

women without symptoms, gynecologic cancers have clear risk factors and early warning signs. A recent study found that almost 90 percent of women with early stage ovarian cancer had symptoms before being diagnosed. That's why public education is key—if women and their doctors know the risk factors and early signs, a specialist can use diagnostic tools to rule out cancer or detect it in the early stages.

I first became aware of the tremendous opportunity for the federal government to save lives when I heard the story of one of my constituents. Johanna Silver Gordon was a health-conscious public school teacher who died of ovarian cancer after being diagnosed in a later stage—leaving friends, family, and students heartbroken that they and she had not known the early warning signs. Unfortunately, her story is all too common. I first heard Johanna's story from her sister, Sheryl, and I introduced legislation to create Johanna's Law, a national public education campaign to eradicate gynecologic cancer death. Thanks to Sheryl's work and that of thousands of other tireless cancer survivors, family members, and physicians, Johanna's Law has the support of a majority of the House of Representatives and provided the inspiration for the language in this bill.

The language in this bill directs the Secretary of HHS and the Office of Women's Health to coordinate their education and outreach efforts on gynecologic cancers into a national public education campaign, focused on early detection. The bill provides \$100,000 in dedicated resources, in addition to the resources HHS already has for cancer education. It is a small but important first step toward ensuring that what happened to Johanna does not happen to other women. I commend the conferees for its inclusion, and hope we can work in a bipartisan fashion to build upon this effort.

I also want to commend my colleagues, DARRELL ISSA, ROSA DELAURO, and KAY GRANGER, who have worked tirelessly with me to promote Johanna's Law and raise awareness of gynecologic cancers. I hope we can continue to work together to build on this start.

URGING OBSERVANCE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to urge President Bush to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish history month. I further urge all Americans to share in this commemoration to have a greater appreciation for the role the Jewish American community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.

In 1654, Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived on North American shores and formally established North America's first Jewish community in New Amsterdam, now New York City. America welcomed Jews among the millions of immigrants that streamed through our Nation's gates. The waves of Jewish immigrants arriving in America helped shape our great Nation.

Jewish immigration to America throughout the last 350 years brought with it legions of notable researchers, lawyers, statesmen, inventors, entertainers, artists, scientists, authors, musicians, doctors, ethicists, entrepreneurs and spiritual leaders—men and women who substantially transformed this nation and its urban communities.

In this month of observance of American Jewish history, I think it is also important that we also focus on our country's relationship with Israel. Israel has been one of our strongest and most committed allies since its conception in 1948. For 50 years, the United States and Israel have worked closely to pursue peace in the Middle East. I strongly believe that the dream of peace and stability in the Middle East can become a reality within our lifetime.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution and urge President Bush to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish history month. A proclamation by the President will honor the contributions of American Jews throughout our nation's history, but also reiterate the continued importance of our taking an active role in the peace process in the Middle East. We have both an obligation and a vested interest in supporting Israel in its road to secure itself in peaceful, stable, and democratic region. I will leave you with a quote from one of the most famous Jewish American immigrants, Albert Einstein. He said "He who cherishes the values of culture cannot fail to be a pacifist." Let's urge the President to reaffirm the value of the Jewish American Culture to the United States, and in doing so take one small step towards peace in the region.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE KAITSA

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Kaitsa for his dedication to public service as he prepares to return to private life.

Mr. Kaitsa has a record of dedicated public service as a Member of Council and leader for Powell, Ohio. I am certain that his foresight and commitment to building a brighter future for the citizens of Powell will continue to inspire others. Providing Powell with the best representation and leadership possible has always been George's goal, and his service in office and commitment to his constituents over the years ensures his legacy will continue to be felt far into the future.

Thank you, George, for your service. Please allow me to join your friends and family in wishing you good health and prosperity.

WOOD CHIP CO-GENERATION SYSTEM TO HEAT AND POWER VERMONT HOSPITAL

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with you some information regarding a

bold new system that will help a small hospital in my state save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in energy costs, while dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental pollutants.

North Country Hospital in Newport, Vermont, has instituted an ingenious heating and electricity co-generation system that utilizes biomass wood chips instead of traditional heating oil as its fuel source. It is believed to be the first use of such technology in any hospital in the country. At today's energy prices, this new biomass gasification system could save the hospital as much as \$328,000 annually in energy costs.

In addition to providing heat for the hospital complex, the process heats water from the chips into steam, which not only provides a supplemental source of electricity, but will produce the hospital's hot water and also help operate other critical equipment within the hospital, such as sterilization equipment, dishwashers and clothes dryers.

Energy cost savings realized by this environmentally sound energy choice will save the hospital, and hence its patients, substantial money that can be better directed toward critical healthcare services. This system provides an innovative example to hospitals and other public buildings in Vermont, across the country, and throughout the world.

Already, business people, government officials and hospital administrators from other regions are touring the new facility with an eye toward implementing such a system themselves. A company in Spain is designing a system based on North Country's model, with the exception that it will actually burn tomato vines instead of wood chips as its energy source. Surely, a system so versatile has tremendous potential to be effectively used far and wide.

Wood chips are a renewable source of energy, which recycles carbon that already exists in the natural carbon cycle; meaning no new carbon dioxide is added to the atmosphere from this biomass energy source. Wood chips are supplied from within Vermont; hence money spent on wood chips stays in the local economy and supports jobs in the area's forest products industry. For buildings 50,000 sq. ft. and larger, fuel cost savings likely more than offset capital financing costs and additional maintenance staff time requirements; hence, in many cases, a system can pay for itself in 5 to 10 years.

I enthusiastically commend the Board of Trustees at North Country Hospital and their innovative staff, especially Larry Labor, Steve Wolff and Terry Robbins, for taking energy matters into their own hands and raising the bar for how local leadership can have national and international significance and positive impact. Each of them deserves high praise for their efforts. They have given us a sterling example of how American hospitals can save substantial money on energy costs, help improve environmental conditions related to heat

and energy production, and help support their local job markets in the process. I encourage other hospitals and institutions in Vermont and across the country to study the potential of this new system for their own facilities and to duplicate it where appropriate.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HENRY KIRKSEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of Kirksey, former Mississippi State Senator, veteran proponent of civil rights and retired Tougaloo College professor.

Henry Kirksey personified the face of bravery. He was the lead plaintiff in most of the redistricting cases brought in Mississippi to bring the state into compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Mississippi was a dangerous place to do so. This was instrumental in opening the door to the creation of fair redistricting plans throughout the State. In 1965, Kirksey filed suit against the State, challenging county-wide election of State Representatives and Senators. That suit resulted in the adoption of single-member legislative districts in 1979.

We blacks elected in the State of Mississippi today owe that election more so to Henry Kirksey than anyone else. As a result of Kirksey's sacrifice, Mississippi today appears to have more African American elected and appointed officials at every level of government than any other State in the Nation. Kirksey's service as a plaintiff, expert witness and community organizer has led to the election of almost 600 African-Americans to public office in Mississippi. As part of this process, Kirksey became the first African American elected to the Mississippi Senate since Reconstruction.

He became known for filing the lawsuit that led to Jackson changing its form of government in 1985 to the mayor-seven-member council system. He also was a member of the group that fought for reapportionment changes in the late 1970s that led to a record number of black candidates being elected to the Legislature. Kirksey was instrumental in challenging the districts from which state court judges ran, resulting in more diversity on the bench.

As a noted map-maker, Kirksey was significant to the formation of Mississippi's majority-black 2nd Congressional District, which I have the distinct pleasure of representing today.

I applaud the life and legacy of Henry Kirksey.

SUPPORT FOR MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. McCaul of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our military forces need and deserve ample resources and superior technological capabilities to remain strong, which requires ongoing de-

velopment efforts by both the public and private sector.

In fact, some of the military's most innovative technologies are being developed by small companies. Two examples are in the 10th District of Texas, with each of these Austin-based companies developing a technology with significant military value. To accelerate the availability of these new technologies for military applications, I have recommended that funding support be included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2006.

One of the technologies is a unique 3-D holographic imaging system developed by Zebra Imaging, which will soon be deployed by the Army in Iraq for intelligence and operational uses. The \$2.25 million requested for this technology would advance the current non-portable imaging system to a field deployable unit for combat forces, with this capability available within 24 months. Army intelligence and operational units have urged the acceleration of this development effort because of the strategic and tactical value to combat troops, which the requested funding seeks to achieve.

The second technology is in the field of micro-electronics and involves RF MEMS switches and relays under development by TeraVicra Technologies. These micro devices, which provide enormous advances in the size, capabilities and performance of military electronics, are key to achieving faster and more powerful network communications, radar and satellite systems. The \$2.25 million requested will accelerate TeraVicra's development work, specifically supporting a program to bring RF MEMS switches to a production-ready status and available for a variety of military applications.

These two technologies are recognized within the military as crucial developments, and I hope the Defense Appropriators provide the necessary funding to quickly bring them to operational use.

A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN PERMANENT, SELF-CLEANING AIR FILTERS FOR MILITARY VEHICLES

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. McCaul of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a new technology in permanent, self-cleaning air filters for military vehicles operating in high-dust environments, such as in the Middle East.

A company in my district, Signature Science LLC, and its partners are proposing to adapt, integrate and fully test a new self-cleaning air filter technology developed for military vehicles that will save the Department of Defense millions of dollars annually by eliminating the cost of disposable air filters in addition to reducing maintenance costs of vehicle engines. Diesel engines on military vehicles currently use disposable air filters that require frequent changes to protect engines from the damage caused by dusty environments. In Iraq for example, these filters must be replaced after as little as 16 hours of use on some vehicles operating there.

Signature Science's technology for a permanent, self-cleaning air filter will save American

tax dollars while avoiding logistical problems for the military such as operational burdens, decreased fuel efficiency and increased security risks.

For these reasons we need to advance this technology beyond the research phase in the very near term, and I believe that the Defense Appropriators would be serving the national interest by funding the development and testing of these air-filter prototypes for our military vehicles.

H.R. 4550, THE NATIONAL HEPATITIS B ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act. Mr. DENT from Pennsylvania and I have partnered in this bipartisan effort to address the needs of Americans afflicted with chronic Hepatitis B.

Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious public health concern here in the United States and worldwide. The Hepatitis B vaccine is the most effective way to prevent chronic Hepatitis B and its deadly implications of liver cancer and liver failure. Yet, vaccination rates remain low and Hepatitis B is one of the most commonly reported vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S.

Chronic Hepatitis B is often called a "silent disease" because more than two-thirds of those infected with Hepatitis B have no recognized symptoms. Without appropriate screening and management of the disease, one in four Hepatitis B carriers dies from liver cancer or liver disease. Early detection reduces the likelihood that the virus is unknowingly transmitted to others. Unfortunately, many of those who become infected with the disease do not recognize the symptoms until after they have developed significant liver damage or have already passed it on.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned because Hepatitis B is one of the greatest health disparities affecting the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans are chronically infected with the Hepatitis B virus.

We all have constituents affected by this disease. More importantly, we have the ability to stop the spread of this disease. Last May, I was pleased by the strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the resolutions supporting National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. We also had tremendous bipartisan interest in the Hepatitis B "Aim for the B" Congressional Briefing held on July 21, 2005.

We know that there is hope. We have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better shot at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that needs to be done. We need to increase public education about Hepatitis B, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, raise awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic Hepatitis B, and help increase the length and quality of life