

STATEMENT OF ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF H.R. 810

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the 1 year anniversary of House passage of H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Enhancement Act. Hundreds of patients, their loved ones, and advocates were here to remind the other body that we are still waiting for this research to move forward. We have not forgotten.

Every day scientists are breaking new ground in the study of stem cells and bringing new hope and possibility to finding cures for a variety of diseases. Parkinson's disease affects over 1 million Americans, and I am one of those patients. Parkinson's affects every day of my life.

When I was first diagnosed with this dreadful disease, I was told I would have been able to effectively manage my symptoms for a number of years. Unfortunately, in recent months, the symptoms have become more bothersome, and I have announced plans to retire at the end of this Congress. The decision to retire was a very sad one for me because I believe strongly in serving people.

But Parkinson's will not keep me down. I have been overwhelmed by the encouraging letters I have received from my constituents, colleagues and friends, veterans, and well-wishers from across the Nation. I am heartened by your calls and e-mails.

I have said before that having Parkinson's has made me a better Congressman, and it's true. I know first hand what people go through when battling illness or injury. This is why it is so important to pass a bill that will allow us to perform research on more stem cell lines.

It is past time to allow researchers and doctors access to study these important cells. Because embryonic stem cells are the only cells that have the ability to turn into any cell in the body, their potential should not be ignored. They hold not just the potential to provide direct treatments and cures for today's debilitating injuries and illnesses, but they hold the key to unlocking our understanding of how the body works at the most fundamental level.

Mr. Speaker, I will say again: Parkinson's will not keep me down. But as I know first hand, the millions of Americans and their families want research accelerated now. The other body may have not acted yet to pass the stem cell bill, but we have not forgotten. We are hopeful the other body will take this bill up in short order and in turn provide hope for these courageous people.

A MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO
NEW YORK'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the observance of Memorial Day, 2006, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying posthumous tribute to the 2,459 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the Iraq War.

These brave men and women came from every State as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Washington, DC, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

Whatever our views may be on the war, we salute these fallen heroes for their patriotism, sacrifice and bravery. We thank their families and mourn with them, and promise that we will never forget the contributions of their loved ones.

Whether Democrat or Republican, supporter or opponent of the war, we honor those who have given their lives with the deepest gratitude and heartfelt compassion. COL. Geoffrey Slack of New York's Fighting 69th who lost 19 men under his command in Iraq said it well:

The vast majority of Americans have it right. Regardless of their thoughts about the war, most have separated the soldiers from the policies of Washington. I can't tell you how much that means. The average young man or woman who goes to serve in Iraq has nothing to do with policy. They just go and do what they're asked to do.

As the dean of the New York State congressional delegation, I have enclosed a roster of New Yorkers who have given their lives in Iraq. Also listed is a State-by-State numerical accounting of the deceased.

NEW YORK STATE FALLEN HEROES (AS OF MAY 22, 2006)

City/county of NY, rank, name, and date: Airmont, Corporal, Vahaviolos, Steve, 11-May-06; Albany, Sergeant, Sacco, Dominic J. 20-Nov-05; Baldwin, Private 1st Class, Urbina, Wilfredo F., 29-Nov-04.

Bay Shore, Private 1st Class, Heighter, Raheen Tyson, 24-Jul-03; Bay Shore, Private 1st Class, Fletcher, Jacob S., 13-Nov-03; Bloomingburg, Private 1st Class, Vonronn, Kenneth G., 06-Jan-05; Brentwood, Specialist, Ruiz, Jose L., 15-Aug-05.

Bronx, Commander, Acevedo, Joseph, 13-Apr-03; Private 1st Class, Moreno, Luis A., 29-Jan-04; Sergeant, Engeldrum, Christian P., 29-Nov-04; Staff Sergeant, Irizarry, Henry E., 03-Dec-04; Specialist, Martinez, Victor A., 14-Dec-04; Sergeant, Swindell, Nathaniel T., 15-Jan-05; Corporal, Valdez, Ramona M., 23-Jun-05.

Brooklyn, Lance Corporal, White, William Wayne, 29-Mar-03; Specialist, Sahib, Rasheed, 18-May-03; Private 1st Class, Johnson, Rayshawn S., 03-Nov-03; Sergeant, Jimenez, Linda C., 08-Nov-03; Specialist, Akintade, Segun Frederick, 28-Oct-04; Sergeant, Calderon, Pablo A., 30-Nov-04; Corporal, Behnke, Joseph O., 04-Dec-04; Staff Sergeant, Melo, Julian S., 21-Dec-04; Sergeant, Lozada Jr., Angelo L., 16-Apr-05; Sergeant, Hornedo, Manny, 28-Jun-05; 1st Sergeant, Mendez, Bobby, 27-Apr-06.

Buffalo, Lance Corporal, Orlowski, Eric James, 22-Mar-03; Private 1st Class, Burkett, Tamario Demetrice, 23-Mar-03; Private, Evans Jr., David, 25-May-03; Specialist, Williams, Michael L., 17-Oct-03; Private 1st Class, Bush Jr., Charles E., 19-Dec-03; Sergeant, McKeever, David M., 05-Apr-04; Specialist, LeBrun, Jeff, 01-Jan-05; Specialist, Pfister, Jacob M., 19-Apr-05.

Canandaigua, Sergeant, McMillin, Heath A., 27-Jul-03; Corning, Gunnery Sergeant, Lane, Shawn A., 28-Jul-04; Sergeant, Pusateri, Christopher M., 16-Feb-05.

Delmar/Albany, Captain, Moshier, Timothy J., 01-Apr-06; Depew/Cheektowaga, Sergeant, Gasiewicz, Cari Anne, 04-Dec-04; Douglaston, Specialist, Ling, Roger G., 19-Feb-04; East Islip, Specialist, Pope II, Robert C., 07-Nov-05; East North Port, Chief Warrant Officer 4, Engeman, John W., 14-May-06; Elizaville, Staff Sergeant, Robsky Jr., Joseph E., 10-Sep-03.

Elmsford, Private 1st Class, Arciola, Michael A., 15-Feb-05; Forestport, Private 1st Class, Huxley Jr., Gregory Paul, 06-Apr-03; Garden City, 2nd Lieutenant, Licalzi, Michael L., 11-May-06; Glen Oaks, Lance Corporal, Postal, Michael V., 07-May-05; Hammond, Sergeant, Friedrich, David Travis, 20-Sep-03; Hauppauge, Lance Corporal, Kremm, Jared J., 27-Oct-05.

Hempstead, Specialist, Sage, Lance S., 27-Dec-05; Hicksville, Corporal, Kolm, Kevin T., 13-Apr-04; Highland, Sergeant, Williams, Eugene, 29-Mar-03; Specialist, Chan, Doron, 18-Mar-04; Jamestown, Private, Cooper Jr., Charles S., 29-Apr-05; Jamestown/Celoron, Sergeant, Matteson, James C. "J.C.", 12-Nov-04.

Jericho, 1st Lieutenant, Lynch, Matthew D., 31-Oct-04; Jordan, Staff Sergeant, Reynolds, Steven C., 24-Nov-05; Lewis, Corporal, Davey, Seamus M., 21-Oct-05; Lowville, Corporal, Cannan, Kelly M., 20-Apr-05; Mastic, Specialist, Wilwerth, Thomas J., 22-Feb-06; Middle Village, Staff Sergeant, McNaughton, James D., 02-Aug-05.

Middletown, Specialist, Medina, Irving, 14-Nov-03; Middletown, Specialist, González, Carlos M., 16-Mar-06; Monroe, Petty Officer 1st Class, Pernaselli, Michael J., 24-Apr-04; Mt. Vernon, Corporal, Gooden, Bernard George, 04-Apr-03; New Windsor, Corporal, Tremblay, Joseph S., 27-Apr-05.

New York, Staff Sergeant, Tejeda, Riayan Augusto, 11-Apr-03; Captain, Wood, George A., 20-Nov-03; Master Sergeant, Toney, Timothy, 27-Mar-04; Lance Corporal, Gavriel, Dimitrios, 19-Nov-04; Lieutenant Colonel, Crowe, Terrence K., 07-Jun-05; Sergeant, Floyd Jr., Clarence L., 10-Dec-05; Specialist, Mercedes Saez, Sergio A., 05-Feb-06; Staff Sergeant, Lewis, Dwayne Peter R., 27-Feb-06; Newark Valley, Petty Officer 3rd Class, Wilson, Nicholas, 12-Feb-06.

Niagara Falls, Staff Sergeant, Bass, Aram J., 23-Nov-05; North Creek, Staff Sergeant, Kimmerly, Kevin C., 15-Sep-03; North Merrick, Specialist, Bandhold, Scott M., 12-Apr-06; North White Plains, Private 1st Class, Cuming, Kevin A., 21-Aug-04.

Orchard Park/W. Seneca, Specialist, Roustum, David L., 20-Nov-04; Philadelphia, Sergeant 1st Class, Howe, Casey E., 26-Sep-05; Port Chester, Lance Corporal, Sanchez Jr., Efrain, 17-Jul-05; Purchase, Specialist, Kalladeen, Anthony N., 08-Aug-05.

Queens, Corporal, Rodriguez, Robert Marcus, 27-Mar-03; Lance Corporal, Lam, Jeffrey, 08-Nov-04; Private 1st Class, Obaji, Francis C., 02-Mar-05; Specialist, Ali, Azhar, 02-Mar-05; Specialist, Lwin, Wai Pyoe, 08-Aug-05; Private 1st Class, Rios, Hernando, 17-Sep-05; Staff Sergeant, Nelom, Regilio E., 01-Feb-06; Specialist, Bustamante, Marlon A., 28-Apr-06; Sergeant, Gomez, Jose, 17-Jan-05.

Rochester, Chief Warrant Officer (CW3), Smith, Eric Allen, 02-Apr-03; Lance Corporal, Schramm, Brian K., 15-Oct-04; Rockville Center, 1st Lieutenant, Winchester, Ronald, 03-Sep-04; Rome, Sergeant, Uvanni, Michael A., 01-Oct-04; Sackets Harbor, Lieutenant Colonel, James II, Leon G., 10-Oct-05; Schenectady, Sergeant, Robbins, Thomas D., 09-Feb-04; Scio (Allegany Co.), Corporal, Dunham, Jason L., 22-Apr-04; South Glens Falls, Private 1st Class, Brown, Nathan P., 11-Apr-04.

Stony Brook (Long Island), Petty Officer 3rd Class, Bruckenthal, Nathan B., 25-Apr-04; Suffern, Captain, Esposito, Phillip T., 08-Jun-05; Suffolk, Lance Corporal, Mateo, Ramon, 24-Sep-04; Taberg/Camden, Sergeant, Parker, Elisha R., 04-May-06; Theresa, Private 1st Class, Perez, Luis A., 27-Aug-04; Tonawanda, Staff Sergeant, Dill, Christopher W., 04-Apr-05; Unadilla, Specialist, Nieves, Isaac Michael, 08-Apr-04; Wallkill, 1st Lieutenant, Dooley, Mark H., 19-Sep-05; Waterloo, Master Sergeant, Auchman, Steven E., 09-Nov-04.

Watertown, Sergeant, West James G., 11-Jul-04; Master Sergeant, Tuliau, Tulsa T., 26-Sep-05; Sergeant 1st Class, Acevedoaponte, Ramon A., 26-Oct-05.

Watervliet/Green Island, Specialist, Fisher, David M., 01-Dec-04; West Henrietta, Specialist, Koch, Matthew A., 09-Mar-05; West Seneca, Specialist, Baker, Brian K., 07-Nov-04.

White Lake, Sergeant, Dima, Catalin D., 13-Nov-04; Whitestone, Private 1st Class, Prevete, James E., 10-Oct-04; Williamsville, Private 1st Class, Shuster, Benjamin C., 25-Feb-06.

NUMERICAL ACCOUNTING OF IRAQ WAR FATALITIES BY STATE (AS OF MAY 22, 2006)

Alabama, 42; Alaska, 9; American Samoa, 5; Arizona, 58; Arkansas, 31; California, 254; Colorado, 33.

Connecticut, 19; Delaware, 11; District of Columbia, 3; Florida, 108; Georgia, 75; Guam, 3; Hawaii, 12.

Idaho, 15; Illinois, 94; Indiana, 49; Iowa, 29; Kansas, 25; Kentucky, 41; Louisiana, 57.

Maine, 12; Maryland, 40; Massachusetts, 36; Michigan, 82; Minnesota, 31; Mississippi, 35; Missouri, 41.

Montana, 10; Nebraska, 23; Nevada, 20; New Hampshire, 10; New Jersey, 43; New Mexico, 17; New York, 117.

North Carolina, 55; North Dakota, 10; Northern Mariana Islands, 3; Ohio, 109; Oklahoma, 42; Oregon, 37; Pennsylvania, 121.

Puerto Rico, 22; Rhode Island, 9; South Carolina, 35; South Dakota, 17; Tennessee, 52; Texas, 217; Utah, 12.

Vermont, 16; Virgin Islands, 3; Virginia, 75; Washington, 46; West Virginia, 17; Wisconsin, 55; Wyoming, 6.

Source: iCasualties.org

COMMEMORATING LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to rise today in recognition of the sesquicentennial of San Francisco's Lowell High School. The oldest public high school west of the Mississippi River, Lowell has now maintained its stellar reputation for excellence for a remarkable 150 years.

Lowell High School, originally named Union Grammar School, was established in 1856 by the San Francisco School Board. It was the first public secondary school in California. In 1894, the school was renamed to honor the distinguished poet, James Russell Lowell. Over the years, Lowell has relocated its campus twice to accommodate more students. It has occupied its current location near Lake Merced since 1962.

For one and a half centuries, Lowell High School has been a model of academic excellence. Lowell has been recognized as one of the best public schools in the Nation by numerous magazines, including Money, Parade, and Town and Country. This year, Newsweek ranked Lowell 26th among all public high schools in the Nation. The College Board ranked Lowell sixth in the number of Advanced Placement examinations administered in 1996; the school was ranked eighth in 1994. Lowell is also a three-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award.

Today, we honor and thank all current and former faculty and staff who have challenged

and inspired generations of students to reach their full potential. Lowell's magnificent educators have helped their students achieve the highest level of learning and cultivate the strengths needed to succeed. Lowell produces determined students who matriculate at some of our country's most prestigious universities. Lowell's graduates are well equipped to assume the grave responsibility of making the world a better place.

We must also pay tribute to Paul Cheng for a lifetime of academic leadership, including 16 years as principal of Lowell High School. His contributions to San Francisco's schools and students are extraordinary.

San Franciscans take pride in Lowell's mission to foster an environment of superior learning while maintaining the cultural and social diversity that we respect and embrace. I am proud that San Francisco is the home of this impressive academic institution. Let us all join in celebrating and congratulating Lowell on its 150 years of loyal dedication to our Nation's youth.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" GRALNICK

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the retirement of a great leader in American Jewish community, the Southeast Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee, AJC, William "Bill" Gralnick.

For the past two decades, Bill Gralnick has championed Jewish causes and promoted inter-religious dialogue in south Florida. He has built bridges with the Christian and Muslim communities, advocated for strengthened U.S.-Israel relations, and combated anti-Semitism and intolerance in all its forms. He has brought south Florida law enforcement officials together with local clergy, and arranged for exchanges between Israeli security experts and local police. The exemplary work of the AJC in south Florida is a testament to Bill's commitment, and I thank him for his unwavering dedication, spirit and resolve.

Today, I congratulate Bill Gralnick on his years of achievement with the AJC. Bill has been a beacon of leadership in south Florida, and his efforts have benefited the Jewish community both in our area and beyond. Bill has set a shining example for future generations, and I wish him "mazel tov" and much future success.

PRESIDENT CARTER'S THOUGHTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to consider the thoughts of former President Jimmy Carter on achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East.

[From the Nation, May 25, 2006]
HOUSE VOTE HARMS PALESTINE, ISRAEL, U.S.
(By John Nichols)

Jimmy Carter has been blunt: Despite the fact of a Palestinian election result that was not to their liking, the former president says, "it is unconscionable for Israel, the United States and others under their influence to continue punishing the innocent and already persecuted people of Palestine."

Since the political wing of the militant group Hamas swept parliamentary elections in Palestine, the U.S. and Israel have been trying to use economic pressure to force a change of course. Disregarding the democracy that President Bush says he wants to promote in the Middle East, the U.S. has sanctioned policies that have fostered chaos on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and created increasingly harsh conditions for people who have known more than their share of suffering.

"Innocent Palestinian people are being treated like animals, with the presumption that they are guilty of some crime," argues Carter, a Nobel Peace Prize winner whose involvement in the Middle East peace process has extended across three decades. "Because they voted for candidates who are members of Hamas, the United States government has become the driving force behind an apparently effective scheme of depriving the general public of income, access to the outside world and the necessities of life."

Instead of checking and balancing the president's misguided approach to an election result that displeased him, Congress has added fuel to the fire.

By a lopsided vote of 361 to 37, the House voted Tuesday for the so-called "Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act," a measure so draconian that even the Bush administration has opposed it.

The legislation, which still must be reconciled with a similar measure passed by the Senate, would cut off all assistance to the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, and place conditions on humanitarian assistance delivered directly to the Palestinians by non-government organizations. Presidential spokesman Tony Snow, in restating the White House's opposition to the measure says that it "unnecessarily constrains" the flow of essential assistance—food, fresh water, medicine—in a manner that does, indeed, "tie the president's hand" when it comes to providing humanitarian aid.

It also has the potential to encourage, rather than restrain, violence.

Representative Earl Blumenauer, an Oregon Democrat who was one of the few members of the House to argue against the legislation, correctly explained that the approach endorsed by most of his colleagues will strengthen the hand of Palestinian extremists.

"It does little to prioritize on the basis of our strategic interests, and provides no prospect for Palestinian reform coming through the process of negotiations," Blumenauer said of the legislation. "In so doing, it weakens the hands of those who advocate for peace negotiations, and supports those extremists who believe in violence."

Debra DeLee, President and CEO of Americans for Peace Now, which works closely with Israeli groups seeking a peaceful settlement of tensions with the Palestinians, calls the bill "an exercise in overreaching" that will undercut American national security needs, Israeli interests, and hope for the Palestinian people, if it's ever signed into law. "We urged the House to craft legislation that was focused and flexible enough to allow the U.S. to respond to Hamas' election victory in a firm, yet responsible, manner," explained a frustrated DeLee. "But by failing