

CELEBRATING THE VIENNA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE)

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Chapter 1116 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), located in Vienna, Virginia.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a multi-tiered, political, nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving the earned retirement benefits of all federal civilians. Membership eligibility includes current, former, and retired federal civilians, as well as their spouses and survivor annuitants. Chapter 1116 is one of over 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Vienna chapter hosts speeches from state and local officials as well as those running for specific offices. NARFE officers from state and national organizations address issues of interest to those retired as well as the general public. Musical programs, talks and discussions about home and garden maintenance as well as historical and cultural issues add variety to the meetings.

Currently, the Vienna chapter has 668 members under the leadership of president Ginger King and first vice-president "Van" Van Huizen. The chapter prides itself on approaching all issues in a realistic and humanitarian manner. Its members have worked tirelessly for the benefits of federal retirees and all elderly, cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies to do so. Members assist shut-in seniors and provide convenience items and comfort to those in retirement homes. On a national level, NARFE contributes to Alzheimer's research and sponsors a college scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate NARFE Chapter 1116 on 35 years of success. They have become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of their members and their community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the chapter members' past accomplishments and in wishing Chapter 1116 the best of luck in the many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY WARINER

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate Jeremy Wariner, of Grand Prairie, Texas, in his success in these past Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Jeremy won the Gold in the Men's 400 meter run with a time of 44.00, the fastest time in the world this year. He also captured a gold medal in the 4x400 relay competition. At the 2004 NCAA Indoor Championships, Wariner, a junior at Baylor University, won the 400m with a time of 45.39 seconds and won an NCAA title with the 4x400m relay team. His remarkable performance brought tremendous accolade to America, and we thank him.

Jeremy exemplifies the spirit of an Olympic champion, and I am so proud to recognize him here today, as a Texan, an American and a gold medal champion.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I will vote against legislation that would create federally funded youth suicide early intervention, prevention, and treatment programs authorized at \$82 million over three years.

At a time when we have the largest deficit spending in history, I'm reluctant to start yet another federal program. Additionally, the states that are having problems, rather than the federal government, should be making the decisions of how much help and what kind of help should be initiated to reduce the problem of youth suicide.

FREEDOM FOR FÉLIX NAVARRO RODRÍGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Félix Navarro Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is a member of the Democratic Solidarity Party and an independent journalist. He was also a school headmaster before he was fired by the totalitarian regime that mandates propaganda in place of truth. As a teacher who was trained to mold young minds, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez could no longer abide the practice of teaching lies and spreading deceit. After being fired for his beliefs, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez became a peaceful pro-democracy activist, focusing his energies on writing and reporting on the true nature of the totalitarian dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez has been subjected to harassment and detention for his pro-democracy activities since at least 1992. In November 1996 he was questioned by regime thugs for allegedly not paying union dues and having a copy of the newspaper "El Nuevo Herald" at his work. It has also been reported that he was detained in November 1999 and September 2001 for participating in a commemoration for two political prisoners who perished in Castro's gulag.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's crack-down on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez was arrested. In a sham trial, he was convicted on activities that included, "among other things, leaflets and literature; the latter was proved by the confiscation of aggressive and corrosive writings and printed material from his house." This sham trial resulted in Mr. Navarro Rodríguez being sentenced to 25 years in the abhorrent totalitarian gulag.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez was able to send a message of strong support for President Bush's Cuba policy initiatives from his cell in the totalitarian gulag. In that cell, Félix Navarro Rodríguez personifies the heroism and perseverance of the Cuban people and their admirable commitment to see freedom reign in Cuba.

Let me be clear, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is locked in sub-human conditions for writing and owning printed materials that contain facts and truth. Simply because he does not subscribe to the lies and propaganda forced upon the nation of Cuba by the communist tyrant, he is locked in a dank dungeon.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Navarro Rodríguez is languishing in the repulsive squalor of the tyrant's gulag because he believes in truth and freedom. It is detestable that at the dawn of the 21st century, and a mere 90 miles from our shore, honorable men and women are imprisoned in repugnant gulags for believing that all men have an inherent right to live in freedom. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Félix Navarro Rodríguez and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDER CITY ALL-STARS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of young people in my Congressional district from Alexander City, Alabama.

On July 19, 2004, the Alexander City All-Stars traveled to Atmore and won their second straight state baseball championship. I am particularly proud of these talented young people for their accomplishments, and especially proud to note the team's unique accomplishment of winning back-to-back state titles.

The names of the youths who earned this achievement are as follows: Trey Bennett, Griff Gordon, Dylan Johnson, Larry Kemp, Douglas Kimbrough, Thomas Lutz, Elliot Mahan, Clay Phillips, Timothy Phurrough, Luke Smith, Gage Whiteard, and Levi Wilson. Their coach is Marlin Smith.

As the House goes about its business today, let us remember these gifted young people for their accomplishments, and congratulate them on this remarkable and memorable occasion. They are indeed All Stars for our community, and I am proud to acknowledge them in the House today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN WALKER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to express my sorrow for the passing of a dear personal friend and pillar of the community in southeast Texas and Gulf Coast, Mr. John Walker. John passed away suddenly this past weekend, leaving many of

us stunned and saddened at the loss of such a wonderful individual.

John was a loving husband and family man, and a friend to many in the Galveston community. John, or "Johnny" as those close to him knew him, served as President of Ducks Unlimited's national organization, was on the board of Galveston College, and was a strong supporter of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He participated with these organizations because he knew the importance of core, fundamental values that aid us all not only locally, but nationally. In addition, John's grandfather was former Congressman Clark W. Thompson, who served proudly in this very chamber, and who was a great friend and mentor of mine as well.

I express my deepest condolences and sympathy to John's wife Susan, and the rest of his family and loved ones, and know that he is now at peace with the Lord.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2634—A Youth Suicide Prevention Bill.

Suicide knows no boundaries. It affects children of every race, ethnicity, religion, and economic background and takes the lives of 3,000 young people every year. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for children and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24.

My neighbors and close personal friends, Doug and Sharon Strouse, tragically lost their daughter, Kristin, to suicide shortly after the September 11th Terrorist Attacks in New York. Kristen was a gifted student at the Parson's School of Design in New York at the time of her passing and had a promising future in the design field.

In Kristin's memory, the Strouses used their grief to help other young people who may be depressed or considering suicide. Kristin's sister, Kim, established a non-profit organization that runs art workshops to provide suicide prevention education and crisis intervention. The Strouses also support suicide awareness through a moving videotape that helps young people and their parents identify the signs of depression while offering solutions to help them address the issue.

I believe S. 2634 also known as the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act of 2004 will help the Strouses and other families further these important programs. The bill will also improve nationwide access to prevention and intervention techniques for youth.

The bill authorizes \$82 million over three years for mental health services, including screening, assessment, mentoring, and counseling, on the local, state, and federal level. These services will be offered in a variety of settings including schools, juvenile justice systems, foster care establishments, and substance abuse programs.

The legislation will also help establish a comprehensive federal strategy to share data, disseminate research, and coordinate the

evaluation of early intervention and prevention programs for youth.

I believe S. 2634 will help fund some very important work to help families like the Strouses avoid the pain of losing a loved one.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, contains some very important language that I would like to point out to my colleagues. The bill requires written, informed parental consent before a child may participate in the programs funded under this bill. The bill provides an exception for this in cases where there is an emergency and the safety of the child or other students is at risk and in cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained.

Mr. Speaker, this language is very important. The topic of suicide and death is very sensitive, especially for younger children who are very impressionable. I believe that parents, not schools, should be the first line of defense for educating against and preventing their children from considering suicide. Studies have shown that in some cases, suicide education has actually led to suicides. Parents should have the option of keeping their child out of such classes. In addition, if parents are aware that their child is in such a class or program at school, they will be able to look for any warning signs that their child is considering suicide.

The exceptions included in the parental consent requirement are intended to be very narrow—emergency situations and cases where parental consent cannot reasonably be obtained. Emergency situations will be obvious—this would be a situation where a student is threatening his life or the life of someone else. Obviously, in such a case, the counselor or teacher should immediately counsel the student to stop the threatened activity.

Some may wonder what is meant by cases where parental consent cannot be "reasonably" obtained. This is intended to mean situations where the parent, despite the best efforts of the school or other organization operating a suicide intervention program, cannot personally give consent. One such situation would be where a single parent in the military has gone overseas for duty and the child is temporarily staying with grandparents. But let me be clear—this is not a loophole for those who find obtaining parental consent to be inconvenient or time-consuming. It is for those rare and very limited situations in which a parent simply is not able to provide consent.

I would like to thank Chairman BARTON for working so diligently on this important language.

HONORING THE MARRIAGE OF
BETHANY ANNE KORCZYNSKI
AND DOMINIC A. ZUCCHERO

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor and recognition of Bethany Korczynski and Dominic Zuccherro as they celebrate their devotion to each other and to their future together.

It seems that we face a challenging time regarding one of the "lode stones" of our society: the family unit. It may seem that the moral fiber of America is being tested. During these times of changing attitudes, I believe that we can encourage the traditional values that have made our country strong. Those values that are best learned and practiced within the family unit based on the holy, loving union of a man and a woman.

The union of these two individuals from the Chicagoland region, Bethany Anne Korczynski, daughter of Edwin J., pilot and Chief Airport Operations Supervisor and Diane M., teacher of special education, and of Dominic A. Zuccherro, son of Theodore J. and Andrea L. of the Chicagoland area, will be on October 9, 2004. The wedding will take place at the landmark Catholic Church of Notre Dame De Chicago established in 1864 by the first settlers who were of French descent. The church is located at 1334 West Flourndy Street in Chicago.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that both the Zuccherro's and Korczynski's share in the happiness of this union. The commitment of this couple is both impressive and deserving of special recognition and honor.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing this great couple many years of health and happiness.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE LAW FOR 527 POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw my colleagues' attention to a bill I have introduced to address concerns that have been expressed about political organizations referred to as "527's". This bill, H.R. 5013, would give the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Election Commission, and the American people a better understanding of 527 organizations by attempting to subject them to the same type of reporting requirements as PAC's and other political organizations.

This bill would make 527's, which is the section of the Internal Revenue Code under which they are registered, more transparent through the four main components of this bill.

First, any political organization that meets defined minimum financial requirements must disclose this information to the Department of the Treasury. Second, political organizations that raise, spend or intend to raise and spend over \$25,000 in an election year will have to