

BURN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the activities of the American Burn Association (ABA) regarding its accomplishments and dedication to the care of burn victims. The ABA works tirelessly in its efforts involving the first line of defense: the prevention of burn injuries. February 6th to the 12th is Burn Awareness Week so it is a fitting time to acknowledge the work of an organization devoted to this challenging field of medicine. The American Burn Association has more than 3,500 members in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and the underpinning of burn research, hospitals with burn centers. The multidisciplinary membership enhances its ability to work toward common goals with other organizations on educational/prevention programs.

Each year, the ABA and other burn treatment entities work on a different burn prevention theme. The theme of Burn Awareness Week this year is the prevention of electrical burn injuries. The number of electrical injuries cared for in hospitals in the US is estimated at as many as 50,000; the cost of these injuries on the US economy is estimated at over one billion dollars per year. Many injuries and deaths can be prevented through an understanding of the dangers of power lines, electrical appliances, extension cords, and lightning. In the past, the ABA has sponsored Burn Awareness weeks focusing on Home Safety, Senior Burn Safety, Prevention of Gasoline Burns, and Scald Prevention, among others. Well over a million people are injured each year from burn related incidents and accidents.

In addition to its traditional responsibilities, in recent years the ABA has worked hard to improve emergency response systems and to incorporate burn care into disaster preparedness systems in the country in light of new threats to the United States. In addition, countless ABA physicians, nurses, and health care workers are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to treat America's injured soldiers.

The American Burn Association stimulates and supports burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention through a variety of educational programs, fellowships, research, teaching, and publications, including the leading peer-reviewed, scientific journal in the burn field, the *Journal of Burn Care & Rehabilitation*.

ABA membership is in virtually every state in the union and countless congressional districts. When the ABA holds its annual Legislative Leadership Conference in Washington April 5th through the 7th, I hope you will take the time to meet with your ABA constituents so that they may tell you more about their work in your hometown.

RESOLUTION HONORING W.E.B.

DU BOIS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this resolution honoring the great civil rights leader and educator W.E.B. Du Bois, on the anniversary of his birthday. As he once explained "I was born by a golden river and in the shadow of two great hills, five years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which began the freeing of American Negro Slaves". Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on February 23, 1868, Du Bois lived a purposeful life until his death the day before the March on Washington. The site of his Great Barrington home, where Du Bois lived for his entire youth, is now a National Historic Landmark. The majority of his papers are archived and available to the public at the main library of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, also in my district. Western Massachusetts is proud to claim W.E.B. Du Bois as a native son.

"More than any resolution, it is by our actions that we can honor W.E.B. Du Bois' life and legacy. We honor his accomplishments as a civil rights leader, educator, and author when we invest in education and when we stand together against injustice and racism.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SGT.
JESSICA HOUSBY**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to honor and remember the life of SGT Jessica Housby of Milan, Illinois. Last week, Sergeant Housby was leading a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device. Her death is tragic and I offer my thoughts and condolences to her family and friends.

Jessica's mother said that serving her country was what Jessica always wanted to do. As a high school student, she participated in the Explorers Program at the Milan Armory. She won the honor of top cadet of 187 competitors in a training exercise at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. From that service, Jessica enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard while still a senior in high school. Sergeant Housby was assigned to the 1644th Transportation Company in Rock Falls, Illinois.

Sergeant Housby's unit was deployed to Iraq in October of last year. She believed in the mission of our Army, protecting the U.S. and defending our freedoms through her military service. While she was in Iraq, Sergeant Housby served as a truck driver. When she was hauling cargo to a base operating near the Baghdad Airport, her truck was caught in an explosion that killed her.

Jessica's mother has said that Sergeant Housby was kind and giving to everyone that she met. Her mother explains that Jessica continually supported her by providing comfort 2 years ago when her husband, Jessica's step-father, passed away to giving reassur-

ances when she expressed fear about Jessica's deployment. Jessica last talked to her mother on the Sunday before she died, sending her love before embarking on the mission which led to her death. A week later, Jessica's mother received a birthday card sent from a war zone, a reminder of the love of her attentive daughter.

Throughout her life, Jessica was recognized for her abilities. When she was awarded her top cadet honor in 1999, Lt. Archie Rose of the Illinois National Guard explained it was for her "hard work, enthusiasm, and the responsibility." On Saturday, I will attend the funeral of this dedicated 23-year-old dedicated soldier.

Sergeant Jessica Housby will be missed by her family, friends, and unit. I offer all of them my prayers and thoughts, and I pray for the safety of the remaining members of her unit, still serving in Iraq.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOTE MARINE LABORATORY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mote Marine Laboratory on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a ground-breaking report that underscored the need to strengthen public awareness regarding the critical importance of the oceans in supporting life on earth.

Based in my hometown of Sarasota, Florida, Mote Marine Laboratory has vigorously and successfully pursued this goal for 50 years. Through its manifold programs emphasizing research and education, Mote Marine Laboratory has advanced the science of the sea while enthraling children and adults alike with the adventure of discovery.

Cape Haze Marine Laboratory was founded in 1955 by the now-famous shark researcher Dr. Eugenie Clark. William and Alfred Vanderbilt financed the project, issuing Dr. Clark the charge to "teach people about the sea." While the Laboratory initially operated in the humble surroundings of a 12-foot-by-20-foot shed in Placida, Florida, Dr. Clark's able direction enabled it to develop a strong reputation as a shark research center during its first ten years of existence.

As the Laboratory's standing grew, so did its facilities. The Laboratory moved to Siesta Key in 1960, where it benefited from the munificence of William R. Mote and his sister, Elizabeth Mote Rose. Accordingly, the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory became Mote Marine Laboratory in 1967. The Laboratory moved to its current location on City Island, Florida, in 1978, thanks to a public-private partnership with the City of Sarasota that continues to thrive today.

Thanks to the expert leadership of William Mote, former directors Dr. Sylvia Earle, Dr. Charles M. Breder, Jr., Dr. Perry W. Gilbert, Dr. William H. Taft, Dr. Robert F. Dunn; and current President Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, the Laboratory has expanded to encompass eight buildings on a 10.5-acre campus, providing nearly 200,000 square feet of research, education, and conference space. The Laboratory

also performs research in a Sarasota inland aquaculture park and in field stations located on Charlotte Harbor and in the Florida Keys.

Mote Marine Laboratory has become much more than an impressive facility, however. The little lab with a handful of researchers that once focused solely upon sharks has become a powerhouse of near-shore marine research. Through its seven centers, the Laboratory undertakes projects involving all kinds of marine life and ecology—from sharks to red tide to marine mammals and fisheries. Comprising one of the world's few remaining private, independent marine research centers, the Laboratory employs a staff of more than 230, which includes approximately 40 Ph.D. scientists who remain leaders in their respective fields.

A diverse array of biologists, chemists, engineers, and education and information experts—as well as many other specialists—performs research under the aegis of Mote Marine Laboratory in more than 50 countries. Moreover, the Laboratory hosts visiting scientists from across America and around the world. Due to the expanse of its reach and the quality of its contributions to scientific understanding, Mote Marine Laboratory has earned international acclaim.

Despite the evolution of its functions, however, Mote Marine Laboratory has never abandoned William and Alfred Vanderbilt's directive to "teach people about the sea." In fact, education remains at the core of its mission. Children and adults alike learn about our world's fragile marine and estuarine ecosystems through the Laboratory's educational opportunities, which include an annual science lecture series, a speakers' bureau, and a multitude of adult and family programs. The Laboratory teaches nearly 50,000 children per year, many of whom study through the Laboratory's own distance learning program entitled "SeaTrek." This innovative initiative utilizes interactive videoconferencing to reach students in places as far away as Switzerland and Hungary.

Established in 1980, Mote Aquarium provides the keystone of Mote Marine Laboratory's commitment to education. The Aquarium hosts almost 400,000 visitors from the United States and abroad every year and provides educational materials in five languages. As in the Laboratory's other pursuits, the Aquarium's main strength rests in its people. Trained volunteers thrill visitors with tales of science and the sea, while a mobile aquarium ensures that all Floridians can enjoy a similar voyage through these wonders.

For one-half century, Mote Marine Laboratory has explored some of the oceans' most pressing questions, sharing its findings with the world. This time of perpetual change has revealed one constant truth: Much remains to be discovered.

A TRIBUTE TO PFIZER, INC. FOR
THEIR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT
FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great humanitarian support that

Pfizer, Inc. has offered to the victims of the Tsunami disaster. The devastation experienced in Thailand called for the nation's compassion and swift attention. Just three days after the incident, Pfizer was one of the first corporations to deliver both funds and medicines quickly and efficiently to those who experienced this tragedy first hand. Pfizer donated \$11 million to relief organizations, sent more than \$45 million in health care products and contributed an additional \$1.5 million in individual employee and company-matching donations.

Realizing the critical need to address the potential long-term psychological impact this disaster will have on people and communities across Asia, Pfizer recently announced that it will partner with Thailand health organizations to help survivors cope with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pfizer has promised to provide financial resources and expertise to train local health professionals, nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers and other community leaders. Further, in order to address the needs of those displaced due to the devastation of businesses in affected areas, Pfizer will support the Thai Labor Department in their programs to identify and train a much needed workforce.

Mr. Speaker. I would like to applaud Pfizer on their Tsunami relief efforts. When the call for assistance was heard around the world, Pfizer answered. Their philanthropic efforts set a standard for other companies around the world to follow. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending them for the commitment and remarkable generosity they have shown to those who have suffered from one of the world's worst natural disasters.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME
MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage and tribute to Rafik Hariri, the former Prime Minister of Lebanon who was brutally assassinated and just recently laid to rest. Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 91 recognizing and celebrating his life of dedicated public service. His public as well as private contributions to his country were enormous. I commend all the members of Congress who worked quickly to develop this resolution, particularly members such as Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. ISSA. I am sure the people of the United States and the people of Lebanon will miss Mr. Hariri greatly. Yet again, the Middle East has incurred a tragic loss of a world class leader who stood for peace and a better way of life for all the people of Lebanon. As we ask questions about his death and pursue the perpetrators of this act of terror, let us forever be inspired by how he led his life and made this world a better place.

FOAM FIRE SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, soon I will be joined by my colleague from Rhode Island in reintroducing the "Foam Fire Safety Act" to reduce the injuries, deaths, and property damage that result from fires fueled by products containing polyurethane foam. This sensible legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to implement a rule within one year that ensures that mattresses, bedding, furniture, and other products containing polyurethane foam meet a new open flame standard. The new level of protection will decrease the destructiveness of fires in homes and buildings around the country and prevent unnecessary tragedies.

Polyurethane foam is found in mattresses, upholstered furniture, carpet padding, soundproofing insulation, and many other products found where we live and work. Polyurethane foam is also one of the most flammable consumer products, and firefighters refer to it as "solid gasoline." Between 1980 and 1998, mattress, bedding, and upholstered furniture fires killed almost 30,000 people in the United States. During the same period, these fires injured more than 95,000 people.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) first began looking into creating stricter flame retardancy standards for foam in 1993. Twelve years later, the process continues without result, and all Americans are left without common sense standards similar to those already in place in California and Great Britain.

My legislation, which is endorsed by the National Association of State Fire Marshals, requires polyurethane products to meet a new "open flame" test, which is equivalent to having a candle right next to the foam. Currently, mattresses and furniture must only be able to withstand the equivalent of a lit cigarette. While the CPSC has begun a rule making process for an open-flame test for mattresses, we cannot afford to delay any longer.

Polyurethane foam serves as kindling for fires, and a stricter standard would prevent deaths and property damage. In my district, polyurethane soundproofing foam contributed to the deaths of 100 people at the Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, on February 20, 2003. Because of the abundance of foam, the building was engulfed in flames within 3 minutes, and firefighters who were located just down the street could not arrive in time.

As the 2 year anniversary of the Station fire approaches this weekend, Rhode Islanders are reminded of this horrific event. Unfortunately, we are frequently reminded of our own inaction to prevent future disasters as similar fires continue to occur around the world. On New Year's Eve, ceiling foam ignited in a nightclub in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing