

has grown significantly as understanding of the disease process improves. But the main NIH institute doing the research has reported that only 15 percent of scientifically merit-worthy grant applications are being funded. This means that 85 percent of qualified grant proposals—studies that could hold the key to delaying the symptoms or curing the disease—are not being systematically explored. A few years ago, we were funding 25 percent of the worthwhile grants. This is a completely unacceptable state of affairs, and our legislation seeks to remedy this problem.

I want to emphasize to my colleagues that an up-front investment in research will not only help improve the quality of life for millions of Americans, but will also help save the federal government hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid spending over the next half-century.

In addition to doubling our investment in Alzheimer's research at the NIH, the Smith-Markey-Burgess legislation also supports a number of other important Alzheimer's-related initiatives. These include:

Establishing an Alzheimer's disease prevention initiative.

Expanding and improving clinical research on Alzheimer's disease.

Systematic research on Alzheimer's disease care.

National summit on Alzheimer's disease.

Education and assistance for caregivers and their families.

Grants to expand needed respite care programs.

A public education campaign.

Improving Project Safe Return to help locate Alzheimer's patients who become disoriented and wander from their home.

In conclusion, the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act offers a comprehensive approach for treating current Alzheimer's patients and researching potential cures to reduce the number of those who will struggle with this disease in the future. We will be working overtime to secure passage of this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring it.

CONGRATULATING THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Winnetka Park District on 100 years of service to our community.

In 1904, a group of concerned citizens wanted to restore a piece of land in front of the village train station, which had been strewn with debris from the local livery stable. This small band of citizens came together and collected the \$8,548.30 needed to purchase what is now Station Park.

From those humble beginnings, the Winnetka Park District has developed into 28 park sites that represent more than 244 acres of land. The lands under the control of the Park District include some of the most beautiful shoreline of Lake Michigan. And from the initial investment of \$8,548.30, the district now boasts a \$9 million annual operating budget.

Through these 100 years, with the needs and desires of the public in mind, the

Winnetka Park District has added new facilities to meet the continually growing population. Now, nearly 14,500 citizens enjoy the Park District's facilities, which include an 18-hole championship golf course plus a par-3 course, the first indoor tennis facilities in the Chicago area, platform tennis courts, an indoor ice arena, two outdoor rinks, four public beaches, a skate park, and a 142-acre expanse of playfield.

The Winnetka Park District also runs hundreds of recreation programs, from day camps, to athletics, to classes. The district plans special events throughout the year, and thousands partake annually in skating, tennis and golf lessons.

For one hundred years the Winnetka Park District worked to provide a balance of quality recreational and leisure opportunities to a growing community, while protecting the natural resources and open spaces for the benefit of future generations. I hope that the next hundred years is as successful.

IN MEMORY OF JIMMY RIDDLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Jimmy Riddle, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his contributions to his community, country and other nations. Mr. Riddle was working for SOC-SMG, which disposes of munitions in Iraq, when an explosive was detonated within his convoy, which took his life and that of a co-worker. Mr. Riddle was 53 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Mr. Riddle's life today. Jimmy Riddle consistently served others throughout his life. He joined the Marine Corps while in college and was stationed in Japan shortly after the Vietnam War. After serving for our country, Mr. Riddle became an officer for both the Sulphur Springs and Carrollton Police Departments in Texas.

In addition to his career, he spent considerable time with his family and promoted the ideals of being a servant to his children. As a result, his son Chris joined the U.S. Navy. Recently, Mr. Riddle was working as a defense contractor in Bosnia during which time he was able to see his son Chris for the first time in two years. Shortly after this meeting, Chris was killed by a drunk driver. Always looking to serve others, Mr. Riddle joined the SOC-SMG and went to Iraq. Just as in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Qatar, the people in Iraq appreciated Mr. Riddle and respected him for his kind-heartedness and devotion to helping others.

It was my honor to represent Jimmy. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He was best described by his fellow workers as an "unsung hero."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHED BASKETWEAVER, MRS. SUE COLEMAN

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a truly remarkable woman, Sue Coleman. Mrs. Coleman is a member of the Washo nation on the Dresslerville Reservation in my home state of Nevada. Mrs. Coleman is nationally known as a master in the art of basket weaving. Her art is not only known in Nevada, but throughout the nation.

Mrs. Coleman comes from a long line of distinguished basket weavers. She learned the art of weaving through her mother, Theresa Smokey Jackson. Together with her mother, Mrs. Coleman gathered willow, stripped, cleaned and made thread by splitting the willows in three sections with their teeth. With the wisdom and guidance of her mother, Mrs. Coleman has a very diverse portfolio of artistic designs. These include; cradleboards, round baskets, burden baskets, seed beaters and winnowing trays all of which are true weaves of the Washo tradition.

Mrs. Coleman has received many prestigious awards for her art, and has won over forty first place ribbons for her baskets in many western art competitions. In 2002, she was awarded the prestigious Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Folk Arts. She is also part of the committee that is organizing the Folklife Festival that will be held on the National Mall in 2006. In addition to her many other roles, Mrs. Coleman has the honor to be part of the committee for the Smithsonian Museum's "Carriers of Culture: Contemporary Native Baskets". One of her hand-crafted baskets is even part of the Smithsonian's permanent collection and will be included in a travel exhibit that will feature the finest baskets made by Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the passing of her mother, Mrs. Coleman promised that she would continue the tradition that they enjoyed together and pass weaving along to future generations, so that this wonderful art will never be forgotten. It is clear that with her with passion and dedication to this rich cultural art that she will continue to honor her mother's wishes. I am proud to have this opportunity to acknowledge her work.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST WITH REGARD TO "THE FEINSTEIN YOUTH HUNGER BRIGADE PROGRAM"

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Student Council of Cranston High School West for their participation for the third consecutive year in "The Feinstein Youth Hunger Brigade Program." Through this year-long community service project, these students will raise awareness of hunger in Rhode

Island by distributing a newsletter to elected officials and by collecting and distributing non-perishable food items to a local agency of their choice. The students have chosen St. Vincent de Paul's Emergency Food Center to be the beneficiary of this year's donations.

Already, the students of Cranston High School West have far exceeded the goals they initially set. Originally planning to collect an impressive 2,260 items for donation, the students worked together to collect an astounding 3,163 non-perishable food items throughout the course of their first food drive in December. The students are currently working on a second drive set to take place in April. They hope to surpass their previous record during this spring's drive.

The non-perishables that the students have delivered to St. Vincent de Paul are crucial to the fight against hunger in Rhode Island. Many of our local shelters and food centers find themselves continually dependent upon the goodwill of students like those at Cranston High School West to be able to provide for those in need. The contributions by this very generous group of students will certainly put St. Vincent de Paul in a position to meet the needs of those less fortunate in the community.

I am thrilled and honored to recognize these individuals today. It is through the efforts of students like those at Cranston High School West that we not only fight the current hunger epidemic, but provide hope for the future as well. The students at Cranston High School West have nobly taken on a serious problem in their community and are facing it head on. I am confident that these students will serve as an inspiration for other Rhode Island young people and that leaves me optimistic about the future fight against hunger.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in commending the Student Council of Cranston High School West.

PEACE CORPS: A MODEL FOR HOPE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize that last week was National Peace Corps Week and to applaud the thousands of Americans who have represented the U.S. since 1961 in the Peace Corps in 138 countries. Emblematic of the idealism of America are the 15 volunteers from my district in Southeast Iowa who are currently serving on four continents, in desert villages, mountain towns and city centers from Ukraine to Panama and Morocco.

A Peace Corps volunteer is charged with three missions: the first is to help the people of host countries in meeting their need for trained professionals; the second is to help promote understanding of America around the world; and the third is to help expand American understanding of other peoples and countries.

Thus, the job of the Peace Corps volunteer is not over when their assignment is completed. Volunteers maintain a duty to share their grasp of the people, the language and the culture of the countries in which they served.

Not long ago, in a speech at Yale University, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, declared that he wanted to add a fourth goal: to "bind all human beings together in a common cause to assure peace and survival for all."

No mission is more altruistic; nor more consequential. Geopolitical realists might consider such majesty of purpose to be naive. Actually, there is no rational alternative in a world where history has known few generations unaffected by the strife of war; where the creation of weapons of mass destruction has increased the vulnerability of the human race. As Einstein noted, splitting the atom has changed everything except our way of thinking. It is the capacity to think that, at its best, characterizes mankind, but, at its least impressive, has yet to be harnessed in such a way as to give confidence that modern man can live with modern technology.

In this context of concern for the common fate of all mankind, the Peace Corps stands out as the singular institution in American society that provides a model for hope and a cause for optimism.

INTRODUCING THE MEDICAL BILLS INTEREST RATE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medical Bills Interest Rate Relief Act, a bill to protect Americans from going bankrupt due to high medical costs. Many families and individuals are forced deep into debt by the combination of large medical bills and excessively high interest rates.

The Journal Health Affairs recently reported that over two million people are financially ruined by health care costs every year, and these debtors are 42 percent more likely than other debtors to experience lapses in coverage. In fact, many of those bankrupted are middle class and have insurance, and so do not qualify for additional assistance.

A constituent of mine from Margate, Florida was faced with just this situation. He was unable to fully meet the repayment schedule demanded by the hospital. Because he had insurance, he was also unable to qualify for further assistance. The hospital reported him to his credit bureau, which then raised his interest rate to an astronomical level, pushing his financial stability to the very edge of bankruptcy.

My constituent is currently selling his home in order to avoid bankruptcy. This is simply unfair. My constituent did not overspend on luxury gifts, buy a fancy car, or take extended vacations. Instead, his family was slammed by an unpredictable and unpreventable medical catastrophe that was no fault of their own. There should be a level of protection for them and the millions of other Americans who struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, credit card issuers tie interest rates to the timely repayment of debt. But many Americans, such as my constituent, are faced with sudden, extremely high medical expenses that simply cannot be repaid within the

same constraints as ordinary expenses. Thus, their credit card interest rates may rise dramatically, resulting in an even more burdensome financial situation.

My legislation alleviates this problem by requiring credit card companies to maintain the lowest interest rates possible for persons repaying medical care costs, based on the customers' previous credit rating prior to incurring those costs. My bill further protects patients and families by prohibiting hospitals from reporting for 5 years patients who cannot meet the mandated repayment schedule, provided that those patients demonstrate good faith by maintaining a repayment of 20 percent of their medical expenses. This ensures that patients receive some level of protection from imminent financial disaster while hospitals are also assured of recovering debt.

The extraordinarily high cost of medical care is an enormous burden on American families. Unfortunately, many medical expenses are unforeseen, and the expenses associated with emergency catastrophic care can literally destroy a family's finances. Our constituents should never have to choose between the health and life of a loved one and the financial constraints of medical care.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to protect all Americans from the crushing burden of medical costs.

HONORING THE EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE OF BEN MOYER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible citizen of the 28th district of Texas. Ben Moyer of Seguin, Texas demonstrated exceptional courage when he saved a man's life last June.

Ben Moyer a senior at Seguin High School in Seguin, TX, has been swimming for most of his life. Last summer while he was working at the local water park Schlitterbahn of Texas, Ben jumped into a dangerous section of the Comal River and pulled a man to safety.

Ben did not even notice the injury he had sustained when his foot was caught in some rocks; he simply pulled it free and continued with his mission. It was not until after he pulled the man to safety that he realized that he had broken his own leg in this heroic deed.

Ben was aware of the dangers that would come with being a deep water lifeguard, but credited his Boy Scout life guarding classes and Schlitterbahn training classes with enabling him with the skills necessary for this rescue.

This notable act of courage demonstrates Ben's desire to help others, which will come in handy for Ben's aspirations to enter the Naval Academy in Annapolis after graduation. And to eventually reach his goal of flying helicopters.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad I had this opportunity to recognize the act of bravery and termination of Ben Moyer.