

It's time we congratulated those whose labor provides us with the information we need to manage our resources and safeguard society. I am delighted to have this opportunity to bring attention to the work of the United States Geological Survey and showcase its remarkable history. I urge you to support this resolution, thereby confirming our appreciation for their ongoing work that has served the health, safety, and prosperity of the United States for 125 years.

RESOLUTION

Whereas March 3, 2004 will mark the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States Geological Survey;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has become the Nation's premiere earth and biological science agency;

Whereas during its 125-year history, the United States Geological Survey has been the birthplace of a number of other Federal agencies, including the Reclamation Service (later renamed the Bureau of Reclamation) in 1902, the Forest Service in 1905, the United States Bureau of Mines in 1910, the Grazing Service (later renamed the Bureau of Land Management) in 1934, and the Minerals Management Service in 1982;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has been a widely respected source of relevant and objective science to address the Nation's diverse natural resource issues;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey continues to serve the Nation as an independent fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific information and understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems;

Whereas a hallmark value of the United States Geological Survey to the Nation is its ability to carry out studies on a national scale and to sustain long-term monitoring and assessment of natural hazards and natural resource conditions;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey is an agency of the Federal Government with no regulatory or land management responsibilities and is thus a trusted entity to provide impartial science that serves the needs of the Nation; and

Whereas the United States Geological Survey has a scientific presence in every State and Territory of the United States and serves the Nation's extensive and diverse needs for objective scientific knowledge and understanding: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the United States Geological Survey on its 125th anniversary; and

(2) expresses strong support for the United States Geological Survey as it serves the Nation by providing timely, relevant, and objective scientific information which helps to describe and understand the Earth, minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources, and enhance and protect the quality of life of all Americans.

In addition to Congressman JAMES P. MORAN, the following members are original sponsors of the House Resolution Congratulating the United States Geological Survey on its 125th Anniversary: BARBARA CUBIN, TOM DAVIS, NORM DICKS, ANNA G. ESHOO, RON KIND, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, ZOE LOFGREN, RALPH REGULA, NICK SMITH, BILL YOUNG, and SHERWOOD BOEHLERT.

WARM SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to recognize Warm Springs Elementary School, the first permanent school in San Bernardino, California, which is celebrating its 150th year of providing education to the children of ranchers, railroad workers, Air Force personnel and immigrants.

In 1854, ranchers near the small Mormon town of San Bernardino decided seven miles was too far for their children to walk to school. They got together and built an adobe east of downtown, and named it after the nearby Warm Creek. As a one-room school, it provided an education for about 25 children of all ages. This was just four years after California gained statehood, and the same year as the City of San Bernardino was incorporated as the county seat.

Over the next 10 years, the school grew slowly as many of the Mormon settlers returned to Utah. Gold was discovered in the San Bernardino Mountains—bringing thousands of fortune-seekers but few families. The school building was nearly destroyed by an earthquake and a flood, so the adobe was replaced with a log cabin on the same site facing Sterling Avenue. The students were grouped by reading ability rather than age, and boys and girls sat on opposite sides of the room.

The log-cabin school was destroyed by fire in 1974, and a clapboard building replaced it—with an auditorium added in 1887. That school also later burned to the ground and was replaced.

By the 1890s, the railroads had come to San Bernardino and the area was booming. The Santa Fe Railway built a huge repair yard near downtown, and the population grew rapidly. In 1898, Warm Creek School grew to four rooms and had as many as 100 students. That school was torn down in 1926 and replaced with a Spanish-style tile-roofed building that remains the school's core.

Students at Warm Springs School became close witnesses to America's war efforts in the 1940s. The San Bernardino Municipal Airport, just seven blocks south, became the San Bernardino Army Airfield, repairing and servicing hundreds of transport planes moving troops around the country. The airfield became Norton Air Force Base in 1950, and for the next 38 years was one of the most active Air Force fields in the West. Children of the base's civilian repair workers swelled the ranks of students at the school, which added nine classrooms in 1945 and two more in 1947.

By 1954, the city of San Bernardino had grown far beyond the former outpost school, and it was absorbed into the city's unified school district, becoming Warm Springs Elementary School. It continued to grow to 32 classrooms, and today 45 teachers serve 1,000 students in year-round classes, making it one of the largest elementary schools in the district. The student population today is nearly 60 percent Latino, many of them the children of recent immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, Warm Springs Elementary has provided a free education—the foundation of our American success—to thousands of children over the past 150 years. I would be proud to be associated with this school for that fact alone, but I have a special reason to be fond of Warm Springs. It is the alma mater of the Walker girls of San Bernardino—Mary, Darlene, and her twin sister Arlene, who happens to be my bride. Arlene and I will be returning to her old school on March 9 to celebrate the sesquicentennial, and encourage the current students to take advantage of the opportunities their education can provide.

I have always believed, Mr. Speaker, that our education system is a success because of local schools run by wonderful teachers, supported by great principals. Warm Springs Elementary continues the tradition of excellence under Principal Arlan Anderson that it has carried on for the past 150 years. Please join me in congratulating those educators on their continued dedication, and wish their current students well for the future.

HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Dean Stone, long-time editor of The Daily Times newspaper in Maryville, TN, has written a really outstanding editorial about prescription drug prices.

Mr. Stone frequently writes very thoughtful and informative editorials about issues of national importance.

He points out in this editorial that we have drug prices that are far too high because the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, seems to be controlled by the giant pharmaceutical companies.

I have consistently supported in committee meetings and in votes on the floor of the House the right of the people to purchase drugs from Canada. Mr. Stone points out that FDA concerns about safety are not supported by any evidence.

I would like to call this fine editorial to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

WITH MORE THAN 600 LOBBYISTS, THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE ON DRUG PRICES

Know why we Americans will not get reasonable prescription drug prices?

The pharmaceutical industry has more than 600 lobbyists in Washington, more than the total number of representatives and senators.

They have spent \$435 million to influence Washington from 1996 to 2003 and handed out \$57.9 million in contributions between 1991 and 2002 to buy their way through Congress.

They are well paid (we pay for them with exorbitant drug prices) and they do their job, cutting to pieces any legislation that might tend to lower the price of prescription drugs.

The Feb. 2 issue of Time magazine contains an excellent article about how Americans are being ripped off with high prices from the manufacturers of drugs.

And most of our drugs are manufactured overseas by American companies who moved there because of the tax breaks. And it is illegal for Americans to import these drugs.

While the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) inspects these overseas plants when built to certify their products, there is little supervision later.

Ireland is a favorite location and Singapore is getting new plants. This overseas production of drugs was \$40.7 billion in 2002, a five-fold increase from 1995. The impact has given us a negative balance of trade in that field.

Pfizer Inc. and Eli Lilly & Co. enjoy huge profit margins compared with other U.S. firms. Pfizer's was 28.4 percent profit in 2002 while Eli Lilly was at 24.4 percent.

Pfizer reported \$9.1 billion in profits on \$32.4 billion, a return of 28 percent and a rate more than twice that of General Electric, nine times that of Wal-Mart and 31 times that of General Motors.

Our U.S. sales of prescription drugs is the highest in the world at \$654 per person with an average life expectancy of 77 years. Japan is second at \$421 with a life expectancy of 81 years.

Americans pay on an average 40 percent more for their prescription drugs than do Canadians. And it has been ruled illegal for us to import them from Canada. Drug companies have threatened to cut off supplies to Canadian drug stores that sell to Americans.

Despite all this, the cities of Montgomery, Ala., and Springfield, Mass., have negotiated with Canadian sources. Montgomery alone is saving \$34,000 a month with its contract.

Members of Congress, the FDA and all the rest who are in bed with the pharmaceutical industry who use the excuse of safety regarding Canadian drugs are just blowing hot air. So far there have been no reported incidents of any problem. In the U.S., 50,000 to 100,000 people die annually as a result of adverse reactions from FDA-approved drugs.

Drug companies like to talk about the cost of developing new drugs. A report of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress in 2000 dispels some of that. It found that the federal government, mainly through the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and other public agencies funds about 36 percent of all U.S. medical research. Of the 21 most important drugs introduced between 1965 and 2002, a total of 15 was developed using knowledge and techniques from federally funded research.

Best current figure we could locate indicates \$2.5 billion was spent by the drug industry on advertising in 2001.

There is absolutely no real effort by the President or Congress to take an honest look at the high cost of prescription drugs. We believe in the capitalistic system but not in those extreme profiteers whose huge profit is at the cost of our health. Canada does a good job of regulating prices and would be a good example to follow.

Regulations always take away a little freedom from some segment of the economy but the government has seen fit to regulate the broadcast industry, the airline industry, interstate commerce and through taxes numerous other aspects of the economy. It is time to do something about runaway prescription drug prices.

There is a Republican president, a Republican Congress and this problem lies largely on their shoulders, election or not!

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL
ZOBERMAN

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share the following article written by a constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman.

The recent bus #19 suicide bombing in the heart of Jerusalem with its heavy toll found me in Israel's capital during a solidarity mission of my Reform Jewish movement.

I passed by that doomed site, near another past one, only hours before the latest of incredible serial terrorist attacks in the three and a half years of the bloody Second Intifada. Once again violating Jerusalem where Biblical Abraham proclaimed the sanctity of human life in the midst of a paganism now being resurrected by its contemporary messengers of death who should not be allowed by the civilized world to reverse Abraham's victory. Let what just ghastly happened, newly available on Israel's Foreign Ministry website for a reality check not become an added statistic!

Upon arriving in my parents' home in Haifa on that hellish day, I found them anxious, even panicky, already having called hospitals in Jerusalem looking for me . . . I thus experienced a bit the anguish encountered by Israelis, without parallel, with Holocaust survivors like my parents whose constant exposure to trauma may reawaken repressed carnage images.

The timing of the deadly Palestinian violence with both Arafat's forces and Hamas competing to claim responsibility, purposefully coincided with exchanging only four Israelis, three of them in coffins, and promised information on the fate of Israeli navigator Ron Arad, captured 17 years ago, in return for hundreds of Hizballah terrorists. Of the three killed Israeli soldiers, Benny Avraham, Adi Avitan and Omar Suad, whose fate was cynically manipulated by the Hizballah to inflict pain upon their families, the first one was connected to Tidewater Jewry through a joint communal program.

Israel has proved again, with Prime Minister Sharon's guiding input, that for humanitarian values' sake, sorely lacking by its enemy, it is willing to pay a high price though it might be interpreted as a weakness. Is it any wonder that without a credible peace partner and unwilling to respond in kind, Israel is forced to erect a costly security separation fence to save innocent lives? The fence, which our group observed for miles, is not necessarily permanent and can be adjusted. Some resulted Palestinian hardship has to be weighed against penetrating terror. It is the least Israel can do in face of relentless terrorism, experienced by the United States' heroic troops in Iraq as well, while questionably restraining itself to the very limits from using its superior military power. A state's obligation for self-defense is no less incumbent upon Israel whose national morale and very way of life are threatened. In spite of Sharon's uncharacteristic dovishness, at the moving state welcoming ceremony for the fallen soldiers he referred to unspecified options in Israel's arsenal. His announced intent, tantamount to an earthquake, to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip reflects Sharon's commitment to peace even in the face of painful sacrifices, opposition within his own political camp, expected resistance, and increased threats on his life. Will the Palestinian Authority finally respond by halting terror in compliance of President Bush's Roadmap?

General Shlomo Gazit, former director of Military Intelligence and fellow at the Jaffe Strategic Center at Tel Aviv University, who addressed us, justified the fence as a security need, refusing to call it a wall. He urges economic and demographic separation from the West Bank to safeguard Israel as a Jewish and democratic entity. Both the reserve General and former Minister Michael Melchior who serves in Israel's parliament as chair of Diaspora Affairs, view the American war in Iraq to have a transforming impact on the

unstable Middle East, sending a clear moderating message to the Arabs. Gazit was optimistic that the ultimate resolution of Israeli-Palestinian conflict has begun. He and Melchior stressed building bridges to Israel's own Arab minority, attending to its special needs with the hope to draw the two essential partners closer. Otherwise Israel's security is at risk.

I watched Jewish kids purchase with their moms costumes for the joyous Purim holiday and Arab families celebrating the Eid. For the sake of their inevitable shared future and that of their own children, may these parents find a way to each other's hearts. Perhaps, Israeli Arabs will yet be a bridge of shalom to the larger Arab world.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, was born in Kazakhstan and grew up in Haifa, Israel.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDING RECONSIDERATION OF FUTURE SERVICING MISSIONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the Hubble Space Telescope and recommending reconsideration of future servicing mission to Hubble. I am very pleased that a number of my colleagues are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill—including Representatives BARTLETT, HOYER, McDERMOTT, AKIN, GORDON, LAMPSON, and RUPPERSBERGER.

I wish this resolution weren't necessary. I am introducing it in response to NASA's decision made in mid-January to cancel all future space shuttle missions to the Hubble Space Telescope, including SM-4, the next flight that would have installed the new Cosmic Origins Spectrograph and the Wide Field Camera 3 instruments—both largely completed at a cost of about \$200 million. Installation of these instruments would have provided over a factor of ten improvement in Hubble's imaging and spectroscopy, and in addition to replacement gyros and batteries, would make Hubble's final years its most scientifically capable and productive. If SM-4 goes forward, Hubble will continue to operate until 2012. Without the mission, Hubble will likely die in orbit sometime in 2007.

My goal in introducing this resolution is simple—I want to call attention to the Hubble Space Telescope's contributions to scientific research and education and ensure that any decision affecting its future is made carefully and seriously and for the right reasons. Precisely because of Hubble's extraordinary contributions in the past and promised contributions in the future, I also believe that the decision to cancel the planned servicing mission to Hubble should be considered by an independent panel of experts.

Finally, I want to try to ensure that the planning for the servicing mission continues at least until the panel comes up with its recommendations and until NASA provides a timetable of compliance with recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board