

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

nearly 200 attendees. We must act now before another tragedy strikes.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the other co-sponsors of this bill to reduce the risk of polyurethane foam fires. Passage of this responsible measure will make American homes and workplaces safer.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Nagorno Karabakh who began their National Freedom Movement seventeen years ago.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for reunification with Armenia. This region had been placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921 under the rule of Stalin, even though 96 percent of the population of Nagorno Karabakh was ethnically Armenian.

The response from Azerbaijan and the former Soviet Union on this request was violent. Military attacks against Nagorno Karabakh followed, resulting in a brutal campaign of aggression largely ignored by the outside world. This did not cause the people of Nagorno Karabakh to falter, for they continued to defend their freedom.

Since declaring independence in 1991, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has grown into an active and prosperous democracy. The first plenary sitting of the 10th session of the NKR National Assembly of the 3rd calling took place on February 9, 2005.

The people of Nagorno Karabakh should be commended for their commitment to democracy and achieving sovereignty in the face of strong opposition from neighboring nations. The United States is honored to share such fundamental values with Nagorno Karabakh as democracy, liberty, and a profound respect for human rights.

The people of the United States stand by our friends in Nagorno Karabakh in hoping for a peaceful resolution to their ongoing conflict with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Just as the people of Nagorno Karabakh saw the necessity of a peaceful secession from Azerbaijan seventeen years ago, so too must a peaceful resolution be achieved with this current conflict.

For a people who have suffered so much in pursuit of self-determination, the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh must not abandon hope for a greater future. Through their faultless commitment to democratic values and preservation of human rights, Nagorno Karabakh has made a laudable effort to achieve peace and will soon inspire its Azerbaijani neighbors to return to the peace process.

Like so many who have undergone the pains of oppression, the people of Nagorno Karabakh must rest assured knowing that democracy breeds peace. The United States will continue to promote the cause of our democratic friends in Nagorno Karabakh, not yielding until the goals set forth on February 20, 1988, have been realized in full.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WITNESS SECURITY AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the countless communities across this Nation that live under a tyranny of fear due to witness intimidation.

For too long some of our bravest citizens who courageously sought to testify in criminal proceedings have been subject to terror at the hands of criminals right here on American soil.

Drug dealers and other criminals have employed a variety of brutal tactics to silence witnesses and intimidate their families, including vandalism, threats, beatings, stabbings, shootings, and even murder.

Witness intimidation is a menacing cancer in our society that, if left untreated, will spread and intensify—undermining the very foundation of our criminal justice system. This cancer is eroding public trust in the government's ability to protect witnesses and demoralizing needed community cooperation to enforce the law.

Our criminal justice system relies on witnesses to provide essential evidence to law enforcement in the administration of justice. We cannot allow street thugs to persecute citizens determined to rescue their communities in the grips of violence and illegal drugs.

In Baltimore City reporting crimes, or testifying in court cases involving drugs or violence, can be extremely dangerous and potentially even deadly. According to Baltimore City's State Attorney Patricia Jessamy, prosecutors throughout Baltimore encounter witnesses or victims on a daily basis who are too terrified to testify.

Specifically, her office estimates "at least 25 percent of non-fatal shooting cases are dismissed due to witness [intimidation] issues and most murder cases are affected on some level." They also report "5 cases where a witness was shot or murdered since September last year."

When cases crumble because of witness intimidation, potentially guilty defendants are free once again to pollute our communities with drugs and victimize the innocent.

Mr. Speaker perhaps nowhere is there an example more clear in illustrating the realities of witness intimidation than in the tragedy that claimed the lives of the Dawson family from my district in East Baltimore City.

In response to Mrs. Dawson's heroic efforts to report intense drug distribution activity in her neighborhood, the Dawson family home was firebombed on October 16, 2002. This insidious act not only took the lives of Mr. Dawson and Mrs. Dawson, but also those of their 5 young children.

Unfortunately, this was not the only serious incident of witness intimidation to surface in Baltimore City.

Baltimore Police Detective Thomas Newman was murdered two years ago due to his testimony in a trial concerning a shooting.

On December 2, 2004, a DVD produced by criminals entitled "Stop Snitching" surfaced in Baltimore. It graphically illustrates the violent drug culture and the code of silence on the streets that can paralyze entire communities

seeking to abide by the law. "Stop Snitching" goes so far as to depict grotesque images of three bulletridden, bloody corpses accompanied by the phrase "snitch prevention."

On January 15th 2005, in the North Baltimore community of Harwood, Edna McAbier had her home firebombed in apparent retaliation for her work to purge her community of criminal activity.

Regrettably, these aforementioned examples are representative of a growing problem of bold intimidation that send a clear message to the Nation that cannot be overstated—those who would cooperate with police in the pursuit of justice face serious retaliation and possibly execution.

Witness protection programs provide an invaluable resource to law enforcement to combat crime and address witness intimidation. The Witness Security Program (WSP) established in 1970 and administered by the Office of Enforcement Operations at the Department of Justice has successfully carried out its charge. Civilian witnesses testifying in federal cases that deal with organized crime or 3 other serious offenses have been provided with long-term protection and relocation.

The United States Marshals Service (USMS) has done an outstanding job in protecting and relocating witnesses and their families who have been placed in their custody. They can provide them with safety, new identities, housing, employment, medical treatment, and funds to cover the most essential of needs.

While non-federal witnesses can participate in the WSP under certain conditions, the State is asked to reimburse the federal government for the cost of providing such protection.

With record State deficits, local prosecutors are often placed in a challenging position of having to choose between directing their dollars to necessary prosecutorial initiatives such as investigating the illegal distribution of drugs or directing their limited resources into costly, but necessary witnesses protection programs—or, unfortunately, providing no protection at all.

No one wins when our criminal justice system is forced to choose between these two worthwhile ends.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2005. I am proud to have the esteemed senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, reintroduce a companion measure to this bill in the Senate.

This legislation would establish within the USMS a Short-Term State Witness Protection Program tailored to meet the needs of witnesses testifying in State and local criminal trials involving homicide, a serious felony or a serious drug offense.

This measure authorizes \$90 million in competitive grants per year for the next three years so that State and local district attorneys and the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, can provide short-term witness protection to their witnesses. Specifically, prosecutors can use these funds to provide witness protection or pay the cost of protecting their witnesses in the Short-Term Witness Protection Program within the USMS.

We give priority in awarding grants to States with high homicide rates. Given our current fiscal position, it is important to ensure that our dollars are targeted to impact those most in need.