

This funding will help to improve the facilities and the scope of services available to our severely wounded veterans at the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voicing their commitment for the future funding needs of these important projects.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 963, supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

February 11–15, 2008, has been designated by the President as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. In over 155 VA hospitals across the Nation, we have suffering veterans who face the physical and mental wounds of combat every day. As a veteran myself, I understand the real-life sacrifices an individual does through while on duty. Living far away from family and loved ones is a sacrifice that hospitalized veterans continue to face every day.

As President's Day approaches, let us not forget those veterans that are the real-life examples of the courage and service our Nation was founded on. These veterans are our heroes—and now they need a hero of their own to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this most dignified and deserving honor for our hospitalized veterans.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 963, supporting the goals and ideals of National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week this year is February 11th to 15th, and so it is appropriate that we are here today to pay tribute to those who have put their lives on the line for our Nation's freedom.

H. Res. 963 supports the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program and the program's efforts to express appreciation to hospitalized veterans for their efforts and increase awareness of the importance of Veterans' Affairs medical centers throughout the country. The resolution also supports the program's work to encourage citizens to visit hospitalized veterans and volunteer their services.

Mr. Speaker, for centuries our brave service men and women have given their utmost to ensure our liberty here at home. We owe our soldiers an eternal debt of gratitude, and giving our support to hospitalized veterans and recognizing their service as we are doing today is one important step toward paying that debt.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to unanimously support H. Res. 963, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 963.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH AND NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 972) supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 972

Whereas diseases of the heart are the Nation's leading cause of death and stroke is the third leading cause of death in both men and women;

Whereas nearly 2,400 American men, women, and children die of cardiovascular disease each day, an average of one death every 37 seconds;

Whereas many people do not recognize that heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases are the number 1 killer of American women, claiming the lives of almost 460,000 American women each year or about one per minute;

Whereas we as a Nation have made great progress in reducing the death rates for coronary heart disease, but this progress has been much more modest in women and minorities, resulting in cardiovascular disease disparities;

Whereas many minority women, including African-American, Hispanic, Native-American and some subgroups of Asian-American women, have a greater prevalence of risk factors or are at a higher risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases, but they are less likely to know of this risk;

Whereas cardiovascular diseases cost the Nation more than any other cause of death, with direct and indirect costs estimated to reach \$448.5 billion in the United States in 2008;

Whereas the research is clear that there are tools available to prevent heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases and to improve survival rates from cardiovascular disease;

Whereas Congress, by Joint Resolution approved on December 30, 1963, requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month";

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate "National Wear Red Day" during February by "going red" to increase awareness about heart disease as the leading killer of women; and

Whereas every year since 1964 the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as "American Heart Month"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "American Heart Month" and "National Wear Red Day";

(2) commends the efforts of States, territories and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support "American Heart Month" and "National Wear Red Day";

(3) recognizes and reaffirms our commitment to fighting heart disease and stroke by promoting awareness about its causes, risks, and prevention, supporting research, and expanding access to medical treatment; and

(4) encourages each and every American to learn about their own personal risk for heart disease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H. Res. 972 which I am proud to have introduced with Congresswomen FALLIN, SCHAKOWSKY, MCMORRIS RODGERS, CHRISTENSEN, and CUBIN. This diverse group of lead sponsors is testament to the importance of raising greater awareness about heart disease, and especially heart disease in women.

The resolution recognizes both Heart Month and National Wear Red Day, both of which occur in February. Heart Month was first designated 45 years ago and has served as a launching pad to spur advocates into action around the country.

In my hometown of Santa Barbara, there will be a Go Red for Women luncheon in the coming weeks. This event provides opportunities for women to learn more about heart health for themselves and also for the role they often play as the health decisionmaker in their families.

The importance of community events like Go Red for Women lunches cannot be overstated. Heart disease is the number one killer of both women and men. But now, in fact, more women than men die of heart disease each year. Unfortunately, there is still an existing knowledge gap both in terms of public awareness and professional awareness.

Despite the fact that almost 460,000 American women die of heart disease every year, women are still grossly underrepresented in clinical trials, as one example. The numbers are even worse for minority women who are at an even greater risk for developing heart disease and who have many more barriers to accessing care.

So today, as we pass this resolution to recognize the importance of Heart Month and Wear Red Day, let us use this opportunity to discuss the real changes we can make to improve women's heart health.

My colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, and I have introduced H.R. 1014 the HEART for Women Act. This act takes crucial steps to address women's heart health. It ensures that research is stratified by gender. In other words, that we recognize that women need to have research

that will take their needs into consideration, provides for an educational campaign for health professionals, and expands the very successful WISEWOMAN program that conducts cardiovascular screening for low-income women that has been, in the pilot phase, proven very successful in various parts of the country.

We had a successful hearing in the Health Subcommittee, and I would like to thank the Energy and Commerce Committee for working hard to move this legislation along in, I hope, the very near future.

Finally, I would like to thank the Speaker for suggesting that we encourage everyone to wear red tomorrow in order that we be even more visible to all of our colleagues and others on the Hill to continue this very important dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady, my friend from California, for all of the hard work she has put into this issue for the last several years, not just this year. It has been a real passion with her for a long time, and I thank her for that.

I rise in support of this important resolution because it does raise awareness about heart disease and the effect on women, which doesn't get talked about as much as heart disease in men.

As a breast cancer survivor, I spend a lot of time raising awareness about breast cancer and the importance of preventive screening and effective treatments. Those are vital battles, and as a country we have made great strides towards earlier detection of cancer and less invasive treatments.

But when we are reminded that heart disease is the leading cause of death for American women, it is a sobering thought. I remember being surprised to learn that the physical symptoms of heart attacks in women are often different than they are in men. Women are less likely to feel typical chest pains during the attacks. Women's symptoms are often characterized by back pain, nausea, indigestion, dizziness, and fatigue. While typical symptoms are hard to recognize, it is important to be vigilant about heart health.

Many lifesaving treatments like anticoagulating drugs and angioplasty work best if given within the first hour of a heart attack, so it is important that we know what is going on with us as women. But before you get to that point, you want to prevent life-threatening heart attacks the easy way, through lifestyle changes that can keep heart disease in check.

The NIH and the FDA have helpful guidelines about steps that all American women and men can take to improve heart health. Some tips are as easy as talking to your doctor about it, and some are as easy as taking a daily stroll.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this resolution, and I hope women

all across the country will take some time to do something good for themselves relative to their heart, and to wear red.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield so much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are all joining together to sponsor this resolution. Before I speak, I want to commend both the gentlelady from California and the gentlelady from North Carolina for the exceptional work that they have done on this issue.

We all are on the Health Subcommittee. They have worked diligently on this and have continued in their efforts to raise awareness on heart health for women. The resolution is timely. It is something that we hope tomorrow is going to share the lime-light a bit with Valentine's Day as we raise awareness on the importance of heart health for women.

It is also something that is important as an educational tool as we each individually, and then all working together, continue our outreach efforts to make certain that women are aware of the signs of the disease, they are aware of the precautions, and they are then properly informed of the steps that they need to take.

Again, I commend my colleagues for their diligence and work. I appreciate the opportunity to sponsor the legislation with them.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN), who is a cosponsor of this resolution, such time as she may consume.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate both of my fine colleagues here and their sponsorship of this great resolution to honor women and, of course, the American Heart Association Go Red for Women Month. It is a very important resolution, and I thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership in the Women's Caucus, especially in highlighting women's health.

I, too, am very proud to be a sponsor of this legislation. As you know, February is American Heart Month, and now is a great time for all of our Members of Congress, and concerned citizens in our Nation, to focus on how we can live healthier lifestyles, to educate ourselves on what we can do to prevent heart disease and to prevent stroke, and to live the kind of quality of life that we all deserve.

I think it has already been mentioned that heart disease is the number one killer in the United States, and it certainly is a huge problem in the State of Oklahoma. Heart disease af-

flicts more than one in four Americans, and nearly 80 million in total in our Nation. And for many, it is a deadly disease. Heart disease also kills about two Americans per minute.

And contrary to popular opinion, heart disease is every bit as dangerous for women as it is for men. In the last two decades, more women than men have died from it. In my home State alone, almost 20 women a day die from heart-related illnesses.

Tomorrow, millions of men and women are participating in National Go Red Day. I know I have on black today, and I think all the other ladies have on black, but tomorrow we will be wearing our red. I encourage all of our colleagues here in Congress to wear their red, as well as those around the Nation.

As we wear red tomorrow, we will remind those around us of the importance of fighting this disease. And we can fight this disease by starting just to take some simple precautions: exercising, maintaining healthy eating styles, and refraining of course from habits that are harmful to our health like smoking.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to wear red tomorrow, and to remember the millions of people who suffer with heart disease and to think about what we can do to fight this terrible illness.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our colleagues who have spoken to this important topic, and particularly my good friend and colleague from North Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, who is symbolizing in her attire what we will all be doing tomorrow, which is not only Valentine's Day but Wear Red Day during Heart Month, to underscore the need for all of us to pay attention to women and heart disease in this month of February.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. I have no further speakers, and I also I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 972.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.