

World War I reduced tidal marshes to approximately 200 acres. The remnant of this once vast tidal marsh is protected by the Refuge.

Jean first discovered the wonders of Tinicum Marsh as a youth while exploring the wilds of her neighborhood and learned of their endangerment through her involvement with Girl Scouts. Jean soon became an active member of CARP, a grassroots conservation organization that worked closely with government and political leaders to preserve and protect Pennsylvania's largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh. Through much of Jean's leadership with both CARP and as President of the Friends of the Heinz Refuge, as well as her community work with the League of Women Voters and with many other concerned local citizens, the Tinicum National Environmental Center (later renamed to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum) was established. Jean's leadership helped with the passage of four pieces of Federal legislation adding both land and funding for the refuge.

Ever the environmental champion, Jean has worked diligently over the past 30 years to ensure the future of the Reserve. Her work helped realign Interstate 95 to avoid paving over this important wildlife habitat; raise funds for the purchase of the Tinicum Lagoons to be included in the Refuge; establish the Tinicum Treasures Bookstore (all proceeds of which are used to support refuge educational and biological programs); and create the Cusano Environmental Education Center. Jean Diehl has, indeed, truly served our Nation as a founding parent of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum. I commend Jean Diehl for her outstanding service. She is among Pennsylvania's finest, and I am honored to bring forth her particular accomplishments at the Tinicum Refuge before this body and our Nation today.

#### EMERGENCY ROOMS HAVE REACHED A BREAKING POINT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a New York Times editorial entitled, "Emergency in the Emergency Rooms" into the RECORD. This article emphasizes the fact that our Nation's emergency rooms and hospitals are seriously ill-equipped to manage major disasters such as the human costs of natural disasters or the occurrence of pandemic influenza. They are also failing to meet the challenge of increased demand by the poor who must use the emergency room for primary care because they cannot afford or do not have health insurance.

According to the Institute of Medicine, about 500,000 (five hundred thousand) ambulances are being redirected from full emergency rooms to others far away. Furthermore, patients awaiting admission to the hospital may spend from eight hours to two days in the emergency rooms before a hospital bed becomes available. Not only are our emergency rooms filled past capacity, but they also lack the services of critical specialists such as neurosurgeons, further crippling the ability of hospitals to immediately treat patients in medical crisis.

The editorial identifies a few causes for the emergency room crisis. First, the number of people seeking treatment in emergency rooms has increased sharply over the past decade. Also, in the same time period, some 700 hospitals and 425 emergency departments have been forced to close due to cost pressures. More importantly, the result of these situations is serious overcrowding, only worsened by a massive influx of patients who seek routine care in emergency rooms because they are either uninsured or on Medicaid but incapable of finding doctors who agree to treat them.

This issue has grave consequences on the United States population as a whole, but it particularly affects the more than 60 million plus uninsured people in the United States, a population that will increase as employers are gradually eliminating health coverage. Ultimately, the United States will suffer greatly at the hands of large scale disasters if we do not improve our preparedness in hospitals and emergency rooms.

Some proposals to develop our emergency rooms include an end to diverting seriously ill patients to far away hospitals and alternatively diverting poor patients who congest emergency rooms seeking standard care. Of course, this would necessitate expanding health insurance coverage to the millions of uninsured and offering more primary care clinics and doctors to underserved neighborhoods. However, in the long run, the addressing of the emergency room crisis will cost the United States much, much less than the consequences.

[From the New York Times, June 21, 2006]

#### EMERGENCY IN THE EMERGENCY ROOMS

The nation's emergency rooms have been stretched thin for at least a decade or more, but a new analysis suggests that they have reached a breaking point. Their plight underscores how dreadfully unprepared we are to cope with a major disaster like pandemic influenza or mass casualties from a terrorism attack.

The crisis in emergency medical care was laid bare in three reports issued last week by the Institute of Medicine, a unit of the National Academy of Sciences. Half a million times a year ambulances are diverted from emergency rooms that are full and sent to others farther away. Emergency room patients who need admission to the hospital often spend eight hours or more—sometimes even two days or more—on gurneys in the hallways, waiting for a hospital bed to open up.

Some emergency rooms lack the services of key specialists, such as neurosurgeons, who shy away from emergency room duty because many uninsured patients can't pay and their malpractice premiums would skyrocket because of the risky nature of emergency cases. What is not known is how many people die as a result of delays in treatment or inadequate care under chaotic conditions. No measurement system tracks such data.

The emergency room crisis has many causes, none of them easily or cheaply resolved. The number of people seeking treatment in emergency rooms has jumped sharply over the past decade or so, from 90 million in 1993 to 114 million in 2003. Over the same period, cost pressures forced the closing of some 700 hospitals, almost 200,000 hospital beds and 425 emergency departments. The result is severe crowding, exacerbated by a huge influx of poor people seeking routine care who are either uninsured or on Medicaid but unable to find doctors willing to treat them. By law, emergency rooms must accept

all patients, whether they have insurance or not.

The institute's experts have many proposals for easing the situation, ranging from new regional systems to improve the flow of patients to the most appropriate and least crowded emergency rooms to an infusion of money to cover unpaid emergency care and to bolster preparedness for large-scale disasters. The most important change would be to stop diverting seriously ill ambulance patients and divert instead the poor patients who clog emergency rooms seeking routine care. That would require extending health coverage to the uninsured and providing more primary care clinics and doctors in poor neighborhoods.

RECOGNIZING LARRY W. WEIGLER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colonel Larry W. Weigler, Vice Wing Commander of the Missouri Air National Guard in St. Joseph, MO. Colonel Weigler will retire from the 139th Airlift Wing, St. Joseph, MO effective May 3, 2006 after more than 36 years of dedicated service in the Air National Guard.

The Colonel has been a member of the armed services since 1969 when he enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard as an aircraft mechanic. In 1972 he received an Officer's commission to become an aircraft pilot. During his exemplary career Colonel Weigler participated in numerous overseas deployments including Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Colonel Larry W. Weigler, who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES LEE  
RACKERS

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. James Lee Rackers of Jefferson City, MO.

Mr. Rackers was born in Jefferson City, on December 27, 1933, son of Lee and Helen Heisen Rackers. He attended Central Missouri State University and graduated from Lincoln University in 1956, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary School Education. He earned his masters in Secondary School Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was united in marriage to Nancy Brettschneider on November 24, 1955. They were blessed with four wonderful children, three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Rackers began his career teaching at Helias High School in the fall of 1956. He was the head basketball and track coach and assistant football coach. He was the Athletic Director from 1966 until 1967, when he became Assistant Principal. In 1971 Jim became the

first lay principal at a Catholic secondary school in Missouri. Jim was principal until 1992, when he became Helias' first Chief Administrator. In 1997 he became the first Director of Development for Helias High School and Executive Director of the Helias Foundations. On May 1, 1998, the newly constructed Field House was named the James L. Rackers Field House in honor of his years of dedication and loyalty to Helias High School.

Along with his successful career, Mr. Rackers was an active member of St. Peter Catholic Church and was also a member of numerous professional and community organizations. Mr. Rackers was a member in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals, North Central Association, National Catholic Education Association, Committee on Accredited Schools Non-Public, and the Missouri Council for American Private Education. He received numerous awards; including the 1991 Communicator of the Year Award from the Public Relations Society of America, 1997 Immaculate Conception Outstanding Alumni Award, 1997 Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding services to students in Support of Vocational Education at Nichols Career Center, and 25 year Silver Service Award of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

Mr. Speaker, James Lee Rackers was a valuable leader in all aspects of his life. He was a genuine human being who would do anything for anyone. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Nancy; his three sons, Dennis, John, and Timothy; his daughter Maureen; and all of his grandchildren.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290, and 291.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 289, 290, and 291.

#### TRIBUTE TO ESSAY WINNER, MISS KATIE HORTON

#### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, every year in my district, I ask students in grades 8th and 12th to participate in an essay contest. This year's contest focused on the issue of protecting our Nation from terrorism.

I am pleased that so many students chose to enter this essay contest. Unfortunately, however, there can only be one winner in each group: 8th grade and 12th grade. This year's 8th grade winner was Sean Doherty from Elmhurst, Illinois. He attends St. Charles Borromeo School in Bensenville, Illinois. The 12th grade winner was Katie Horton from

Addison Trail High School. She lives in Addison, Illinois.

This is Miss Katie Horton's essay, entitled: "How does the Homeland Security Agency protect us from Terrorism?" is as follows:

Terrorism is an epidemic that continues to spread throughout the world. In the United States, terrorism is a danger that the government and its people must face everyday. The government works hard to expand its knowledge of terrorist activities and to protect America from terrorist attacks. It is crucial for the government, and the people of the United States to identify ways to reduce the threat of terrorism.

This can occur in many ways, including more background checks of people who enter this country, more security at our borders, increasing intelligence gathering in countries that support terrorists, make it easy, or offer rewards, for citizen's to report suspected terrorist activities, educating people on what to look for, and working with other countries governments to eliminate the threat of terrorism.

A group that has been on everyone's mind lately is the terrorist group called al-Qaeda. The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks has stated that al-Qaeda is responsible for many terrorist attacks against the citizens, the government, and military forces of the United States and many other locations around the world (Wikipedia). Osama bin Laden is one of the founders of the al-Qaeda organization and has been held responsible for the September 11th attacks and many other attacks world wide.

The Department of Homeland Security is trying hard everyday to make terrorist movements a thing of the past. The department follows a six-point agenda. The first point is to increase overall preparedness. Since the terrorist attack on 9-11, the United States has increased security in all government and government related buildings and has better prepared and trained employees to know what to do in case of a terrorist attack. The second point is to create better transportation security systems. Since 9-11, the government has increased security at all airports, train stations, and subways. The third point is to strengthen border security to enforce immigration laws. The American government does not want anyone entering the United States who could be a threat to the American public. Currently, the government is trying to enact laws to make sure that illegal immigrants are either departed or are on a path to become legal U.S. citizens. The fourth point is to enhance information sharing among partners. This point helps establish better communication because that is a key to stay safe. When all anti-terrorist groups combine and share information it becomes possible for the groups to protect one another. The fifth point is to improve financial management, human resources and to improve technology. This point helps the government continue to fight terrorism to the best of its ability. The sixth, and last point, is to realign the Department of Homeland Security organization to maximize mission performance. There needs to be more communication between the different divisions of Homeland Security so good decisions are made and we have the greatest chance of stopping terrorists before they strike (Department of Homeland Security).

As a way to help stop terrorism, the government passed the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act is an act to help protect people against terrorism. There are many parts to this act. The act allows law enforcement to gather information on the criminals and their supporters, destroy immediate dangers, and to plan arrests, before letting the terrorist know. This allows the government to convict

the terrorists before they have time to leave the scene of the crime. The act also allows investigators to receive business records in order to convict terrorists. For example, they can receive records from banks to see who the people are that are aiding the terrorists. The Patriot Act allows investigators to receive search warrants to search not only where the terrorist act was carried out, but also where the terrorist act was planned. Also, the government now punishes people who house terrorists, punishes terrorists who attack transit systems, and also punishes bioterrorists (Department of Justice).

Even though the United States has many precautions against terrorists, many more can be put into place. Traveling by airplane is a very common way of transportation. America has done a lot to secure the safety of the airplane passengers, yet more can be done. Airlines must train their attendants to be aware of terrorists and be prepared with knowledge of what to do once a terrorist is encountered. Individual pilots must think of ways to have flight attendants alert them when they sense signs of danger and airlines must also provide a way to alert the airport of possible dangers without the attacker knowing. Also, Requirements for passports should be changed. A thorough background check should be done before one can receive a passport. Thousands of people come to the United States each year. The border patrol needs to be stricter on who they let into the United States. By controlling who is allowed to enter the U.S. many job opportunities would be created. It would cost a lot of money, but would save lives. Many people come to the United States on a one-month visa for education or work. The government needs to pay attention to these people to make sure they are not staying longer then they are supposed to. People should be forced to check in periodically and provide contact information so the government can ensure that they are still legally in this country. If people cannot provide this information, they should not be allowed into the country or should be deported immediately. Another option would be to issue a national identity card, much like a state drivers license so that any policeman, citizen, could verify if the person is in the country legally.

The government handles many pressures every day and should be rewarded for that. Yet, government officials must always stay on top of things and communicate with all levels of government while keeping up with current technology. America is a truly an amazing country with a lot more potential.

#### RECOGNIZING HARRY BROERMANN

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 21, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Harry Broermann. Over the past 70 years, Harry has served dutifully as a member and Leader in Missouri 4-H. Harry joined the Farmer City 4-H Club as a young boy and has continued his service to the organization over the last 70 years.

In taking over the leadership of the Farmer City 4-H Club that was founded by his father, Harry and his wife served over hundreds of children and young adults in Northwest Missouri. Harry led the organization in the completion of service projects, organization of social functions, and has attended meetings all throughout Missouri. With a passion for history and genealogy, Harry has been instrumental