

that place would be Changing Hands bookstore.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 U.S.
PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2007 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After taking a preliminary exam, 200 high school students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a ten-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving hosted by the University of Maryland. Five of these exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in a tremendous international competition in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Isfahan, Iran.

The 24 members of the 2007 team include: Erik Anson, Sophie Cai, Tucker Chan, Joseph Chu, Benjamin Connell, Kenan Diab, Nicholas Dou, YingYu Gao, Kenneth Hu, Rui Hu, Sunny Kam, Jenny Kwan, Jason LaRue, Allen Lin, Andy Lucas, Sarah Marzen, Kynan Rilee, Aleksandra Stankiewicz, Philip Streich, Arvind Thiagarajan, Philip Tynan, Haofei Wei, James Yang, and Danny Zhu.

I commend the American Institute of Physics and the American Association of Physics Teachers for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students. I know that for every finalist represented here, there are numerous colleagues and parents who have provided tireless support to help them reach this point. As a former physics professor, I also am well-aware that this level of achievement is usually backed by a host of exceptional teachers dedicated to their profession and to educating individual students. I hope each of the Olympiad finalists will make a point of thanking and recognizing the teachers that have guided them over the years.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) practitioners are very important to our national competitiveness. I imagine that many of these students will become leaders in the science and engineering community in the future. While they represent the pinnacle of physics achievement in high school, I believe Congress must work to improve the opportunities in STEM education for all students, even those who may not choose scientifically-based careers. Making sure our teachers are well-equipped to teach science and math is very important in fostering the interest of future generations in these subjects because every job will soon require a basic understanding of math and science.

I am very pleased that these students take time away from their purely scientific endeavors to meet with their legislators in Washington. I believe it is very important for scientists to engage with politicians regarding the impact that science and technology can have on issues such as national security, climate

change, and healthcare. Furthermore, I hope some of these students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world. I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top 5 the best of success as they represent the United States in Iran.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF FERS
REDEPOSIT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there is no debate over whether the Federal Government is facing a workforce shortage crisis—it is. In 10 years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

I am writing to ask for your support for a bill I will re-introduce that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the Federal Government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS.

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work for the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to reentering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the Federal Government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to government service.

Now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING CHRIS CLARK'S 41-YEAR
CAREER AT WTVF-CHANNEL 5

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Clark on his retirement from WTVF-Channel 5 after 41 years of service.

During a segment before his retirement on Wednesday, May 23, after the 6 p.m. newscast, Chris seemed surprised at the outpouring of well wishes he received via e-mail from hundreds of viewers who considered him as part of their family after all the years he had been on air. Indeed, it's rare for a person in broadcast to stay in one place for 41 years.

Chris will be remembered for encouraging Channel 5 to switch from recorded interviews to live on-site reports, making the station only the second in the Nation to use the technology at that time. But he may be more famous for giving Oprah Winfrey her first television job in 1974.

Chris, I wish you well as you head into retirement. I understand you are a self-described movie nut and that you will soon take a well-deserved vacation in Florida with your family. I hope you have many more opportunities to travel and watch movies in your unscripted life.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S
TRAUMA SYSTEMS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the important role of our Nation's trauma systems. On March 27, 2007, this Chamber passed legislation I sponsored to reauthorize the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act. This important legislation was signed into law on May 3, 2007. However, while the bill awaited the President's signature, the Nation observed the critical importance of trauma systems and the role they played in ensuring that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine received the quick and efficient health care he needed to survive injuries he sustained during an April 12 traffic accident.

I would request that this New York Times article entitled "In Corzine's Fast Recovery, Doctors Cite Timing, Grit and Luck" be inserted in the RECORD. This article outlines the important role that the Camden, New Jersey area's trauma system—and particularly its Level I Trauma Center, Cooper University Hospital—played in Governor Corzine's treatment.

[From The New York Times, May 13, 2007]

IN CORZINE'S FAST RECOVERY, DOCTORS CITE
TIMING, GRIT AND LUCK

(By Lawrence K. Altman)

An article on Sunday about the extensive medical care that Gov. Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey received at Cooper University Hospital in Camden after a traffic accident on April 12 misstated the date of Mr. Corzine's release in some copies. It was April 30, not May 1.

CAMDEN, N.J.—Dr. Steven E. Ross was about to perform an appendectomy shortly before 7 p.m. on a routine Thursday when a nurse paged him to say the governor of New Jersey had suffered an open femur fracture and severe chest injuries and was about to land on the helipad atop Cooper University Hospital here.

"Quite honestly, I didn't believe it," said Dr. Ross, who directs the level one, or most highly accredited, trauma center at the hospital. But he immediately alerted security guards and the public relations staff so they would "keep people out of my hair" and help him avoid "the distractions" that can interfere with the care of V.I.P.'s.

Dr. Robert F. Ostrum was watching the Phillies-Mets game on television at his home just across the Delaware River in Philadelphia that Thursday, April 12, when an announcer interrupted to say that Gov. Jon S. Corzine was being flown to Cooper.

In his 25-year career, Dr. Ostrum, the chief trauma orthopedist at the hospital, had repaired about 800 femur fractures, including 200 open ones. He called his colleagues and said he would come in, in part because of the patient's prominence.

So began the medical odyssey to which Mr. Corzine, 60, owes his life. He was not wearing a seat belt while riding in a state vehicle clocked at 91 miles per hour and nearly became one of the more than 43,000 people a year who die in car crashes in the United States.

Instead, after 11 days in intensive care, eight of them on a ventilator, and three operations on his leg, Mr. Corzine was released from the hospital on April 30 and resumed his official duties as governor six days later.

In their first extensive interviews, doctors and nurses who treated Mr. Corzine here attributed his amazingly fast recovery to his speedy arrival at a trauma center, his grit in overcoming severe pain to begin rehabilitation, and luck.

Mr. Corzine still needs strong painkillers that can impair judgment, but he has not allowed the doctors to disclose the drugs' names or share his X-rays or medical chart. He has also refused *The New York Times's* repeated requests for interviews.

But in lengthy conversations with this reporter, who is a physician, the medical team that saved his life revealed many new details about Mr. Corzine's injuries, his treatment and the first three and a half weeks of his recovery.

Over the first 24 hours in the hospital, Mr. Corzine received 12 pints of blood, an amount roughly equivalent to the total blood volume in his body. Most of the bleeding was internal, into muscles and the chest from 15 broken bones.

But because the blood was replaced as he lost it, he avoided shock, a key way in which immediate trauma care saves lives.

The jagged femur had torn through his thigh muscles and skin to create an open wound six and a half inches long—"By our standards it was pretty large," Dr. Ostrum said—and to repair it, doctors had to insert a titanium rod through the center of the broken bones and screw them in place.

When Dr. Ostrum found that the longest rod was too short for Mr. Corzine's femur, he added an extension. "I didn't shorten him," he recalled, smiling.

The day after the accident, Mr. Corzine's family brought specialists in trauma and orthopedics from New York University to review his case.

In the coming days, with Mr. Corzine unable to speak because of the tube connecting his windpipe to the ventilator, David Donaghy, a nurse, read his lips as one way to respond to his wishes for more pain medication or ice water.

And when Mr. Corzine could talk again after a week of semiconsciousness, the chief topics of conversation were baseball and the New Jersey Devils hockey team, the doctors said.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

About 500 of Cooper's 2,500 trauma cases each year arrive via the helipad, with its view of the Philadelphia skyline. As they waited for Governor Corzine to land on April 12, Dr. Ross, a trauma nurse, a nurse anesthetist, a respiratory therapist and an emergency medical technician received word that he was conscious but on oxygen because of difficulty breathing due to his chest injuries.

Intravenous fluids helped maintain his blood pressure. Emergency workers had splinted his damaged leg.

When he arrived at 7:03 p.m., the team talked with him as they wheeled him to a nearby resuscitation area for a quick examination.

By 7:10, on the first-floor resuscitation unit, Dr. Ross asked more detailed questions about what hurt him, his general medical condition and what drugs he routinely took.

"Do what you have to do," Mr. Corzine told him, Dr. Ross recalled.

An anesthesiologist injected sodium pentothal, a rapidly acting barbiturate, to put Mr. Corzine to sleep, and succinylcholine, a muscle relaxant, to allow doctors to quickly insert a tube in his windpipe and connect it to a mechanical respirator.

Hospital aides wheeled Mr. Corzine to the basement for CAT scans looking for evidence of brain damage; tears in the aorta, the body's main artery; or damage to the heart, lungs, spleen, liver and intestines.

Mr. Corzine escaped those problems. But he had a number of fractures: the femur, sternum, a collarbone, a vertebra and 11 ribs. The broken ribs were in the central area of the chest, six on the left side and five on the right. Two of the ribs on the left were broken in two places.

An enormous force is needed to break the thick sternum and that many ribs in a chest cage that is designed to protect the heart and lungs. Dr. Ross, who has treated about 100 patients with injuries like Mr. Corzine's, said the governor was "just lucky" to have escaped heart and lung damage.

At 8:30 p.m., Dr. Ostrum began repairing the femur. Aligning the pieces was difficult because the bone was broken in two places, leaving one piece floating and unattached.

"Normally, you take the hip on one end and the knee on the other and put them back together again like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle," Dr. Ostrum explained. "When you get more pieces it gets more difficult."

In the three-hour operation, Dr. Ostrum removed as much dead muscle and other tissue as possible to help prevent infection. The thigh wound needed to be cleaned in two additional surgical procedures, on April 14 and 16.

About midnight that first Thursday, Dr. Ostrum and Dr. Ross met with two of Mr. Corzine's three children, advising them that he was in critical condition.

"All of us thought he would survive," Dr. Ostrum said. He did not "paint a bleak picture," he said, adding, "but I wanted them to understand the severity of the injuries."

There were potential fatal complications: pneumonia; other infections; acute respiratory distress syndrome; blood clots in the leg that could travel to the lungs or other organs and cause emergencies, if not sudden death. "It's counterproductive to tell somebody everything's going to be fine, and then when you do have problems, hear, 'Doctor, you told us everything was going to be fine,'" Dr. Ross said. "I would rather tell them about the realities and have everybody happy when things go well."

Mr. Corzine's children were "not in any mental state to ask specific medical questions at that point," he said, adding: "They were pretty distraught. They wanted to see him as soon as they could."

After talking with the family, the doctors reluctantly participated in a news conference at the request of Mr. Corzine's aides. They said they were hesitant in part because of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which prohibits the release of a patient's medical information without explicit permission. At the time, Mr. Corzine was under heavy sedation.

ONE MORE FRACTURE

The first week was the diceiest, with Mr. Corzine, who was in an isolation room for security reasons, using a mechanical ventilator because in one small area the broken ribs were unable to help the lungs expand, creating what is known as a flail chest.

The doctors still did not know whether Mr. Corzine was paralyzed. So they reduced the amount of sedation to observe his spontaneous movements and to ask him to follow their commands. When he moved both arms and both legs, the doctors became more optimistic.

Later, they performed a fuller examination.

"We just pat them down all over to make sure we did not miss any fractures or dislocation," Dr. Ostrum said. After the swelling subsided, they found that Mr. Corzine had also dislocated the last joint in his right middle finger.

Trauma doctors measure recovery in part by what patients want to talk about and do; when patients talk about subjects other than their injuries, they take it as a sign of progress. Mr. Corzine's doctors said they were encouraged that baseball and the Devils' playoff run were among his favorite topics.

At Cooper, doctors typically take turns caring for trauma patients every day. But Dr. Ross said that as the director, he wanted "to keep an eye on things," so he accompanied the duty doctor on daily rounds, a move that could mean stepping on a colleague's toes.

"When one attending surgeon looks over another attending physician's shoulder, they get irritable," Dr. Ross said, adding with a smile, "because we all know everything."

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Once he was off the ventilator, Mr. Corzine read several newspapers each day, the doctors said, but he did not do office work in the hospital.

In considering when Mr. Corzine could resume his official duties, the two main doctors—along with Dr. Michael E. Goldberg, the anesthesiologist who controlled his pain medication—discussed the timing and criteria among themselves and with members of the governor's staff, state lawyers and the governor's personal physician, who declined to be identified.

They considered what criteria might apply to the return to work of lawyers and business executives, or of physicians like themselves who care for critically ill patients.

Paramount was the worry that Mr. Corzine's pain medication could impair his thinking.

So they interviewed him, informally testing his memory. They discussed sports and current affairs. He said he was less familiar with South Jersey than the central and northern areas. The doctors were satisfied that he was absorbing the information and asking appropriate questions.

"We gave him specific advice on how much we want him to limit his formal schedule," Dr. Ross said. "We pushed the window back until he and we felt that he could respond if

somebody needed him at 3 o'clock in the morning for an emergency."

The doctors said Mr. Corzine seemed lucid, coherent and sharp. "You can't tell he is on any medication at all," Dr. Ostrum said.

After visiting Mr. Corzine at Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion in Princeton, on May 4, Dr. Ross decided that as a New Jersey resident he was "comfortable with him making executive decisions on my behalf."

Yet Mr. Corzine erred describing a broken bone in an interview conducted last Sunday and broadcast the next morning, the day he resumed his official duties. Speaking on NBC's "Today" show, Mr. Corzine said he had broken his tibia, the shin bone, not his femur.

EVERY TIME THEY COUGH

The main rehabilitation goal is for Mr. Corzine to restore his leg motion, then improve its strength and endurance. He uses arm crutches, instead of standard ones, to avoid aggravating his ribs.

He has three daily physical therapy sessions and is scheduled for monthly checkups through the summer. The doctors plan to monitor X-rays periodically to determine how well his femur is healing and when he can put weight on his leg.

(After Mr. Corzine underwent an outpatient checkup Friday, his office issued a statement saying all was going well.)

Mr. Corzine still is not out of the woods, Dr. Ostrum said. A possible complication is osteomyelitis, a serious bone infection. Also, rib fractures are generally painful for weeks.

"You can fix every bone in their pelvis and both their legs, and they will come back and complain about ribs every time they take a deep breath, every time they cough, every time they roll over in bed," Dr. Ostrum said.

Mr. Corzine, who has pledged to educate others about wearing seat belts, has said he remembered getting into the helicopter but virtually nothing about the first eight days in intensive care.

That was good news to Dr. Ross. The drugs that Mr. Corzine received in intensive care are the same that patients may receive when undergoing procedures like a colonoscopy, to ease their discomfort.

"One effect of the drugs is amnesia," Dr. Ross said. "We think it's a good thing that patients don't remember what they go through in the I.C.U."

HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, while I have pushed for a stronger U.S.-Vietnam relationship, I have also consistently said that this relationship depends on Vietnam's ability to make progress towards democracy and respect for human rights.

Since Vietnam joined the WTO in January, it has engaged in the largest crackdown on nonviolent pro-democracy activists in years. I believe that we need to judge Vietnam on the progress it makes, but it is clear to me that Vietnam is headed in the wrong direction on democracy and human rights.

As such, I am introducing a resolution condemning the recent convictions of prodemocracy activists and expressing concern over the future of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship.

I hope that this will serve as a wake-up call. I have been a consistent friend to Vietnam,

but I cannot compromise my support for human rights. I strongly urge the Government of Vietnam to uphold the basic rights and freedoms granted by Vietnam's own constitution and international commitments.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azeris began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our United States unconditional support in the war against terrorism, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan works with the United States regionally through the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), to prevent illegal trafficking and to secure borders.

Azerbaijan contributes significantly to the diversification of the western energy supply. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, an initiative supported by the Clinton and Bush administrations, reached a milestone when its first oil reached the Mediterranean Sea on May 28, 2006. The following March, the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding—designed to increase the level of cooperation between our two nations—with Azerbaijan to engage in high level dialogue on energy security in the Caspian region.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE D.C. CITIZENS A PLACE IN STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of States are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of DC residents. This bill is important to ensure equal treatment for the residents of the District of Columbia with the residents of the 50 States who already have statues representing them in Statuary Hall.

On August 10, 2006, the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities began the process of creating the two statues to be placed in Statuary Hall when the Commission chose Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant as the two prominent residents whose statues would represent the District of Columbia. The Commission also hired two Washington area sculptors, Steven Weitzman and Gordon Kay, to work on the sculptures of Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant and they are scheduled to complete their work later this year.

Douglass, (1818–1895), was born a slave in Maryland and became a District resident in 1870. He held diplomatic and District appointments and is considered to be the Father of the Civil Rights Movement. Douglass also displayed his talents as an orator and journalist throughout his life here. His home in the District of Columbia is a national monument which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

L'Enfant, (1754–1825), an architect, engineer and soldier came from France to serve in the American Revolution. George Washington chose L'Enfant to design the new federal city of Washington D.C. He became a US citizen and spent the remainder of his life in D.C. implementing his plan and making D.C. the beautiful city it is today.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself 206 years ago. Throughout these two centuries the city has created its very own rich and uniquely American history. Congresswoman NORTON said, "It goes without saying that the almost 650,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the Nation's Capitol as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed. That when we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 States, we undermine the Nation's efforts to spread full democracy around the world. While DC residents have not yet obtained the same political equality and voting rights as the citizens of the States, they have all the responsibilities of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all the Nation's wars." Norton said, "Today when our residents are serving in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol." There are more than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

"The statues would offer District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all