

LONG-TERM CARE AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize November 4–10 as “Long-Term Care Awareness Week.” As the baby boomer generation begins to reach retirement age, understanding the realities and benefits of long-term care has never been more important.

Preparing for future costs of health care is something that every American should be doing. Long-term care insurance is one way for Americans to plan for periods of extended disability without burdening their families, going bankrupt, or relying on government assistance.

At least 60 percent of people over age 65 will require some long-term care services at some point in their lives—the personal assistance that enables impaired people to perform daily routines such as eating, bathing, and dressing. This care is expensive, averaging almost \$200 per day for nursing home care, nearly \$80 per day for assisted living and about \$20 per day for home care.

While these costs are astronomical, it is even more stunning how few people realize the true financial impact of requiring long-term care. A 2006 AARP study found that 59 percent of adults who are over 45 overestimate Medicare coverage for long-term care. It is important for people to understand that Medicare does not generally pay for most long-term care services. Therefore, it is important for individuals to start early and plan ahead for long-term care costs as a critical component of their retirement plans.

Various pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress to encourage the purchase of long-term care insurance, including my own legislation, The Long-Term Care Act (H.R. 3088), which allows individuals to use funds from their IRAs or 401(k) plans tax-free and without penalty to purchase long-term care insurance. The government does have an important role to play in encouraging higher utilization of long-term care insurance.

During Long-Term Care Awareness Week, I would encourage all citizens interested in retirement planning to visit www.longtermcare.gov, where the government hosts a national clearinghouse for long-term care information.

HONORING MAJ WILLIAM C. WATSON FOR HIS TIRELESS PATRIOTISM AND UNRELENTING HEROISM

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant services of all peacetime and wartime veterans now residing in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri which I proudly represent. We find in these bravest of men and women the best of what we all wish to be—generous, compassionate, and dedicated. Yet, too often we for-

get that in many of our veterans burn the experiences of the worst our world has to offer, the memory of enduring the atrocities of war for our country. These are America’s patriots—our true heroes. While each of their stories is uniquely American, it is my privilege to share the story of one Missouri veteran who has the distinction of serving in three of our country’s most brutal conflicts.

Twenty-five-year Army veteran MAJ William C. Watson grew up in Marceline, MO. He was recruited by the University of Missouri Football Coach Don Faurot and played in the 1942 Sugar Bowl. While at the University of Missouri, he joined the Army Reserve. Through his ROTC training at the University of Missouri, Major Watson earned the rank of second lieutenant in his infantry unit. Two weeks after the Sugar Bowl, Major Watson found himself in the Army, near the end of World War II. He was stationed in Korea, and upon returning from his tour of duty, Major Watson chose to stay in the Army Reserves. He married Fran, a widow whose first husband was killed in the Philippines during World War II, and settled down as a family man, making a living as a carpenter.

In October 1950, Major Watson received a letter from the United States Army ordering him to report for a physical. He was assigned to Fort Riley, KS, on October 20, 1950, the day Fran and his third child were born. Within 7 short months, on May 15, 1951, he was taken prisoner. He had been engaged in an intense battle against the Chinese. It is reported that the Chinese sent 64,000 troops to attack 3,000 Allied soldiers. For the Chinese, it was a costly battle and has been dubbed the “May Massacre,” as the Chinese lost over 48,000 troops. The Chinese turned over their prisoners to the North Koreans, including Major Watson, and for the next 120 days, the once 300 pound soldier was reduced to a mere 180 pounds. The prisoners were forced into starvation and a devastating 900-mile march through the bitter, piercing cold of winter. Major Watson was stronger than most and, when necessary, carried his fellow prisoners on his back to keep them from being summarily executed. While at “Camp 2,” our man from Missouri fixed a sawmill for his North Korean captors with the ultimate plan to make bunk beds for his fellow POWs in order that they no longer had to sleep on the cold, dirt floor. He succeeded in making 300-bunk beds and saved many lives in the process. Ultimately, the prisoners were returned to the Chinese, under whose control Major Watson spent the remainder of his 837 days in captivity.

Forever dedicated to our Nation, Major Watson chose to remain in the military after the end of the Korean conflict and was once again deployed, this time to Vietnam. After a year in Vietnam, he returned home and retired from the U.S. Army, only to continue his public service as Mayor of Peculiar, MO, for 8 years. Of the 7,190 U.S. prisoners-of-war, 2,730, or 38 percent died, mostly at the hands of the North Koreans.

So traumatic an experience won Major Watson neither a hero’s welcome, nor the respect he deserved upon returning to his station at Ft. Riley, KS. Instead, he was greeted with charges against him of providing comfort to the enemy while a prisoner-of-war, his fate left to a board of inquiry. This insult stemmed from Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy’s accu-

sations that the Army was soft on communists. The board of inquiry gave only vague charges of misconduct, claiming that his actions were treasonous because he did not actively resist the enemy, when it was irrational and futile to do so. Major Watson contacted fellow prisoners, who came to his defense. The board of inquiry never gave Major Watson a verdict, leaving him waiting for 6 months to finally let him know that, while there was no ruling as to his case, he was no longer under the restraints of an inquiry.

Of war, World War II GEN Omar Bradley once said, “the world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.” Madam Speaker, to grow as a Nation, we must learn the stories of our veterans, such as that of Major Watson. I honor him and all veterans today for their patriotism and heroism. Their sacrifices are the heritages that add to the rich tapestry that is our Nation’s history. Please join me in encouraging our Nation to never forget and learn from our veterans’ stories. While we continue to fight, our prayers and deepest gratitude are with those who endeavor for the strength and longevity of our American way of life. Our land of freedom and opportunity, democracy and justice, remains just that because of the service men and women like those in Missouri’s Fifth District who tirelessly engage in the struggles to end that which threatens our stability. Let us honor the selfless sacrifices of our veterans by striving for peace and diplomacy in all that we do. May God continue to bless MAJ William C. Watson and all of our veterans as they remind us of the price we pay for our liberty and the debt owed to those who gave so much of themselves to protect and ensure the prosperity of our great Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE FEDERAL TAX
RELIEF TO RECIPIENTS OF DIS-
BURSEMENTS FROM THE HOKIE
SPIRIT MEMORIAL FUND

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to join with my colleagues from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. SCOTT, and Ms. DRAKE in introducing legislation to exclude from Federal income taxes disbursements from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund received by the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech. Virginia’s Senators are introducing identical legislation in the Senate.

The tragedy at Virginia Tech was of a scale and senselessness which defies explanation. In the days following April 16, 2007, this great tragedy was followed by an even greater outpouring of support for the Virginia Tech community from across the nation. Thousands of individuals and organizations generously contributed sizable donations to assist the victims and their families in their time of need.

The university established the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund as the vehicle to accept and distribute these donations, and last month Virginia Tech disbursed nearly \$7 million from

the fund to the families of the deceased victims and to the injured students. It is the families' and university's desire that these funds be exempted from Federal income tax, and this measure takes the entirely appropriate step of providing this exemption.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to obtain approval of this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DR. OTTO VON HABSBURG ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on November 20, Dr. Otto von Habsburg—a man of courage and intellect and a great friend of the United States—will celebrate his 95th birthday. I extend to him on this occasion my very warmest greetings. Although he and I come from the most different Central European backgrounds imaginable, we have become friends over the years and I hold him in the highest regard.

Dr. von Habsburg, who is in every way an extraordinary human being, was born in 1912 into one of Europe's oldest and most distinguished royal families. He is the eldest son of Emperor Charles, the last Emperor of Austria and the last King of Hungary and Bohemia, and his wife, Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma. Although he has renounced all claims to the Austrian throne, Dr. von Habsburg retains the hereditary titles of Archduke and Crown Prince of Austria and Crown Prince of Hungary and Bohemia.

Madam Speaker, I met Otto von Habsburg shortly after I was elected a Member of the Congress a quarter century ago. At that time, I was the chairman of the U.S. delegation which met twice a year with a delegation of the European Parliament. At the time Otto was a representative of Germany to the European Parliament, and the Ambassador of Austria brought him to meet me in my office in the Longworth Building. We both felt an immediate bond, and have maintained a cordial relationship ever since.

We have met on numerous occasions in Brussels and Strasbourg, and we have met frequently here in the United States when he has visited our country. His son Gyorgy was married in Budapest in 1997, and my wife Annette and I attended their wedding in the Basilica of St. Stephen. Just a few years ago on his last visit to the United States, I was pleased to welcome and pay tribute to Dr. von Habsburg at a special meeting here in the United States Capitol.

Madam Speaker, although he became Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary and Bohemia when he was just 4 years old when his father became Emperor, and he continues to hold a number of impressive noble titles, what truly distinguishes Otto von Habsburg is not who he was at birth, but who he became in the course of his long and distinguished life.

After growing up as an exile in Switzerland and Spain, the young Otto studied for his Ph.D. in political science at Belgium's famous Catholic University of Louvain. As an astute and principled conservative, he understood early on the true nature of the Nazi movement and became its staunch opponent.

While doing research in Berlin in the early 1930s for his Ph.D. dissertation, Dr. von Habsburg was invited on two separate occasions to meet with Adolf Hitler, who for political reasons, sought to create the appearance of an association between himself and the heir to the Austrian and Hungarian thrones.

"I had the great advantage of having already read Mein Kampf from start to finish and knew what his plans were," Dr. von Habsburg later recalled. "All of this only reinforced my refusal to meet him. On the other hand, it would have been an interesting experience. In fact, this was the only interesting conversation I ever avoided in my life."

In the immediate aftermath of the fall of France to the Nazi armies, Dr. von Habsburg worked with Aristide de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux, to secure travel papers for an estimated 20,000 Jews and others liable to be persecuted by the Nazis. For his trouble, he was sentenced to death by the Nazis. Fortunately, it was in absentia—Dr. von Habsburg had escaped from Europe in the nick of time and spent the war years here in the United States.

After the war, he returned to Europe, where he became a leader of the PanEuropean Union, served for 20 years as a member of the European Parliament and emerged as a champion of human rights. He was famous for, among many other things, ensuring that there was always an empty chair inside the Parliament building as a symbol of the European nations that were dominated at that time by totalitarian and illiberal ideologies.

Dr. von Habsburg, who is the author of 27 books in 7 languages, is a passionate supporter of freedom and liberty and an unblinking opponent of racism and totalitarianism. I salute him as he celebrates his 95th birthday, and I thank him for all the good that he has done in this world.

TRIBUTE TO BHAVANI K.D. KAKANI FOR RECEIVING THE 2007 ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate my friend, Mrs. Bhavani Kakani of Huntsville, Alabama, for receiving the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award. This award is given annually to a person in the Huntsville community who has displayed exemplary community leadership.

Mrs. Kakani is a distinguished community advocate and civic volunteer who has given countless hours to numerous community and state-wide organizations and boards. In these roles, she has led efforts to raise funds and awareness for health programs across our State, including ending child abuse and neglect, and inspiring self-worth and confidence in young women. In addition, I have worked directly with Mrs. Kakani through her many years of service on the National Children's Advocacy Center's board of directors.

Mrs. Kakani is the cofounder and president of the AshaKiran, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, empathizing, and empowering foreign born immigrants. Since its

founding, AshaKiran has provided multilingual, multicultural, and crisis referral services to numerous individuals in North Alabama.

Madam Speaker, in addition to her remarkable advocacy across the community, she has worked with the Intergraph Corporation, as a registered cytologist technician, and office manager for her husband's medical practice. Mrs. Kakani and her husband, Dr. Rao Kakani, have also raised three children.

Madam Speaker, Bhavani Kakani's leadership and her strong dedication to the community should serve as a model for others to follow. On behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate Mrs. Kakani for being named the 2007 Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian Award Winner.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES KLURFELD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Klurfeld, vice president and editorial page editor of Newsday, who last week retired after nearly 40 years of outstanding and tireless work at the paper.

James Klurfeld was born in 1945 in New York City and is a 1963 graduate of Syosset High School. His illustrious career at Newsday began in 1968, just one year after he graduated from Syracuse University.

Klurfeld's first job at Newsday was as a local reporter, where he covered various news stories on Long Island. But he quickly rose through the ranks at the paper, where his extraordinary reporting propelled him into several key positions. He led Newsday's Albany bureau, and he served as the newspaper's Washington bureau chief between 1980 and 1986. After his exceptional leadership during these stints, Klurfeld was appointed editor of the editorial pages in December 1987.

James Klurfeld's constant pursuit of journalistic excellence has earned him numerous honors and recognitions. He was a member of the Newsday investigative team that won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, as well as the New York State Publisher's Association and Deadline Club award in the same category. The awards were for a 3-year effort that disclosed political corruption in several townships on Long Island. He also won the Sigma Delta Chi National Reporting Award with other members of the Washington bureau in 1982, and he was the recipient of the 1988 American Society of Newspaper Editors Distinguished Writing Award for editorials on the Iran-Contra hearings. In addition, the staff of Newsday's editorial and viewpoints pages won several major awards under his leadership. These included everything from brilliantly written editorials to exceptionally creative cartoons.

Over the years, Klurfeld has become incredibly knowledgeable about local and national issues and is an expert on foreign affairs matters, most notably through his extensive travels around the globe and from his work with the Council on Foreign Relations. To this extent, he has provided Newsday readers with