

RECOGNIZING ALS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, this week I met with Steve Kennedy and Kyle Robertson, both from my home county of Jones County, Mississippi. We discussed ALS—also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease—funding and awareness. May is ALS Awareness Month and an opportunity for us to increase knowledge about this fatal, neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord. When these cells die, voluntary muscle control and movement ends and patients in later stages are totally paralyzed, often despite sharp and alert minds.

Steve Kennedy's father, Dr. Larry Kennedy, is the president of William Carey College—an excellent Baptist university in Mississippi. Dr. Kennedy was diagnosed with ALS in July of 2005 and had planned to announce his condition in September, until Hurricane Katrina ravaged the school, destroying the entire Gulf Coast Campus and closing the nursing school in New Orleans. After shepherding the school through that natural disaster, Dr. Kennedy again put off his announcement rescheduled for December of 2005 when the college was presented with a generous contribution. Dr. Kennedy delayed his personal concerns again, so as not to detract from the news of the gift. He finally announced his condition in the Spring of 2006. President George W. Bush greeted Dr. Kennedy and recognized his sacrifice during his recent visit to Mississippi.

Dr. Kennedy is an example of a man facing a deteriorating disease with class and dignity and resolve. He reminds us that anyone can be afflicted by this condition which has no currently known cause, cure or means of prevention. Only one drug currently is available to even treat this disease and it only prolongs life a few months. During ALS Awareness Month, I am advocating greater research investments into ALS.

Every day, on average 15 people are newly diagnosed with ALS—more than 5,400 people per year. The average life expectancy of a person with ALS is two to five years from time of diagnosis. "With recent advances in research and improved medical care, patients are able to have longer, more productive lives. But we have much left to learn about this mysterious and deadly disease."

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress will include \$5 million in the FY 2008 Federal Budget to establish a national ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to enact the ALS Registry Act. This will help identify occurrences of ALS, collect data surrounding it and examine standards of care. Promoting a better understanding of the disease will enhance the nation's efforts to find a treatment and cure. With studies indicating that ALS occurs at a greater rate in military veterans, I encourage the Department of Defense to investigate the causes and take appropriate remedial action to prevent the development of this disease among our fighting men and women. Now is the time for us to invest in seeking the causes, treatments and a cure for this disease.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2007SPEECH OF
HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the Chairman and the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee for their continued support of the Florida Everglades in the Interior Appropriations bill.

This legislation includes funding for implementation of the Modified Waters Deliveries Project. This project is critical to Everglades Restoration, and will ensure natural water flows continue through Everglades National Park.

The Florida Everglades is a unique and precious ecosystem that must be preserved for future generations. Everglades Restoration is a long-term investment that will ensure the Everglades is restored and protected.

I am pleased that the Chairman included \$69 million for Everglades Restoration, which is so critical to ensuring continuation of this vital project. The Interior share of funding combined with the appropriations made to the Army Corp of Engineers in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill will allow restoration to move forward.

I thank my colleagues from Florida for their continued support of the Florida Everglades and Restoration funding. Additionally, I would like to thank the Governor of Florida for his steadfast support of Everglades Restoration. Floridians understand the great benefit the Everglades provide not just to our ecological diversity, but also to our economy, which is so dependent upon tourism.

On behalf of myself, and the residents of Southern Florida I am so proud to represent, I thank the Chairman and his hardworking staff for their support of this funding.

RABBI JOEL WEINTRAUB

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Joel Weintraub of Berks County for his service to the Jewish Community Center and surrounding community.

Rabbi Weintraub hails from New York City, was educated at Brooklyn College and then went on to get his masters degree and Rabbinical Ordination from Yeshiva College. In 1972, the Rabbi moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey, to take charge of his first congregation. In 1982, the Rabbi moved his wife, Shirley, and their family, sons Yossi and Yissi, to Reading, Pennsylvania, and the Kesher Zion Synagogue.

Once in Reading, the Rabbi became an active member of the community. He has taught at Alvernia and Albright Colleges, being the Director of Hillel activities, and facilitated Passover Seders at both education institutions. Also, in order to promote interfaith dialogue, the Rabbi was involved in the annual Kristallnact program, spoke at local churches and schools, and gave tours of the synagogue. Additionally, Rabbi Weintraub used his dynamic personality to host radio and television shows and write articles for both secular and Jewish newspapers.

When not hosting Bible studies, Shabbat dinners, and teaching Hebrew School, the Rabbi enjoys being able to pursue his hobbies that include racquetball, swimming, and reading.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in me today in honoring Rabbi Joel Weintraub for his outstanding dedication and service to Berks county and the Jewish Community Center.

SALUTING CHARLES YOUNG

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I ask Congress to join me in saluting the life and legacy of Mississippi State Representative Charles Young for his 25 years of elected public service. Charles has put his stamp on state's educational system as Chairman of the Universities and Colleges Committee. And his impact on his hometown of Meridian, and indeed across the state, as a seminal player in our civil rights movement, cannot be overstated.

Over the years, Charles and I have partnered on initiatives to benefit East Mississippi: economic development projects, educational improvement goals, and renewal and arts endeavors like the Meridian Grand Opera House. His faith and commitment to state and country have empowered him to make a real difference through service in the lives of his neighbors and in the fabric of his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is totally fitting that tomorrow night I will join other members of the Mississippi Delegation, local and state officials, as well as community leaders and activists in honoring Charles Young as part of the Carnegie Library Renovation Project. It is my wish to take with me the well wishes and congratulations of this Congress to this longtime public servant. I hope you all will join me today—so that I might extend that unity of national goodwill to him tomorrow—in saluting Representative Charles Young.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF
FIREFIGHTING HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Madison Fire Department in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent. On May 20, 2006 the good citizens of Madison will celebrate the Fire Department's 125th Anniversary with a family picnic.

The Madison Fire Department was incorporated on May 23, 1881, "for the purpose of protecting life and property from fire". Prior to this time, the Morristown Fire Department responded to their calls for assistance. In 1882, the Firemen's Relief Association was incorporated "for the purpose of relieving disabled or indigent firemen," and the first hose cart was purchased.

The Fire Department was placed under the authority of the Borough of Madison Mayor and Council in 1890. After a municipal water system was established, a hose cart with 800 feet of hose was purchased for \$700.

In 1903, a new fire headquarters was built at the corner of Central Avenue and Cook Avenue. A Gamewell Alarm System was installed throughout the Borough of Madison in 1909 and the boxes were in use until 1990. In 1935, the Hartley Marcellus Dodge Memorial building was dedicated and occupied. Present day fire headquarters are still in this building.

Today, the Borough of Madison's Fire Department Chief is Douglas Atchison. He commands 14 paid and 20 active volunteer firefighters, serving 16,500 residents in a four-square mile area. Construction of a new fire and police facility has begun with an expected completion date of early 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Borough of Madison Fire Department and all their firefighters, past and present, on the celebration of 125 years of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, I voted for H. Res. 802 but unfortunately, the computer did not record my vote. I proudly support H. Res. 802, which encouraged all eligible Medicare beneficiaries who had not yet elected to enroll in the new Medicare Part D benefit to review the available options and to determine whether enrollment in a Medicare prescription drug plan best meets their current and future needs for prescription drug coverage. Please let the record show that had the computer recorded my vote, I would have voted in favor of the Resolution.

Almost 80 percent of the seniors in my district have signed up for the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. For the first time in history, seniors are saving up to 75 percent on their prescription drug costs, and constituents who are very happy with their plan repeatedly stop me. Most had a favorable experience when enrolling, and I hope that many others will join when the open enrollment begins again.

RABBI YOSEF LIPSKER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Yosef Lipsker of Berks County for

his service to the Jewish Community Center and surrounding community.

Rabbi Lipsker was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. The Rabbi received his formal training at Yeshiva, New York and continued his education as a student Rabbi in Sydney, Australia. The Rabbi continued a long family tradition of dedication to faith and community.

In 1997, the Rabbi moved his wife Chana and their seven children; Chaya, Seldi, Menachem, Sherna, Sholom, Zalman, and Hudi; to Reading, Pennsylvania. The Rabbi believes that food, faith, and fellowship bring a community together and invites the local community to events such as the Lag B'omer barbecue picnic, the Shavuot Ice Cream Party, and the legendary Matzah Bakery program where couples from Jewish community join the Rabbi on a walking tour of Brooklyn's many eateries. The Rabbi also organizes and holds Chanukah concerts at the Berkshire Mall and the Chanukah on Ice Program for the entire community. The Rabbi does not just bring the community together for holidays, but he uses various speakers and programs to facilitate interfaith dialogue.

Teaming together with Boscov's Department Store, and the Reading Hospital, the Rabbi offers intercommunity relationship classes. Rabbi Yosef understands the importance of bringing the entire community together to learn more about the traditional Judaism and its role in everyday life. When not working in the community, the Rabbi volunteers at the Caron Foundation and welcomes Jewish patients at Caron, together with and members of the local community, to his home for weekly Shabbat dinners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Rabbi Yosef Lipsker for his outstanding dedication and service to Berks County, the Jewish Community Center, and the Caron Foundation.

BREAST CANCER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recently met a young woman, a constituent, visiting Washington on behalf of the Los Angeles Breast Cancer Coalition. Stefanie LaRue, of Marina del Rey, was recently diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic breast cancer. This is the most advanced stage of the disease, where the cancerous cells have spread beyond the breast and surrounding lymph nodes.

Despite having just undergone treatment, Stefanie had come to Washington to tell me her story and to advocate for breast cancer research. She said to me, "I just want to do my best to be a voice for women with breast cancer." Her inner strength and grace in the face of a very difficult battle are an inspiration, and a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. I deeply admire her courage, and the way she fearlessly allowed the world to see her beautiful hairless head!

Stefanie is one of 200,000 American women diagnosed with invasive breast cancer each year. What is particularly troubling about her case is that she is only 31 years old. She has

no family history of breast cancer. She is a vibrant young woman whose lifestyle prior to the onset of the disease was the embodiment of good health.

We know that certain lifestyles and hereditary factors contribute to the onset of breast cancer. But there is also troubling evidence that environmental factors, such as exposure to certain toxins, may affect a woman's chances of developing the disease. Common pesticides, widely accepted agricultural methods, and even chemicals in everyday household items may contribute to breast cancer. We need to understand these linkages better.

Understanding the causes of the disease is a critical step toward developing strategies for prevention, and ultimately, a cure. That's why it is so critical that the House pass H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. The legislation, which was introduced by my colleagues NITA LOWEY and SUE MYRICK, will make grants to research the effects of environmental factors on the incidence of breast cancer.

After decades of research, there is still no known cause, prevention or cure for breast cancer. Every year, over 40,000 women die of the disease. Congress must do what it can to prevent more women from becoming a statistic. I urge my colleagues to pass the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act.

H.R. 2231, THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) and the 3 million women living with breast cancer in the country today, and urge my colleagues to push for passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (H.R. 2231) by the end of this year.

Too many mothers, daughters, wives, and sisters are dying from breast cancer and we will not end this disease until we find out what causes it. H.R. 2231 would go a long way towards finding out what causes breast cancer and how to prevent it.

It is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, but the extent of that role is not fully understood. More research needs to be done in this area since it has been understudied in the past.

H.R. 2231 would authorize \$30 million per year for 5 years for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to award grants to study the relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer. The targeted research holds the promise for a better understanding of the causes of breast cancer, breakthroughs in prevention and treatment, and ultimately perhaps a cure.

Furthermore, this bill would create a new mechanism for environmental health research, and provide a unique process by which up to eight centers would be developed to study environmental factors and their impact on breast cancer. Modeled after the highly successful Breast Cancer Research Program, it would include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.