

bill, which was subsequently enacted into law, authorized a breast cancer research stamp for two years and required the General Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of this method of raising funds. In 2000, GAO determined that the semipostal stamp was indeed successful and an effective and appropriate way to fundraise. The GAO also determined that the Postal Service do more to recover its costs associated with the breast cancer research stamp program.

To address health issues raised by semipostal legislation pending in Congress, Representatives JOHN MCHUGH and CHAKA FATTAH, introduced H.R. 4437, the Semipostal Authorization Act. This act, which became law (PL 106–253) provided the Postal Service with discretionary authority to issue semipostal stamps, provided the revenue raised goes to federal agencies and is for medical research. This authority is similar to the discretion the Postal Service currently has in determining which commemorative stamps to approve and issue.

Mr. Speaker, every two minutes, a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with breast cancer. And, excluding cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. This year, it is estimated that about 212,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed, along with 58,000 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer. And, 40,000 women are expected to die from this disease.

It must be noted, that men get breast cancer too. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1200 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in American men each year.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer among white and African-American women. However, African-American women are more likely to die from this disease. And the incidence of breast cancer in women has increased from 1 in 20 in 1960 to 1 in 7 today.

Annually, nearly \$7 billion is spent on the treatment of breast cancer. All the more reason to support the Breast Cancer Semipostal Stamp. Through the sale of this stamp, we are able to raise awareness of this disease and participate directly in raising money for needed research.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman TOM DAVIS and Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN, as well as the chairmen and ranking members of the House Energy and Commerce and Armed Services Committees for moving quickly to get S. 37 to the House floor. It is wonderful to be able to approve this bill now, given that October is designated as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 37, Senator FEINSTEIN's companion bill to my H.R. 312. This bill authorizes the Breast Cancer Research Stamp through 2007. Without this legislation, this successful program would end this year.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As it comes to a close it is important to reflect on what is being done in the way of prevention and treatment of breast cancer.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have proposed to extend the deadline of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp, so that it will be available for purchase for two more years.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have been collaborating to bring awareness to this ever-present

disease and to help doctors and scientists fighting against it. I want to thank her for her unwavering dedication.

I also want to thank Dr. Ernie Bodhai, who developed the idea of the Breast Cancer Research Stamp and who has brought national awareness to the measure.

Dr. Bodhai inspired me to help support the Breast Cancer Research Stamp back when I served in the California State Assembly.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced this bill for one reason: to save lives.

We have worked together to pass this important bill so researchers can gain more insight on the disease and in turn, prevent tragedies.

This year more than 200,000 women and men will be diagnosed with breast cancer. More than 40,000 Americans will die from the disease this year.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in every major ethnic group in the United States.

It does not discriminate. Whether you are white, black, Hispanic or whatever your race or ethnicity. Everyone is at risk.

More than two million women are living with breast cancer in America today, yet one million of them have not been diagnosed.

Breast cancer is a leading killer of American women. The disease claims another woman's life every 13 minutes in the United States.

That is why it is so important to increase funding for breast cancer research—and why we must continue sales of the stamp.

The Breast Cancer Research Stamp is among the most successful commemorative stamps of all time with 637 million stamps sold.

The stamp program has generated over 47 million dollars for breast cancer research. It has been a critical ally in generating the resources necessary to wage war on this terrible disease.

The stamp is a "semi-postal" stamp that can be voluntarily purchased by the public for 45 cents.

For each stamp sold, 8 cents goes to the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program.

Working with Dr. Bodhai, Senator FEINSTEIN introduced the Breast Cancer Research Stamp bill in 1998 to help support the fight against breast cancer.

I am proud that Californians continue to lead the way in stamp purchases, providing roughly 21 percent of the money raised nationwide.

I ask my colleagues to support the Breast Cancer Research Stamp and all the women and men who will benefit from the money the stamp raises.

Senator FEINSTEIN and I have the support of 153 Members of Congress and 69 Senators who cosponsored the bills and of countless organizations like the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the Breast Cancer Fund, WIN Against Breast Cancer, and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

By supporting reauthorization of this stamp, you are not only helping research but you are also helping to raise awareness.

Think about it! A customer purchases the stamp, a carrier delivers it, and a person receives it. That is three people who have seen the message saying: "breast cancer needs to be stamped out!"

Each time we use the stamp we raise additional funds for research and we send a message of hope that we will find a cure.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 37.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

PRaising THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to say thank you to our leadership, to Speaker HASTERT, to Mr. BLUNT, to Ms. PRYCE, to commend them for working through fiscal responsibility, budget control, for making it a priority and for standing firm as we move forward to reconciliation on the budget for this next fiscal year.

I also want to commend our committee chairmen who are working hard to find the savings that are necessary to reduce what the Federal Government spends. They are holding mark-ups, hearings, working through this process; and they are focused. Our membership is focused.

The committee chairmen are to be commended for that work, and through this process the winners are going to be the American people. We are doing what they want, reining in government spending, being better stewards of their tax dollars. We have got a long way to go in the process. They are the winners. We are cutting back and terminating over 98 programs. These are first steps to economic stability and fiscal responsibility.

□ 1630

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPION HOUSTON ASTROS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Houston Astros gave the State of Texas and the city of Houston one heck of a good ride. I just want to hold a little red card in my hand for lack of anything red this afternoon to be able to thank the Astros family, Drayton McLane, all of the players, the management, all the staff at Minute Maid Park, to be able to say a big thank you for a long, tedious season, but a hard-fought season. My hat is off.

Congratulations to the Chicago White Sox. But our little team of 42 years for the first time in the history of the State of Texas took Texas to the World Series. Not only did we take Texas to the World Series, but being in my congressional district, the Minute Maid Park, the Astros are my constituents, among many others. We gave our community just a heck of a lot of joy, as you heard the buzz going around the children, the young people, the elderly, season ticket holders and others. I cannot thank the Astros enough.

We still believe. We may not have made it this time around, but we still believe in the Houston Astros.

UNIFORM BUILDING CODES

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is of great concern to me, the prudent spending of our precious Federal tax dollars. In an ever-difficult budget environment, we need to be more vigilant in determining how these funds are spent.

So far Congress has provided \$61 billion in Federal funds for the recovery of the gulf coast. As we turn our attention to helping rebuild this area, any Federal funds for rebuilding should be spent according to a modern, uniform statewide building code. Did you know that Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama do not have statewide building codes?

Today I will introduce a sense of Congress resolution that Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama should adopt modern, uniform statewide building codes so that their rebuilding is, quite frankly, up to code. Every other State on the eastern seaboard already has similar codes. The Gulf Coast States should, too.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Quite frankly, it is a must.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROTECT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have taken the floor previously to talk about the shortcomings of the administration's efforts in the area of homeland security.

As an expert in aviation security, I have criticized the fact that the Republican majority and the White House have seen fit to arbitrarily cut the number of screeners, which not only causes obvious inconvenience for passengers, but it creates the potential for security threats as the smaller number of screeners are under tremendous pressure to process a large number of people in a short period of time. And they are being asked to do it with 1980s equipment.

Now, you can do it one of two ways. You can have a lot of people with crummy equipment or a few people with state-of-the-art equipment. This administration is trying to do it on the cheap without enough people and with obsolete equipment that cannot detect plastic explosives at passenger checkpoints and often in carry-on bags or checked baggage or cargo.

Our ports, I have talked about that, a tremendous vulnerability, not doing radiological detection. Nobody is going to shoot a missile at us, the failed Stars Wars system notwithstanding, but they may well try and smuggle in a nuclear device in a container. Our ports and our borders are wide open to such smuggling with just a very few deployed radiological devices.

But Katrina brought home another lesson, which is we need to be ready both for unnatural disasters, terrorist attacks and natural disasters. And there is a looming natural disaster that this administration has ignored, and that is the potential of H5N1 flu, the bird flu, so-called, should it become easily transmissible between bird species and humans, and then human-to-human contact could perhaps spread the disease widely.

The numbers are absolutely shocking regarding the potential for loss of life because of this. The administration, the President apparently read a book, that is great, and the book was about the great pandemic, and suddenly he got excited about it. Except experts in his administration and worldwide have known since before he became President that there was a potential for species crossover with this flu, and a tremendous loss of life is potential from this.

This administration last year in preparation for this looming disaster, and it already infected and killed a number of humans at a rate of better than 50 percent in Asia last year, so last year in preparation for this they took some steps. They put more money in the budget for vaccines, antiviral drugs and basic research. Woo, yea for them.

But guess what? The total spending was \$110 million, approximately half of what they spent on chastity education in America. That is how high this ideological administration put on the idea

of protecting America against an influenza outbreak. They could spend almost as much money as they put together for abstinence-only education.

Now, that seems to be kind of a misplaced priority. Belatedly now they are talking about billions and accelerated research and stockpiling antiviral drugs. I gave a floor speech last summer calling upon the administration to begin to stockpile the drugs. Unfortunately, virtually every other country in the world is in line ahead of the United States of America, and the drugs are not manufactured here to buy those drugs, because those other countries have chosen to stockpile them to protect their people. Even though they do not work very well, they are the only thing we have now.

Now the administration is talking belatedly about a crash program to try to develop vaccines 2 or 3 or 4 years down the road in the hope that this crossover will not take place before then. This is yet another example of poor planning by this administration; the fact that they created this huge new bureaucracy, the Department of Homeland Security, that failed so miserably when Katrina occurred.

And, oh, by the way, Brownie, you did a heck of a job. That hack who failed so miserably is still on the Federal payroll. Can you believe that? The guy is pulling down over \$100,000 a year sitting over there having failed so miserably. The President cannot even get rid of him, let alone other political cronies in this administration.

And they are failing us in other areas of security that I referenced earlier, and they are failing the American people in this critical health care component.

Much more robust steps must be taken quickly. The clock is ticking. It is already perhaps very, very late. We can only hope that this virus does not evolve too quickly through nature, and I know this administration does not believe in evolution, but that is how viruses happen. They do evolve. All it needs is a couple of small changes, and it will be transmissible. It will be a pandemic. We need to do more to protect the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?