARBANES for their leadership in sponsoring these important pieces of legislation and in helping to keep the dream alive.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate the region's progress over the past 50 years at their annual dinner Thursday, October 30 at the Wachovia Arena in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times before, progress doesn't just happen by accident. From the beginning of the creation of the Industrial Fund 50 years ago, it has taken hard work, vision, dedication, and leadership by those who have transformed the area's economy from an aging coal mining town to a diversified economy with a bright future.

These leaders, whose accomplishments will be recognized at the dinner celebration, set the goals of elevating the economy by encouraging and supporting business growth, increasing capital investment in the region, and enhancing the area's quality of life by serving as a catalyst for key community projects. My colleagues, while we need to continue to strive toward these ambitious goals, I would like to pay tribute to the business leaders who make up this Chamber and this community for their success in moving us closer to these goals over the past 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this organization has a proud and storied history highlighted by individuals who rose to the occasion and helped transform this region. Charles Weissman, William O. Sword, Frank Burnside, Herbert Morris, Edward Schechter, and many more leaders helped build our economy on a proud tradition of doing what it takes to make northeastern Pennsylvania the best it can be by working in partnership with elected officials and volunteers from the business community.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber is relentlessly working in partnership with local, State and Federal officials to rebuild our region's economic base from the ground up. Whether it is working to reclaim mine-scarred land, building and managing five business parks in the region like the new Innovation Center, promoting key community projects like the Arena, the levee raising and riverfront redevelopment projects, or working on the Downtown revitalization efforts, The Chamber serves as a vocal leader on issues and initiatives—from transportation to education, and from diversity to the knowledge economy—that help to advance the Greater Wilkes-Barre community.

Most recently, the Chamber deserves commendations for reaching out to neighboring organizations to improve on efforts to bring a more regional approach to economic development, which I strongly support.

It has been a pleasure to work with Chamber leaders on many of these important projects during my tenure in office, and I look forward to many more years of productive partnership for the benefit of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere honor to recognize the business and community leaders of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate 50 years of progress on Thursday evening.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber on October 28, 2003. I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 569. I also would have

voted "nay" on rollcall vote 570. Further, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 571, 572, and 573.

HONORING JOSEPH CARL NORQUIST

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a fallen soldier and American patriot, 26-year-old Army Specialist Joseph Carl Norquist, for his unstinting service to the community and devotion to the country. On October 9, 2003, Spc. Norquist, a 26-year-old Oakland man, was in a convoy in Baqubah, Iraq when he was killed in a barrage of grenades and bullets.

Norquist was serving with the 588th Engineering Battalion, based in Fort Hood, Texas. In Iraq, the battalion is assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, also of Fort Hood. The 588th is conducting two separate missions in Baqubah; they are searching for weapons and rebuilding schools.

"Joe believed in the job he was doing in Iraq," his parents said in a statement. "He thought it was worth it for the children, who would have better opportunities for a better life. We deeply mourn the loss of our son."

Norquist, a native of Martinez, attended high school in Benicia, where he played on the football team. He received an associate degree from Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill and joined the Army in 2001. He served for a year in Korea before being assigned to his unit in Texas, where he was trained in evaluating obstacles and operating conditions for tank maneuvers.

Joseph was a big, broad-shouldered man who liked to watch wrestling on TV. According to his friends, Joseph liked to spend his spare time in the base gym, working out with weights. In the evenings, he would try out wrestling moves on his Army buddies. He was contemplating enrolling in a pro wrestling school in Austin once his Army days were done. He was recognized for his attention to detail and thoroughness, and will posthumously receive the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals.

Finally, as we remember Spc. Norquist today, I take great pride in joining Joseph's parents, Carl and Sue, his friends and fellow soldiers to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of Joseph Carl Norquist.

RECOGNIZING WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the week of October 20–25th has been designated as World Population Awareness Week with the theme of "Water: Our Most Precious Natural Resource." Over the next 20 years, the world's population of 6.3 billion is projected to increase to nearly 9 billion before

leveling off. Since the entire population depends on 1 percent of the earth's water, many fear a future where water scarcity will undermine health and security and lead to political and social unrest. Acting on the global consensus that water scarcity must be a top development priority, the Population Institute has decided to dedicate the nineteenth World Population Awareness Week to the issue of water.

More than 80 nations, 165 organizations, 127 mayors, and 22 governors have proclaimed World Population Awareness Week. Governor Michael Easley of North Carolina is among those doing so, and I am pleased to call that proclamation to my colleagues' attention.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity to celebrate the great strides breast cancer education, treatment, and survival that American women enjoy today. It must also serve as a reminder not to take our health for granted—to schedule a mammogram, perform a breast self-exam, and call a friend to urge her to do the same.

In the United States, every 2½ minutes another woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and every 13 minutes another woman dies from this dreadful disease. Almost one-third of these deaths could have been prevented if the disease had been discovered in the early stages. The lives lost are those of wives, mothers, daughters, and friends.

Thankfully, a breast cancer diagnosis is no longer a sure death sentence. When discovered and treated in the early stages, the five-year survival rate is 97 percent. Today, there are more than two million breast cancer survivors in the United States. These women live to celebrate birthdays, holidays, every day with their families and friends.

Early detection opens the door to beating breast cancer, and mammograms are the key to that door. Mammograms can find 40 percent of cancers not detectable during a breast self-exam or a doctor's exam. It is the most effective method of early detection, yet only 63 percent of American women between the ages of 40 and 64 had a mammogram in the past year. Furthermore, we must search diligently for more effective detection technology to improve upon the mammogram.

Sadly, many women cannot pay for essential screenings. I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program. Due to this program and other initiatives, a lack of insurance is no longer a barrier to breast cancer survival.

Let's make the most of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month; let's seize this opportunity to take control of our health and our lives. Every one of us is at risk for breast cancer, regardless of age, health, or family history, simply by being women. Let's say goodbye to needless cancer deaths and hello to breast self-exams, clinical breast exams, and mammograms. Let's say hello to the thousands of women who are here today and will