

subhuman gulags are full of men and women, like Dr. Pulido López, who represent the very best of the Cuban nation.

Madam Speaker, we must speak out against this unconscionable crime against humanity. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Alfredo Manuel Pulido López and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KYLE
ROBERT WILSON

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kyle R. Wilson and to recognize his service to our community.

I come to the floor to speak of the bravery exhibited by Technician Wilson who served on the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue since January of 2006. Technician Wilson and his unit from Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton (OWL) Station 12 in Woodbridge responded to a three alarm house fire early on the morning on April 16th, 2007. Tragically, he was killed in the line of duty while heroically attempting to save the lives of others.

Kyle was a longtime resident of Prince William County and attended C.D. Hylton High School in Woodbridge, VA where he was a star baseball player for the Bulldogs. The bravery Kyle demonstrated Monday was typical of his personality. His former baseball coach described him to have all the qualities of a leader, specifically that he was fearless and willing to make sacrifices for others. Due to this strong character and devotion to community, it was no surprise to his coach that Kyle found his calling as a firefighter.

Upon graduation from Hylton, Kyle went on to study athletic training and earned his degree from George Mason University in 2005. He joined the fire department in January 2006, graduating from the recruit academy that June. Assistant Prince William County Fire Chief Kevin McGee described Kyle as an "outstanding young man, who was one of the best of our best." Kyle is survived by his father Bob, mother Sue, brother Chris, sister Kelli, and his girlfriend Kristi Silor.

In my experiences with the department, I have seen its unwavering dedication to the Prince William County community. Kyle was an example of Prince William's finest. Every day firefighters selflessly put their lives on the line to save others, and Kyle made the ultimate sacrifice. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made.

Madam Speaker, in honoring Kyle I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women that put their lives on the line and bravely serve on the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Kyle's family, friends, and to his brothers and sisters on the department.

"EXPANDING THE PROMISE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM ACT OF 2007"

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to express my strongest support for the "Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act of 2007," H.R. 1881, and I was very pleased to join my friend and colleague Rep. MIKE DOYLE of Pennsylvania this week in introducing this important legislation. H.R. 1881 addresses a very critical need—to provide assistance to the 1.5 million Americans with autism who are in desperate need of treatments and services throughout their lives.

From my first session in Congress in 1981, I have been a consistent advocate for individuals with developmental disorders, including autism. But autism came into a particularly strong focus in 1998, when two of my constituents, Bobbie and Billie Gallagher of Brick, NJ, contacted me with concerns about an elevated level of autism cases in the township of Brick. The concerns of the Gallaghers—parents of two autistic children themselves—led me to request that the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, conduct an investigation into a possible autism cluster in Brick.

The results of this investigation, one of the first federal studies on autism, were quite alarming. Higher rates of autistic disorder and autism spectrum disorders, ASDs, were found in Brick Township relative to rates from previously published studies. However, we have now come to learn that the high rate of autism found in Brick Township was not an isolated incident; it was the window to a nationwide phenomenon.

Earlier this year—on February 8, 2007, the CDC released groundbreaking data documenting the high prevalence of autism around the country. As a result of this landmark study, it is now believed that 1 out of every 150 children born in the United States suffers from a form of autism.

The numbers are even more shocking when you examine the results from New Jersey. Autism was shown to affect 1 in every 94 New Jersey children analyzed in the recent federally funded study. That same study, based on 2002 data, showed that 1 in every 60 boys in New Jersey is afflicted with a form of autism.

While the numbers are profound, it is the reality of the lives behind the numbers which call for our compassion, dedication, and legislative action. The physical, emotional, and financial impacts of autism on individuals, families, and society are staggering. Autism can overwhelm families, as their lives become consumed with the considerable challenges of identifying appropriate biomedical and psychosocial treatments, schooling and other needed support systems for their autistic child—and eventually for an autistic adult. Most of the parents of an autistic child whom I have met express a high level of fear and apprehension about services—such as housing and employment assistance—that will be available when their child becomes an adult.

That is why I joined forces with my friend Mike Doyle to launch in January 2001 the

Congressional Coalition for Autism Research & Education, C.A.R.E., which currently includes over 160 Members of Congress. The goals of the bipartisan Coalition for Autism Research and Education are straightforward, to: increase general awareness of autism and autism spectrum disorders among Members of Congress and policy analysts in Federal government; educate Members of Congress on current and future initiatives and developments regarding autism; serve as a forum where autism-related policy issues can be exchanged, debated, and discussed; bring together public, private, and government entities to pursue legislative initiatives that will help improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families; and promote all means to assist with the challenges of families and loved ones affected by autism.

Although it is still not sufficient, we have had significant success in advocating for increased funding for autism programs—funding that has increased by nearly 10 times the amount it was in the mid-1990s. In 1995, NIH invested about \$10.5 million into autism research. The estimated budget for autism research in fiscal year 06 is nearly 10 times that amount—\$108 million. At the CDC, autism funding has increased from \$287,000 in 1995 to an estimated \$15.1 million in 2006.

By introducing the "Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act," EPIAA, we are building on our progress over the past decade and particularly on some legislative accomplishments during the last Congress. Many members of the C.A.R.E. caucus joined in supporting and passing last December the "Combating Autism Act," important legislation which focused on improving autism-related research funded through the National Institutes of Health, autism surveillance, and early screening and diagnosis. Also last year, the caucus was successful in securing in the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Defense Appropriations bill \$7.5 million in an Army research account for the purpose of improving treatment of individuals with autism.

Notably, these successful efforts to date have focused primarily on surveillance and biomedical research. While these efforts are absolutely critical, the reality is that we have approximately 1.5 million individuals in the U.S. with autism, and they and their families are in desperate need of services to assist them in their daily lives and to help individuals with autism to realize their full potential as members of our communities. Today, we are focusing our efforts on providing services to aid families facing the challenges of providing lifetime care for their autistic children from first diagnosis through adulthood.

The "Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act of 2007," which was earlier introduced in the Senate and which we introduced this week in the House, is comprehensive legislation which authorizes approximately \$350 million over 5 years to provide treatments and services across the lifespan. It is incumbent upon us to act now to pass this legislation that will facilitate the provision of treatments and services for autistic individuals throughout their lives. As provided for in this legislation, assistance needs to be largely community-based and needs to address early intervention, education, employment, transportation, housing, health, and recreation.

Also, very importantly, the mechanisms authorized in this legislation are designed to provide treatments and services effectively and

efficiently. Those mechanisms include a broad-based Task Force to evaluate evidence-based treatments and services, demonstration grants to enable states to provide evidence-based treatments and services, one-time planning grants and follow-on demonstration grants for states to provide services to adults, and supplemental grants to University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education, and Services to allow the centers to train professionals who treat or serve individuals with autism, as well as the creation of four new University Centers of Excellence. To complement and further enhance the grant programs established under this Act, this legislation also provides assistance to a national nonprofit organization for establishment of a national technical assistance center and provides assistance for protection and advocacy systems.

Additionally, to fill an information gap important to almost all affected families, service providers, and government organizations, the legislation calls for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and release a report on the ways in which autism treatments and services are currently financed, including policies for public and private health insurance.

This is truly bipartisan, bicameral legislation, and I am gratified that Representatives ELIOT ENGEL of New York and CHIP PICKERING of Mississippi joined Representative DOYLE and myself in introducing this legislation. We are all most appreciative that critically acclaimed actor and star of the "West Wing" Bradley Whitford, co-founder of Cure Autism Now and board member of Autism Speaks Jonathan Shestack, and President of the Autism Society of America Lee Grossman joined us this week in announcing the introduction of the EPIAA. Their support, along with that of other advocates for individuals with autism, will be critical as this legislation advances in the House and Senate.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss something that is neither Democrat nor Republican in nature, but simply American. That, Mr. Speaker, is the greatness of this nation and of the American community, the extraordinary ability of American men and women to overcome tragedy and to be stronger for it.

Twelve years ago today, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was destroyed by an explosion that claimed the lives of 168 men, women and children, and that left over 800 injured. At the time, it was the deadliest terror attack ever carried out on American soil.

Like everyone else in Oklahoma, I can remember exactly where I was when I heard the

news. I remember seeing the carnage on television, and later that day, in person, and thinking "How can this have happened? What kind of person would do this?" And I saw the acts of one deranged mad man bring our city to a standstill, while the nation watched and grieved.

But even before the smoke and rubble had been cleared, I saw something wonderful. I saw complete strangers coming together, praying, and comforting each other. I saw a state and then an entire nation rally behind the families who had lost their loved ones. And rather than a group of victims, the men and women of Oklahoma became a group of heroes, facing down terrorists and rebuilding both their city and their lives.

Twelve years later, we still bare the scars of that awful day. We will never forget. And today, the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial stands as a reminder of our pain and our heartbreak in the days and months after that attack.

But the memorial stands for more than that. It reminds us of the strength of our community. It reminds us of a city and a state that came together after a devastating attack to heal itself and to rebuild. And finally, it reminds us of the greatness of this country and of the power of American hope, even in the face of the most heartbreaking of tragedies.

Our memorial is a monument to our sadness. But it is also a monument to our hope and ultimately to our strength. Today we are a thriving city. We have a new federal building which is stronger and safer than the one that was destroyed. And after facing tremendous adversity, we became a stronger people.

On Monday, the nation and the state of Virginia suffered another terrible tragedy, when a crazed gunman shot and killed 33 men and women on the Virginia Tech campus. It is yet another tragedy of almost unimaginable proportions—innocent students living in what they thought was a peaceful sanctuary, only to have their lives cut short by a mad man.

In a time of sadness, I believe that the story of the Oklahoma City Bombing can deliver a message of hope to the families and friends of the victims, and indeed to the nation.

Twelve years ago today we saw tragedy and death. But we also witnessed the healing power of prayer and the strength of friendship and community. We found God in the most trying of times and we found ourselves stronger for it.

My message to the students and faculty of Virginia Tech is this: your community and your faith are more powerful than the destructive urges of one crazed gunman. Again and again the people of this great nation are faced with adversity and tragedy, and again and again we overcome that tragedy and grow stronger. So will you.

And while you struggle to find meaning in this calamity and to deal with the pain and sadness of that terrible event, you should know that all of America stands with you, and prays with you, and will ultimately heal with you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed a recorded vote on the House floor on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 214.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF "THE NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER PROJECTS ACT"

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act. This legislation, which was also introduced today in the Senate by my colleagues from New Mexico, Senators BINGAMAN and DOMENICI, will ratify the historic San Juan River Settlement Agreement. This agreement, signed by the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, will provide for the development of a rural water system to address the water needs of numerous New Mexicans, many of them members of the Navajo Nation.

Once ratified, the settlement agreement will resolve the Navajo Nation's water rights. It will also provide a water supply for Gallup, New Mexico, and recognize authorized and existing uses of San Juan River basin water. In exchange for relinquishing some of their claims to water from the San Juan River basin, the Navajo Nation will benefit from water development projects which include the Navajo-Gallup project and the Navajo Nation Municipal pipeline. Incredibly, even now in 21st-century America, more than 70,000 Navajos must still haul water daily for residential use. These water projects will go a long way toward rectifying that grievous situation.

The Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and many other residents of northwestern New Mexico put a tremendous amount of effort into reaching an agreement that will provide a more secure future for many vulnerable communities. I am proud to be able to contribute today to their hard work and diligent commitment by introducing the legislation in the House. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation and move these important water projects forward.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ROSS P. MARINE, HONORARY CONSUL FOR THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, the Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic, Mr.