

her life of service at her alma mater. In January 2006, she will become the executive director of the Leadership Institute at Texas Woman's University at Denton.

As General Saunders transitions from her role as a military leader to a community leader, we wish her great health and happiness. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation for her many years of service. I am confident in the years ahead, Mary Saunders will continue to leave her indelible mark on our country.

THE MILITARY VICTIMS OF
VIOLENCE CONFIDENTIALITY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure greater protections for women in the military who are victims of violence by keeping their medical and counseling records confidential and allowing them to obtain valuable treatment services without further victimization.

The military should be at the forefront of prosecuting assailants and setting the highest standards for treatment of service women victimized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Yet, our Armed Forces have failed to enforce the most basic protections to ensure these victims can receive necessary counseling and treatment. Counseling and treatment is essential to begin the healing process, and service members should be able to seek access to these services without fear of exposure or public humiliation.

Recently, the issue of protecting confidential communications was brought to light in the case of *U.S. v Harding*. Ms. Jessica Brakey was allegedly sexually assaulted in 2000 while serving as a cadet at the Air Force Academy. Following the assault, Ms. Brakey sought counseling by victim advocate, Ms. Jennifer Bier—a civilian who was contracted by the military. Under Colorado's rape shield law, the disclosure of a victim's counseling records is prohibited. However, the military court issued an extremely broad subpoena for Ms. Brakey's treatment records with Ms. Bier, as well as her complete 10-year medical history. When Ms. Bier refused to turn over these records to the military court, the judge suspended the case against the alleged assailant.

Unfortunately, this precedent setting case sent a clear message to the thousands of women in the military who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence each year that the Armed Forces will not protect you. It is critical that we take appropriate action to ensure that victims of these crimes are able to seek treatment and counseling without repercussion.

Although this bill is supported by many organizations that work to prevent and respond to sexual assault and domestic violence, the need for this legislation is also recognized within the military. The Department of Defense's, DoD, own Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies issued a report in June 2005 which recommended that "Congress should

create a statutory privilege protecting communications made by victims of sexual assault to health care providers and victim advocates. This privilege should extend to both medical health care providers and to those victim advocates designated and trained to perform that duty in a manner prescribed by DoD regulation."

This is exactly what my bill will do. The Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act will establish comprehensive confidentiality protocols to protect the rights of victims within military law. Under my bill, communications made to secure advice, counseling, treatment or assistance concerning a victim's mental, physical, or emotional state will remain confidential. Moreover, a victim will be able to refuse to disclose and prevent any other person from disclosing a confidential communication.

If a victim's doctor and advocate cannot protect the confidentiality of treatment sessions, sexual assault and domestic violence victims will be unlikely to seek essential care for fear of stigma, public embarrassment, or threats to their career. Consequently, the military will continue to lose valuable women soldiers. These women put themselves in harm's way to protect us and our Nation from threats at home and abroad. The military should work as hard to ensure they are protected when dealing with a horrible tragedy.

Do not allow our brave service members to be victimized twice, once by their perpetrator and then again by the lack of appropriate, compassionate, and confidential care. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in cosponsoring the Military Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the great figures in Jewish and world history, the late Simon Wiesenthal. Mr. Wiesenthal, a Holocaust survivor who crusaded to ensure that those responsible for the Holocaust were brought to justice, passed away earlier today in his home in Vienna, Austria. Simon Wiesenthal followed his creed of "justice, not vengeance" and oversaw the arrest, capture and conviction of many Nazi war criminals.

Simon Wiesenthal was imprisoned at five German Concentration camps during the Nazi Holocaust, narrowly escaping execution on numerous occasions. After he was liberated, Mr. Wiesenthal went to work for the United States Army and began gathering information to be used in the Nazi war crimes trials. After the Nuremberg trials, while the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union were no longer interested in pursuing Nazi war criminals, Wiesenthal continued the charge to arrest and convict those responsible for the genocide of more than eleven million innocent people, including six million Jews and 89 of Wiesenthal's personal relatives.

Wiesenthal's most celebrated capture was that of Adolf Eichmann, one of Hitler's main engineers of his final solution. While Eichmann's wife claimed that he was dead,

Wiesenthal was able to prove that the evidence for his death was insufficient. Wiesenthal then assisted Israeli efforts to track down Eichmann. Eventually, the war criminal was caught and executed thanks in large part to Wiesenthal's efforts.

After the extremely high profile capture of Eichmann, Wiesenthal was able to gather enough support to continue in his efforts. He continued his mission and was able to secure the arrests and convictions of other important Nazis. His work led to the capture of Karl Silberbauer, a member of the German Gestapo who arrested Anne Frank. Silberbauer's confessions disproved the claims that The Diary of Anne Frank was a forgery. Wiesenthal was also instrumental in the capture and conviction of Franz Stangl who was in charge of running the Treblinka and Sobibor concentration camps. Wiesenthal also is credited with locating Hermine Braunsteiner-Ryan, a housewife living in New York who had supervised the murder of hundreds of children during the war.

Simon Wiesenthal believed that it was his mission to ensure that the victims of the Holocaust were not forgotten and that the type of atrocities that occurred during the Second World War do not happen to anyone anywhere ever again. Personally, I was honored to have made his acquaintance and was humbled by his presence.

Thanks to Simon Wiesenthal's lifelong dedication to the cause and organizations such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, neither he nor the victims of the Nazi atrocities will ever be forgotten. It is now our responsibility to continue the vision of Simon Wiesenthal. We can not allow the horror of what occurred at Auschwitz and Treblinka and the other concentration camps to be erased from our memory; we can not allow racism and hatred to fester to the point where genocide becomes an option; and we can not allow those who commit acts of genocide to walk away without having to answer for the horrific crimes they have committed. The world has lost a champion for compassion and humanity in the death of Simon Wiesenthal. May his memory always be a blessing unto all of us.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened today to learn of the death of Simon Wiesenthal, one of the world's great humanitarians. Over the past 50 years he tirelessly fought to preserve the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and dared the world to learn from their mistakes.

Wiesenthal, along with his wife Cyla, survived the Holocaust determined to bring those responsible to justice, for this, the most monstrous event in the history of the modern world. Though he weighed only 100 lbs when he was liberated from the notorious Mauthausen concentration camp, Wiesenthal soon began the enormous task of compiling evidence against Nazi war criminals.

Even before the war ended, Wiesenthal was working with the U.S. Army to gather evidence

to be used in future war crimes trials. Wiesenthal also came to the aid of refugees who survived the war by serving as the head of the Jewish Central Committee of the United States Zone in Austria. This marked the beginning of a long career dedicated to pursuing those who helped perpetrate the Holocaust.

While the world tried to forget the tragedy that had unfolded through much of Europe, Wiesenthal was determined to keep alive the memory of its victims. He soon abandoned his previous life as an architect when the Allies lost interest in prosecuting war criminals. Wiesenthal himself led the campaign for justice from his own apartment in Vienna, tracking down Nazis around the globe attempting to escape prosecution. Over 1,100 war criminals were brought to justice with Wiesenthal's help, including the architect of the "Final Solution," Adolf Eichmann.

Wiesenthal's tireless hunt for Nazi war criminals stemmed from his belief that the world must never forget the scope of human suffering endured during the Holocaust, lest such a conflagration take place again in the future. He declared:

The history of man is the history of crimes, and history can repeat. So information is a defense. Through this we can build, we must build a defense against repetition.

And so he managed to transform the most tragic event into a learning experience for all of humanity. The Simon Wiesenthal Center based in Los Angeles was established to—through interactive workshops, exhibits, and videos—explore issues of prejudice, diversity, tolerance, and cooperation in the workplace and in the community. His idea was that teaching respect for people of different race, religion, color would be a way of preventing history from repeating itself.

Though Wiesenthal is no longer with us, his legacy will be felt for generations to come. In addition to fighting racism, anti-Semitism, and genocide, the center that bears his name continues to investigate hundreds of surviving war criminals who have escaped justice. And of course, he reminded us to never forget.

NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG
ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, as September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, I would like to share the story of a resident of the Fourth Congressional District, Walter Ginter, who is recovering from a drug addiction.

I recently met with Mr. Ginter and heard of his struggle to overcome his addiction. In addition to wanting to call attention to the plight of recovering addicts, he was particularly concerned that as we consider the plight of many victims of Hurricane Katrina, we ensure that we pay particular attention to those recovering from dependency. Since many are in treatment programs, interruption from these programs can result in setbacks. This is one of the many, many things that we need to consider as we go forward in rebuilding the lives of those affected in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Our country has improved greatly, but we still have work to do in providing access to treatment and eliminating the stigma surrounding chemical dependency. I hope this month of awareness will help us accomplish this worthy goal.

The following is Mr. Ginter's story:

My name is Walter Ginter. I am 56 years old. I own a house in Westport CT. I participate in civic activities, have a subscription to the Westport Country Playhouse, and I am a registered Republican. Most days, along with hundreds of other Westport residents, I commute on Metro North Railroad to NYC. I am indistinguishable from the other commuters and completely typical in every way but one. Each day I take medication for a chronic medical condition. Taking a maintenance medication is hardly atypical, I am sure that other commuters take maintenance medications. The difference is that I take a medication to treat my opiate dependence.

I first became opiate dependent in 1971, when I was in the army. I spent much of the next 20 years in and out of various treatment programs in my effort to stop using heroin. For me, the only treatment that was effective was methadone maintenance. While on methadone I got my life together and attained the goal promised by the SAMSHA matrix, "a life in the community for everyone."

However, every few years, no matter how well my life was going I felt pressured to leave methadone treatment. Sometimes the pressure came from well meaning friends but mostly from myself. I felt inadequate, weak; even cowardly. . . . I tried again and again . . . but each time I left methadone treatment I relapsed.

Eventually, through advocacy, I learned that opiate addiction wasn't a moral issue or a matter of strength or weakness but primarily a brain disorder. The reason I did well on methadone was because it restored my normal brain function.

Today, I am Director of Training for the National Alliance of Methadone Advocates. Through training and education we are trying to end the stigma experienced by patients on medication. Some methadone advocates like to say, "Methadone is Recovery." They are wrong! Methadone is not Recovery. Recovery has nothing to do with taking medication or not taking medication. Recovery is living a sober, happy, productive lifestyle. However, thousands of methadone patients are living that life and haven't been taught anything about recovery.

That is what recovery advocacy is for me. Teaching and training so that my brothers and sisters who take medications can start enjoying life as recovering persons.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 15, 2005, I was unable to vote on agreeing to H. Res. 437, to Establish the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina (rollcall vote 475). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DESTROY OUR NATION'S STOCKPILE OF DEADLY CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY APRIL 2007

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our responsibility to destroy our Nation's stockpile of deadly chemical weapons by April 2007, while also being forthright about the costs and time required to comply with this obligation. This is a commitment that we made to both the American people and the world when the Senate ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1997. As outlined by statute, Congress retains a continuing oversight role in the CWC's implementation.

So far, we've destroyed 37 percent of our total stockpile of chemical weapons. Without a doubt, the destruction of these chemical weapons is a complicated and costly process. No one is under the illusion that we will meet the 2007 deadline for complete destruction. Unfortunately, civilian officials in the Department of Defense have managed, and continue to manage, much of this program in a way that has guaranteed that we will not meet our treaty obligations by the deadline. In fact, we will be hard pressed to meet the five-year extension that we will be forced to apply for in April of 2006. More importantly, the Department of Defense continues to mislead Congress and the public about the true financial cost of, and time requirements for, complete destruction of the remaining two-thirds of our chemical weapons.

I have become intimately involved with this issue because the Army has proposed to send four million gallons of VX hydrolysate from Newport, Indiana to a DuPont facility in New Jersey where it would be treated and then dumped into the Delaware River. I've joined with many of my colleagues from New Jersey and Delaware to shine a brighter light on this illogical proposal. I believe that our involvement has provided people who live near the Delaware River and people in Newport with much more information about this proposal than they would have received otherwise. But we have a long way to go.

At our urging, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are taking a much closer look at this proposal. In April of this year they issued a report that could not recommend proceeding with the treatment and disposal at the DuPont facility until EPA's noted deficiencies are addressed. EPA's ecologic analysis indicated that there are too many unknowns to determine whether the ecologic risk from the discharge of treated VX hydrolysate to the Delaware River is acceptable.

As decisions are being made about how to deal with hydrolysate at other chemical weapon sites, specifically the Blue Grass Depot in Kentucky and the Pueblo Depot in Colorado, I find it insightful to juxtapose findings by the Department of Defense related to those sites with proposals made regarding the hydrolysate at Newport. The Department of Defense agency responsible for destroying the weapons at Blue Grass has determined that shipping hydrolysate off-site isn't worth the trouble. While