

the age of 19 months lost her sight and hearing as a result of meningitis;

Whereas Helen was liberated from the "double dungeon of darkness and silence" by her teacher, Anne Sullivan, when she discovered language and communication at the water pump when she was 7 years old;

Whereas Helen enrolled in Radcliffe College in 1900 and graduated cum laude in 1904 to become the first deaf and blind college graduate;

Whereas Helen's life served as a model for all people with disabilities in America and worldwide;

Whereas Helen became recognized as one of Alabama's and America's best known figures and became "America's Goodwill Ambassador to the World";

Whereas Helen pioneered the concept of "talking books" for the blind;

Whereas LIFE Magazine hailed Helen as "one of the 100 most important Americans of the 20th Century—a national treasure"; and

Whereas Helen's presence in the Capitol will become an even greater inspiration for people with disabilities worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF HELEN KELLER, FROM THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA, FOR PLACEMENT IN THE CAPITOL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Helen Keller, furnished by the people of Alabama for placement in the Capitol, in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of Congress are tendered to the people of Alabama for providing this commemoration of one of Alabama's most eminent personages.

(b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of Alabama is authorized to use the Rotunda of the Capitol on October 7, 2009, for a presentation ceremony for the statue. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony.

(c) DISPLAY IN ROTUNDA.—The Architect of the Capitol shall provide for the display of the statue accepted under this section in the Rotunda of the Capitol for a period of not more than 6 months, after which period the statue shall be displayed in the Capitol, in accordance with the procedures described in section 311(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 2132(e)).

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an enrolled copy of this concurrent resolution to the Governor of Alabama.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRANDON A. OWENS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the United States of America and my hometown of Memphis lost one of its finest citizens, a brave soldier fighting in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Private First Class Brandon A. Owens was 21 years of age when he died of injuries sustained from small-arms

fire. His unit, the 118th Military Police Company, 503rd Military Police Battalion, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was stationed in Wardak province when it was attacked by enemy forces.

Prior to joining the Army, Private First Class Owens attended Wooddale High School in Memphis, where he played on the basketball team. He was a very well-liked gentleman, small in stature but big in heart.

Private First Class Owens is survived by his parents Eric and Lynda Owens of Memphis.

Let us take a moment to remember the sacrifice he made for the stability of Afghanistan and the protection of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, and I thank the Owens family for their son. He paid the ultimate sacrifice, and I will join with his family in mourning this weekend.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AUTISM IS NEEDED

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we have had an epidemic of autism for a long time in this country. It used to be 1 in 10,000 was autistic; then it went to 1 in 150; and in the Journal of Pediatrics this week, they said now more than 1 in 100 children are autistic. Something has to be done about that.

I believe one of the root causes is the mercury that's in the vaccinations that we're giving, the preservative called Thimerosal.

But even if you don't agree with me on that, we really need to get to the bottom of why so many children are suffering from this epidemic of autism. So we have a bill, H.R. 3703, which calls on the President to have a White House conference on autism to try to get to the bottom of this as quickly as possible.

These children are going to grow up; they are going to live long lives; they're going to be a real problem for themselves, their families, and the country. We've got to come to the realization that we have to find a cure for autism and to stop it. We need to do this now. We need this White House conference, and I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this bill, H.R. 3703.

[Oct. 5, 2009]

STUDY: MORE CASES OF AUTISM IN U.S. KIDS THAN PREVIOUSLY REALIZED: 1 IN 100

(CNN).—A study published Monday in the journal Pediatrics indicates about 1 percent of children ages 3 to 17 have autism or a related disorder, an increase over previous estimates.

"This is a significant issue that needs immediate attention," Dr. Heena Arias, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. "A concerted effort and substantial national response is warranted."

The study used data from the federal government's 2007 national survey of children's

health. The survey of parents was conducted by the Health Resources and Services Administration, and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The results are based on a national telephone survey of more than 78,000 parents of children ages 3 to 17. iReport.com: How has autism affected your family?

In the study, parents were asked whether a health care provider had ever told them their child had an autism spectrum disorder. ASD is a group of brain disorders comprising autism and two less severe disorders: Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.

Children with the disorder show impairment in social interaction and in their ability to communicate. They often display repetitive behavior.

The investigators also asked a follow-up question: Were the children considered to have ASD now? Nearly 40 percent of the parents and guardians said no.

That finding led the authors to question whether some of the children originally diagnosed as having ASD may have been improperly diagnosed, since the disorders are not considered curable.

But Kogan said the two surveys cannot be compared because the earlier investigators did not ask the follow-up question about whether the children were still considered to have the disorder.

Still, based on the findings, lead author Dr. Michael D. Kogan of HRSA's maternal and child health bureau estimated the prevalence of ASD among U.S. children ages 3 to 17 at 110 per 10,000—slightly more than 1 percent.

Boys were four times as likely as girls to have ASD, and non-Hispanic black and multiracial children were less likely than non-Hispanic white children.

He estimated that 673,000 children have ASD in the United States.

Monday's findings of nearly 1 in 100 appear to indicate an increase from the average of 1 in 150 that was reported in 2003, the researchers said.

The researchers urged caution in interpreting the change, noting that an increase in diagnoses does not necessarily mean that more children have the disorder. It could simply reflect a heightened awareness of the disorder.

"We don't know whether the change in the number over time is a result of the change in the actual condition, in the actual number of conditions or in part due to the fact that the condition is being recognized differently," Arias said.

She said that preliminary results from a separate, CDC-funded study she is working on also indicate that about 1 percent of children in the United States are affected by ASD. That study is to be published later this year, she said.

"This is a behavioral diagnosis, and it's difficult to make, and it's difficult to make at young ages," said Dr. Peter van Dyck, HRSA's associate administrator for maternal and child health.

Half of the cases were considered mild by their parents, the study reported.

The results underscore the importance of creating policies that will result in early identification and intervention, the officials said.

The reports raise "a lot of questions about how we are preparing in terms of housing, employment, social support—all the issues that many of these people are going to need," said Dr. Tom Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

"It also raises questions about how well we're prepared in the educational system to provide for the special needs of many of these kids."

Insel said the federal government is beefing up the resources it is mobilizing to

address autism and related disorders, with \$85 million being appropriated by the National Institutes of Health and \$48 million for next year by the HRSA.

WPA PROGRAM

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The recent economic report indicates that unemployment is approaching 10 percent. That means that close to 15 million Americans officially are out of work, but tens of millions more are underemployed. We have a Nation that is yearning for a major jobs program. We have to go beyond the weak stimulus that spent a hundred billion—seems like a lot of money—but \$100 billion for capital improvements, when the fact of the matter is we have close to \$3 trillion in infrastructure needs.

If we can match the unemployment in the country with infrastructure needs, we can go back to what FDR did in the 1930s, which is to create a new WPA that puts millions of Americans back to work, restoring our economy and giving people a chance to restore their own lives.

It's time for a new WPA program. Let's put America back to work. Let's address this unemployment crisis directly.

THE PROBLEM WITH WHITE HOUSE CZARS

(Mr. INGLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, in my district, many people are telling me about their concern about the excessive use by the administration of special staff or czars. Over 30 czars are now serving in the Obama administration.

The problem we have with that is they haven't been confirmed by the Senate, and that is a real problem. If you exercise authority over American citizens, we need the constitutional protection of making sure that they've been vetted by the Senate and given approval by the Senate to serve in those capacities when they are exercising authority over the American people.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the excellent bill by our distinguished colleague from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the Czar Accountability Reform Act of 2009. It would cut off funding for these special assistants unless they have the consent of the Senate to serve, the approval of the Senate, the confirmation of the Senate to serve. That's what the Constitution requires, Mr. Speaker. That's what we need to require.

THINK PINK KIDS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to two young and enterprising constituents from my district.

Two years ago, friends Max Woodrich and Doug Ellingson, decided to start a lawn mowing business, and their venture was unique in that they decided to use part of their profits to benefit breast cancer research.

Today, these 15-year-olds have had their idea turned into one of the most inspiring, philanthropic organizations in Minnesota's recent history. Think Pink Kids is now dedicated to providing education and awareness about breast cancer, constantly working to earn, raise, and donate money for research. They also have the goal of forming Think Pink Clubs in every school and civic organization in Minnesota.

One out of eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives, but thanks to the commitment of people like Doug and Max—and organizations like Think Pink Kids—the fight will continue until we ultimately defeat this terrible disease.

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia as they celebrate 50 years of serving the residents of southeastern Michigan.

The hospital opened its doors in 1959 with 170 beds, 99 physicians, and 300 employees. Today, the hospital includes the innovative "Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center," as well as a heart and vascular center, and an in-patient rehabilitation unit. An essential part of our community, St. Mary Mercy Livonia continues to provide superior comprehensive health care.

Indeed in 2007, St. Mary Mercy Livonia received the Health Grades Clinical Excellence Award for the third straight year. Last year, the hospital was named a "100 Top Hospital" by Thomson Healthcare thanks to St. Mary Mercy Livonia's doctors, nurses, and staff who devotedly work to help and heal patients and their families.

Mr. Speaker, St. Mary Mercy has served our community for over 50 years. I ask that we congratulate them on their devoted service in serving as a sanctuary for the sick and suffering of our community.

CZAR ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution says that the President must seek advice and consent from the U.S. Senate when ap-

pointing his principal officers. That's why it's so alarming that this President has appointed 36 czars, most without the consent of the U.S. Senate.

It let people like Van Jones—an admitted Communist who came up through a Marxist organization called STORM in Oakland, California—and puts him as a principal adviser of the President of the United States without the Senate having any say-so.

I've introduced the Czar Accountability Act. So far, this doesn't seem to bother one Democrat in the House of Representatives that the President seems to be sidestepping the Constitution. Maybe what should bother them is the fact that not one czar has come before the Appropriations Committee to justify and ask for his or her budget, yet these people make \$150,000, \$170,000 a year. Where is the Democrat Party? Does party come before constitutional duty?

You know, the Founding Fathers moved for balance of government and equal division, and that's what they had in mind.

□ 1930

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SKELTON, SPRATT, ORTIZ, TAYLOR, ABERCROMBIE, REYES, SNYDER, SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. MCINTYRE, BRADY of Pennsylvania, ANDREWS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, MARSHALL, Ms. BORDALLO, Messrs. MCKEON, BARTLETT, THORNBERRY, JONES, AKIN, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, LOBIONDO, BISHOP of Utah, TURNER and WITTMAN.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. REYES, SCHIFF and HOEKSTRA.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of secs. 243, 551-553, 585, 2833 and 2834 of the House bill and secs. 531-534 and 3136 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ALTMIRE and Mrs. BIGGERT.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 247, 315 and 601 of the House bill and secs. 311, 601, 2835 and 3118 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. WAXMAN, MARKEY of Massachusetts and BARTON of Texas.