

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
BRIAN P. PARRELLO

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of a New Jersey citizen who served with dignity and honor as a soldier in Iraq. I join his family, friends and members of his community in mourning this great loss.

On Saturday, January 1, LCpl. Brian P. Parrello, 19, of West Milford, NJ, was killed in Al Anbar Province, Iraq as a result of hostile fire. Lance Corporal Parrello was assigned to Small Craft Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC. Parrello was attached to a Marine Swift Boat unit that patrolled the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

A resident of West Milford, New Jersey, Parrello attended West Milford High School where he was a member of both the football and hockey teams. Following high school, he was so deeply affected by the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon that he proudly enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. His teachers, coaches and peers have called him a real leader and a role model, someone who always gave 150 percent, a person who led by example and with a big heart.

This loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their Nation called them to duty to preserve freedom and the security of our neighbors, they answered without hesitation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to recognize the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of New Jersey. LCpl Brian P. Parrello was an honorable defender of liberty and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

ARTICLE HONORING CORPORAL
KEVIN JOHN "JACK" DEMPSEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following statement by Jennifer Dempsey. Jennifer's brother Jack died bravely serving our nation in Iraq on November 13, 2004.

CORPORAL KEVIN JOHN "JACK" DEMPSEY DECEMBER 9, 1980—NOVEMBER 13, 2004—A SON, A BROTHER, A FRIEND

I would just like to say a few words about my brother, Jack. As a young child, Jack was always on the move. From a very young age he was involved in team sports. His nickname was Tiger because of his fearless personality. He excelled in every sport he

played because of his natural ability and drive to be the best. As a son and brother he was loving and protective. He has a great love for animals. Our mom took us to every zoo and animal park she could find. Even as a Marine, he showed that love. There was a stray dog at Camp LeJeune that Jack used to feed and take care of.

Jack is loved by many people. He had a great smile and an even greater laugh. He was a sweet kid who always wanted to do something great with his life. My brother was a wonderful man who accomplished many great things. He excelled in the Marines and felt he was truly part of a brotherhood. My mother and I are incredibly proud that he was able to do this for himself and his country. We love him dearly and this loss is tremendous to us. But we are extremely proud of the man he became. He was a sweet soul with the courage of a tiger. My brother Jack made the ultimate sacrifice to protect all of us. Honor him well.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PADRON
CIGARS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 2004 marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of Padron Cigars and I rise to honor and congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

Padron Cigars was founded on September 8, 1964 by the Padron brothers—Jose Orlando and Rodolfo. Throughout the last 40 years, the Padron family has worked to grow their business and continue providing new products to their loyal customers throughout the world.

Of course, the success of Padron Cigars did not come without significant challenges over the years. In fact, their factory in Nicaragua was destroyed as a result of civil war.

Through endless commitment and leadership, Padron Cigars was able to survive and grow, despite the serious challenges they faced.

Today, Padron Cigars continues their commitment to quality through their consistent approach to the lengthy process of manufacturing cigars. In fact, they claim: "Our primary mission is the exceptional quality of our product, not the quantity produced."

Headquartered in Miami, Florida, Padron Cigars is clearly an industry leader that has epitomized the success of small family businesses throughout America. The success story of Padron Cigars is nothing short of the American Dream and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Padron family on this anniversary.

LEGISLATION ON EXCHANGE OF
LAND FOR A SCHOOL ON ST. JOHN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to address a long held concern of my constituents on the island of St. John, Virgin Islands; the need for the

National Park Service and the government of the Virgin Islands to agree on an exchange of land so that residents of St. John can build a school to accommodate students from K-12.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in the Virgin Islands have been wrestling with this issue for several years now. Since the 1970's, enrollment in public schools on St. John has grown considerably and the local government has no more land on which to expand either of the two current St. John public schools.

Just last month a 7-year-old boy by the name of Javon Alfred was struck and killed by a delivery truck, as he was on his way home from the only public school on St. John. The Julius Sprauve School, where Javon was a second grade student, is located in an urban area with significant vehicular traffic. With the significant increases in population that St. John has witnessed in recent years, the location of the Sprauve School is not the most suitable at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, St. John is an island only 28 square miles in size, two thirds which comprises the Virgin Islands National Park. Without an exchange of land between the National Park Service and the government of the Virgin Islands, there is no place to build a school on St. John. While the residents of St. John have benefited from a boom in tourism on that island, they have had to give up many long held traditions, including the right to fish in local waters. The exchange of land for a school on St. John is a matter that is long overdue. It is high time that this issue be resolved. The residents and students of St. John deserve nothing less.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that the attached letter, requesting excuse from the floor on January 6, 2005, be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I have also submitted the letter to Leader PELOSI's Office.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 6, 2005.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER PELOSI: I respectfully request to be excused from the floor, today, on legislative business.

Were I able to be present on the floor today, I would vote to ensure that the electoral will of the people is respected in every state. If there is any perceived electoral irregularity, those who have been aggrieved must be afforded the opportunity to have their concerns redressed, in the appropriate manner and forum, as expeditiously as possible.

The hallmark of our Democracy—lasting and cherished for over two centuries—is that we respect and abide by Constitutional principles. The right of franchise, purchased with the blood and toil of our civil rights leaders, must not be idly relinquished. We must fight to make all voices heard in that noble and great enterprise that is America.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

JOE BACA,
Congressman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 3, I was unable to cast my vote on January 3, 2005. The pager provided to me by House Administration, to notify me of votes, was defective. Consequently, I did not receive the announcement that the vote was taking place in time to cast my vote on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

ABUSES IN PEDIATRIC HIV DRUG TRIALS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, a November 30, 2004 report by the BBC shed light on a disturbing issue regarding an often-overlooked population. The report detailed what it argued was the excessive, and potentially illegal, use of experimental drugs on HIV positive orphans and foster children under the supervision of New York City's Administration of Children's Services.

The report argues that these children, the majority of whom come from minority backgrounds, were forced to take experimental HIV medications, which caused painful and debilitating side effects. It further alleges that the drugs were given without the consent of the children's relatives or guardians. Those guardians who became aware of the drug regime were forced to consent, or risk losing the children to child welfare authorities.

Standards for the administration of drug trials on children should be followed at all times. The fact that these children are wards of the state does not preclude accepted standards and regulations from being followed.

The accusations in the BBC report are indeed troubling, and necessitate a fuller examination by governmental authorities. As such, I find it appropriate for the Congress to look into the excessive use of experimental drug therapies on children, especially the most vulnerable. It is my hope that such an examination would commence as soon as possible after the start of the 109th Congress.

The greatest blessing afforded to a nation is the health and well being of its children. We must ensure that these blessing extend to all children, especially those without homes and families of their own. On this point I know my colleagues are in agreement, so I am confident that action will be taken on this important issue.

[From the BBC NEWS, Nov. 30, 2005]

NEW YORK'S HIV EXPERIMENT
(BY JAMIE DORAN)

HIV positive children and their loved ones have few rights if they choose to battle with social work authorities in New York City.

Jacklyn Hoerger's job was to treat children with HIV at a New York children's home.

But nobody had told her that the drugs she was administering were experimental and highly toxic.

"We were told that if they were vomiting, if they lost their ability to walk, if they were having diarrhea, if they were dying, then all of this was because of their HIV infection."

In fact it was the drugs that were making the children ill and the children had been enrolled on the secret trials without their relatives' or guardians' knowledge.

As Jacklyn would later discover, those who tried to take the children off the drugs risked losing them into care.

The BBC asked the Alliance for Human Research Protection about their view on the drug trials.

Spokesperson Vera Sherav said: "They tested these highly experimental drugs. Why didn't they provide the children with the current best treatment? That's the question we have."

"Why did they expose them to risk and pain, when they were helpless?"

"Would they have done those experiments with their own children? I doubt it."

POWER AND AUTHORITY

When I first heard the story of the "guinea pig kids", I instinctively refused to believe that it could be happening in any civilized country, particularly the United States, where the propensity for legal action normally ensures a high level of protection.

But that, as I was to discover, was central to the choice of location and subjects, because to be free in New York City, you need money.

Over 23,000 of the city's children are either in foster care or independent homes run mostly by religious organisations on behalf of the local authorities and almost 99% are black or hispanic.

Some of these kids come from "crack" mothers and have been infected with the HIV virus. For over a decade, this became the target group for experimentation involving cocktails of toxic drugs.

Central to this story is the city's child welfare department, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS).

The ACS, as it is known, was granted far-reaching powers in the 1990s by then-Republican Mayor Rudi Giuliani, after a particularly horrific child killing.

Within the shortest of periods, literally thousands of children were being rounded up and placed in foster care.

"They're essentially out of control," said family lawyer David Lansner. "I've had many ACS case workers tell me: 'We're ACS, we can do whatever we want' and they usually get away with it."

Having taken children into care, the ACS was now, effectively, their parent and could do just about anything it wished with them.

'SERIOUS SIDE-EFFECTS'

One of the homes to which HIV positive children were taken was the Incarnation Children's Center, a large, expensively refurbished red-bricked building set back from the sidewalk in a busy Harlem street.

It is owned by the Catholic church and when we attempted to talk to officials at Incarnation we were referred to an equally expensive Manhattan public relations company, which then refused to comment on activities within the home.

Hardly surprising, when we already knew that highly controversial and secretive drug experiments had been conducted on orphans and foster children as young as three months old.

We asked Dr. David Rasnick, visiting scholar at the University of Berkeley, for his opinion on some of the experiments.

He said: "We're talking about serious, serious side-effects. These children are going to be absolutely miserable. They're going to have cramps, diarrhea and their joints are going to swell up. They're, going to roll around the ground and you can't touch them."

He went on to describe some of the drugs—supplied by major drug manufacturers including Glaxo SmithKline—as "lethal".

When approached by the BBC, Glaxo SmithKline said such trials must have stringent standards and be conducted strictly in accordance with local regulations.

BATTLE OF WILLS

At Incarnation, if a child refused to take the medicines offered, he or she was force-fed through a peg-tube inserted into the stomach.

Critics of the trials say children should have been volunteered to test drugs by their parents.

When Jacklyn Hoerger later fostered two children from the home where she used to work with a view to adopting them, she discovered just how powerful the ACS was.

"It was a Saturday morning and they had come a few times unannounced," she said. "So when I opened the door I invited them in and they said that this wasn't a happy visit. At that point they told me that they were taking the children away. I was in shock."

Jacklyn, a trained paediatric nurse, had taken the fatal step of taking the children off the drugs, which had resulted in an immediate boost to their health and happiness.

As a result she was branded a child abuser in court. She has not been allowed to see the children since.

In the film Guinea Pig Kids, we follow Jacklyn's story and that of other parents or guardians who fear for the lives of their loved ones.

We talk to a child who spent years on drugs programmes which made them and their friends ill, and we discover that Incarnation is not an isolated case. The experiments continue to be carried out on the poor children of New York City.

TRIBUTE TO MS. THELMA STINSON, PRINCIPAL OF LILLIE C. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay this tribute to Ms. Thelma Stinson, Principal of Lillie C. Evans Elementary School located in Miami's Liberty City area of my district. This honor is richly deserved, for Ms. Stinson has truly made a huge contribution to our community and a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of youngsters.

Upon the leadership of Ms. Stinson, Lillie C. Evans Elementary School proudly rose from an F-graded school in 2001–2002 to an A-graded school in 2003–2004. She took the helm of this school in 1999, and through personal touch and professional acumen defined by a no-nonsense approach, Ms. Stinson was able to put together a marvelous staff and a well-motivated support system composed of paraprofessionals, parents and community leaders. At the same time, however, I am cognizant of the countless hours of meeting and lesson planning that have exacted nothing but the noblest of her efforts.

I want to applaud Ms. Stinson for having proven to us that, regardless of background or