

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LESBIAN/GAY SERVICE CENTER OF GREATER CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Lesbian/Gay Service Center of Greater Cleveland, as they celebrate thirty years of support, outreach, education and advocacy on behalf of lesbian and gay individuals within our community.

In 1975, founding members Ethan Ericson, Michael Madigan and Arthur MacDonald embraced a collective vision of human rights for everyone; a vision they transformed into a haven of support and services, named the Gay Education and Awareness Resource Foundation (GEAR). GEAR began the work of community outreach programs, legal advocacy efforts and support programs focused on issues affecting lesbian and gay youth. The Center continues to build bridges with educational and social service organizations throughout the Cuyahoga County, with a strong focus on the youth of our community.

The project, Safe Schools Are For Everyone, exists to provide safe social opportunities, support and leadership training for students, teachers and school administrators. Over the past thirty years, the Center's name has changed and the scope of services has expanded, yet the core mission has remained the same: To craft a kinship of all citizens, gay and straight, who stand united on a solid foundation of tolerance, acceptance and protection of the rights and freedoms of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of all leaders and members, past and present, of the Lesbian/Gay Service Center of Cleveland. Their collective effort, work, volunteerism and compassion serves to bolster the spirit of those still struggling against a tide of oppression. The Center's vital work offers the promise that one day, the shroud of societal ignorance and intolerance will dissolve into the light of freedom and justice for all.

HONORING JETTE HALLADAY AS TENNESSEE'S PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jette Halladay, who has been named Tennessee's Professor of the Year. I am proud to say that Dr. Halladay teaches at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Dr. Halladay received this honor at the U.S. Professors of the Year awards, the only national awards that recognize outstanding professors of undergraduates at our Nation's colleges and universities.

With her emphasis on educational drama, Dr. Halladay instructs not only future drama

teachers, but also pre-service elementary school teachers. Her students learn how to enhance their lessons with role-playing and other creative activities. Upon graduation they are able to develop engaging lessons that are memorable and educational, such as recreating a journey on the Oregon Trail rather than just reading a textbook summary of Manifest Destiny.

Since 1994, Dr. Halladay has infused her theatre classes with unmatched enthusiasm and energy. I hope MTSU and its students are fortunate enough to benefit from her talents and unique teaching style for many more years.

I commend Dr. Halladay for this tremendous achievement, and I wish her all the best.

HONORING THE CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA UPON RECEIVING THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE FRIENDS OF ARCHITECTURE AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of North Tonawanda which is being recognized by the American Institute of Architecture with the Friends of Architecture Award.

Located midway between the Cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda is the 15th largest city in New York with a population of over 33,000 residents.

Formerly a manufacturing hub, under the leadership of Mayor David Burgio, City Engineer Dale Marshall and Public Works Superintendent Gary Franklin, North Tonawanda is being transformed into a waterfront destination.

The potential for waterfront development in Erie County is great and the City of North Tonawanda has set an example for the rest of the region.

Gateway Park is a premiere attraction for residents and tourists alike. Thanks to new design and infrastructure improvements Gateway Park has come alive year-round with events such as Canal Fest, October Fest, Winter Walk, boat shows, and concerts.

In addition, investments in North Tonawanda redevelopment have served as a catalyst for economic growth resulting in new businesses and jobs in the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize the City of North Tonawanda as a Friend of Architecture. Their proactive approach to design and development highlights the natural, historical and architectural resources right here in our backyard.

PRIVATIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter, along with my colleagues, in op-

position to the proposed privatization of Environmental Health Perspectives on November 10, 2005.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, November 10, 2005.

DR. ELIAS ZERHOUNI,
Director, National Institutes of Health,
Bethesda, Maryland.

DEAR DR. ZERHOUNI: We write to express our strong opposition to the proposed privatization of Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP). Doing so places at risk the integrity and quality of one of the world's best independent journals covering the area of science that deals with the environment and health. We urge you to reject EHP privatization.

EHP is one of the premier academic peer reviewed journals in the world. It ranks second among 132 environmental science journals, and fifth among ninety public environmental and occupational health journals. If it were considered among the general medical journals like the New England Journal of Medicine and JAMA, it would rank tenth. Early signs indicate that this year, all those rankings are likely to increase.

Its value and uniqueness stem, in large part, from its status as a publicly managed journal. For example, EHP's independence directly enhances the quality of the work it publishes. Their conflict of interest policy is among the strictest of peer-reviewed journals. Such a policy might be compromised if the journal was privately published.

In addition, its public funding source allows it to be an open access journal, which means anyone with Internet access can get any EHP article 24 hours after it is accepted for publication. That is essential because the vast majority of published research is available only through increasingly costly journal subscriptions, institutional license fees, or per-article purchases. This closed system leaves the American public—including physicians, public health professionals, patients and patient groups, students, teachers, librarians and scientists at academic institutions, hospitals, research laboratories, and corporate research centers—under-informed about important, timely research results they helped finance.

Because EHP is publicly funded, important public health functions are performed that the private sector would be unlikely to support. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), which runs EHP, provides free monthly copies to those in the developing world, where environmental health problems are, in many cases, the most severe. NIEHS also provides EHP classroom materials for universities and high schools. These non-revenue-generating programs have high public health value and would be at risk if EHP were privatized. The breadth of appeal and academic discipline that uniquely characterizes EHP would also be at risk of sustaining a narrowing of scope more in line with privately run journals.

Finally, NIEHS does a highly efficient job of running EHP. In the last year, the EHP budget was \$3.3 million, which is less than one half of one per cent of the NIEHS budget. In the last four years, they have reduced their budget by fifteen percent while they have become an open access journal, expanded their reach to other countries, expanded their educational programs, and dramatically increased the quality of the articles. Despite having this record that any private sector establishment would envy, NIEHS is considering still more cost cutting measures to further streamline. The impact of EHP on public health far surpasses its costs.

Privatizing EHP is unnecessary and unwise. It would yield minuscule cost savings

while exacting a large cost to public health. We urge you to reject privatizing EHP.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich, Hilda L. Solis, Bart Gordon, Mark Udall, Raúl M. Grijalva, Jim McDermott, Brad Miller, Bernard Sanders, Robert Wexler, Barbara Lee, James P. McGovern, James P. Moran, Martin O. Sabo.

CONGRATULATING ARCHBISHOP OSCAR H. LIPSCOMB ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION TO THE EPISCOPACY AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb on the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the episcopacy and to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Mobile.

Mobile native Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb holds a master's degree and a doctorate from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Archbishop Lipscomb was ordained a priest in Rome on July 15, 1956, and was consecrated as the first Archbishop of Mobile on November 16, 1980.

Archbishop Lipscomb has been a pillar of the Mobile Catholic community for almost half a century starting when he was assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish. He has also played an integral role in education, serving as a teacher at McGill Institute and later a lecturer at Spring Hill College.

A popular figure in our community, Archbishop Lipscomb has developed a strong reputation for his dedication to the Archdiocese of Mobile. The archbishop has received numerous honors throughout his life including receiving the rank of Papal Chaplain and the title of Reverend Monsignor by Pope Paul VI and being named "Mobilian of the Year for 1981." He has been an active member in the Catholic Historical Association, Historic Mobile Preservation Society, American Catholic Historical Association, Lions Club of Mobile, and the Mobile Metropolitan YMCA. Recently, under the archbishop's leadership, the archdiocese has made significant contributions to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the silver jubilee of Archbishop Lipscomb's ordination to the episcopacy and being the first archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile. I also extend my gratitude to Archbishop Lipscomb for 25 years of service to southwest Alabama. I know his sister, Margaret Joyce Lipscomb Bolton, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and recognizing this milestone in his life.

ON THE FUNDING OF GULF WAR VETERANS ILLNESSES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached letter, along with my colleagues, in support of Gulf War Veterans Illnesses Research funding in the Conference Report of the Defense Appropriations Bill on November 10, 2005.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, November 10, 2005.

The Hon. C.W. BILL YOUNG,
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, H-309 U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

The Hon. JOHN P. MURTHA,
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, 1016 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG AND RANKING MEMBER MURTHA: As the conferees begin to work on the fiscal year 2006 Appropriations bill for the Subcommittee on Defense, we respectfully seek your support for retaining the House funding level of \$10 million for Gulf War Veterans Illnesses research.

The Congressionally chartered Veterans' Administration Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses found in September 2004 that fourteen years after the 1990-1991 Gulf War, between 26 and 32 percent of those who served in that war continue to suffer from serious and persistent health problems—typically multiple symptoms that include severe headaches, memory problems, muscle and joint pain, severe gastrointestinal problems, respiratory problems, skin disorders and other problems. They also determined that the existence of these serious and often debilitating problems could not be scientifically explained by stress or psychiatric illness.

We are only now starting to see the long-term effects. For example, ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, occurs in Persian Gulf veterans with twice the frequency of peer veterans that were not deployed. Yet a federal research program to better understand these issues that was once \$45 million strong has been virtually eliminated. The FY 06 budget dedicates no funding to either the Department of Defense or the Department of Health and Human Services for Gulf War Illnesses research. The funding we are requesting is consistent with the VA Research Committee recommendations.

The amendment to the FY 06 House Defense appropriations bill that added the research funding was well supported. It passed by voice vote, had bipartisan support and was backed by the American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National Gulf War Resource Center, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Finally, research guidance was developed in consultation with top members of the VA Research Committee. We therefore request that the guidance, which is the same as that inserted into the congressional record during

bill debate, be included in the conference report. The guidance text is attached for your reference. We expect this research to supplement the other promising research performed at Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation within the Department of Defense.

Thank you for consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich, Bernard Sanders, Frank Pallone, Jr., Jim McDermott, Lane Evans, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Shays, Rob Simmons, Rush D. Holt, Barbara Lee, Albert R. Wynn, Carolyn B. Maloney, Lloyd Doggett, Joseph Crowley, Raúl Grijalva, John Conyers, Jr., Jay Inslee, Dennis Moore, Collin C. Peterson, Betty McCollum, Ed Case, Members of Congress.

GULF WAR VETERANS' ILLNESSES RESEARCH GUIDANCE FOR THE FY06 DEFENSE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

It is intended that the appropriation for research on chronic illnesses affecting veterans of the 1991 Gulf War be used for a coherent research program focusing on (1) identification of mechanisms underlying Gulf War illnesses, (2) chronic effects of neurotoxic substances to which veterans were exposed during deployment; (3) studies that expand on earlier research identifying neurological and immunological abnormalities in ill Gulf War veterans; and (4) identification of promising treatments. The primary objective of the research program will be to elucidate pathophysiological mechanisms underlying Gulf War illnesses, which may subsequently be targeted to developing treatments for these conditions. A further objective will be to identify and evaluate treatments which currently exist and which hold promise for treating these illnesses.

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command shall, in consultation with experienced research scientists in relevant fields, establish a list of research questions to address the above topics, and design a program of specific research studies that together constitute a coherent plan to answer these questions, each identified study to be conducted by the most qualified researcher, which may include consulted scientists. As part of this process, there shall be a public solicitation of research proposals (which may include concept exploration and pilot projects) on these questions and at least twenty-five percent of the program (measured by amount funded) shall be made up of proposals selected from this solicitation, as modified if necessary to increase the value of the proposed research to the overall program. At least twenty percent of the program (measured by amount funded) shall address the objective of identifying and evaluating promising existing treatments, such as observation and pilot studies. The program shall be submitted for determination of scientific merit through independent peer review.