

A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 38, U.S.C., TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE IMMUNIZATION OF VETERANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Access to Appropriate Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2010" which I believe would help advance the goal we all share of promoting lifelong health for the men and women who fought for our freedom.

While the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, health care system is doing an admirable job of caring for those who bore the burden of combat, continual reform is needed to ensure the care veterans receive represents the most up-to-date practices and procedures.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, each year approximately 70,000 adult Americans die from vaccine-preventable diseases. Influenza alone is responsible for over one million ambulatory care visits, 200,000 hospitalizations and 30,000 deaths.

Many of our veterans who are in the "high-risk" category of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases—including those with HIV, Hepatitis C, and substance use disorder—are enrolled in the VA health care system and could particularly benefit from receiving vaccinations.

Commendably, the VA has protocols in place that recommend vaccines as protection against deadly viruses. However, VA only has established performance measures for two vaccines making it unclear if protocols are being routinely enforced for all CDC recommended vaccines.

The tremendous value performance measures have regarding the increased utilization and effectiveness of vaccination distribution is evidenced by VA's own application of performance measures for the influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations. When these performance measures were initially applied, VA saw vaccination rates rise respectively from 27 percent and 26 percent to 77 percent and 80 percent. It also resulted in a 50 percent decline in pneumonia hospitalization rates.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand VA performance measures to cover all vaccinations recommended by the VA and CDC and ensure that veterans receive appropriate immunizations at the time suggested by the CDC. It would also require VA to report to Congress on their progress in supporting vaccinations in the veteran population.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the Access to Appropriate Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2010. This legislation would ensure that our veterans are receiving timely and suitable access to vaccines and prevent those under the care of the VA from being unnecessarily exposed to vaccine preventable diseases.

NORTH DAVIDSON WINS SOFTBALL TITLE WITH PERFECT SEASON

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to extend our congratulations to the North Davidson softball team for its perfect season culminated by winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 4-A state softball championship. North Davidson finished as the runner-up 3 out of the last 4 years, but this year they were able to win it all. The championship game concluded the Black Knight's 32-game perfect season.

As a result of the tremendous athleticism of the players, the outstanding direction of coach Mike Lambros, and the unyielding support of the community, the Black Knights had all the components necessary to clinch the State title. Furthermore, this was a particularly special season for coach Lambros who celebrated his first championship after having coached the Black Knights for 30 years.

The Black Knight's star pitcher Hannah Alexander won most valuable player honors for her tremendous contribution to her team's success. She only allowed two runs during the entire playoffs. This championship game required tremendous amounts of teamwork and determination.

The championship team members included: Amelia Griffin, Allie Nicholson, Paige Wall, Kathy Choplin, Tess Swing, Nichole Tuttle, Jessica Plemmons, Shaundee Woosley, Lauren Grooms, Jordan Clodfelter, Lindy Yount, Hannah Alexander, Morgan Koontz, Tori Hedrick, Courtney Walker, Maggie McDowell, Mackenzie Hauser, Robyn Stanek, Missy Hunt, Eliza Davis, Kayla Harrell, Lauren Beaver, Katie Vick, Samantha Honeycutt, Lauren McNeerney. Assisting head coach Mike Lambros on his championship run were Lamar Powell, Billy Gerald, Thomas Vick, Ronnie Plemmons, Jason Martin, Keith Stanek, Ben Lookabill, Blythe Craver, Kendra Israel, Jerry Smith, Jason Israel, Jeff Pace, Charlie Nicholson, and Tim Martin.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we would like to congratulate the North Davidson softball team, the faculty, staff, students and fans for an outstanding season.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, Last week, the House of Representatives considered an amendment offered by Congressman

PATRICK MURPHY to H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, to repeal the Armed Forces personnel policy of "don't ask, don't tell." Due to a death in the family, I was not present for the vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted against this amendment.

While I believe no American should be denied the ability to serve their country because of their sexual orientation, it is important to balance this commitment to serve with the practical implications of this dramatic policy change.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the Joint Chiefs of Staff repeatedly asked Congress to allow the Department of Defense the time to complete its comprehensive review of "don't ask, don't tell" before taking legislative action to change this policy. These requests were denied by the Majority, whose actions imply that Members of Congress are in a better position to determine personnel policies than military leaders themselves.

We have a responsibility to consider the views of those men and women in uniform, and a duty to allow the leaders of our Armed Forces to finish their review before taking premature legislative action. By refusing to take into consideration the ongoing review by the Department of Defense, the Majority risks undermining the relationship between our elected leaders and the men and women serving our Nation. I have serious concerns with the potential for this preemptive decision to negatively impact our military's ability to recruit, retain, and ready servicemembers now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LATE TOM LARDNER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I recognize the life and passing of Tom Lardner. I have known this accomplished person for a long time. He was a visionary who was not afraid to take risks. We have lost a great businessman, an exceptional husband and terrific father.

Tom Lardner, born in Port Huron, Michigan earned his bachelor's degree in business from Michigan State University. Mr. Lardner earned a master's degree in education from Michigan State. Before beginning his real estate career he was a coach at St. Gabriel High School football team in East Lansing, Michigan where he also served as a history teacher.

While running his real estate investment firm, Lehnndorff USA, in Chicago he spotted the potential of the area just north of the central business district in Dallas, Texas. Eager to map out his plans he moved to Dallas. He then saw his dream transforming into reality after years of hard work with the construction of a luxury apartment building, which would be the earliest of many.

Lardner purchased a large amount of the land surrounded by McKinney Avenue, Pearl Street, Woodall Rodgers Freeway and North Central Expressway for development. He also worked alongside city officials to establish a tax increment financing district that would pay for street improvements as well as other infrastructure improvements.

Although Lardner was known for his keen eye in real estate with the development of the Uptown area of Dallas, he was also concerned about the environment. Lardner's support for Texas Business for Clean Air, allowed him to oppose the fast-tracking of the coal-fired plants. Concerned that the electric generating plants would hurt the North Texas air quality the group strongly opposed the environmental abuse.

Madam Speaker, Tom Lardner's loss will be deeply felt among many, but his work will not be forgotten. His caring nature and the creative vision he possessed will live forever.

RECOGNIZING AGNES DILL FOR HER WORK ON BEHALF OF NA- TIVE AMERICANS

HON. HARRY TEAGUE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Agnes Dill for being awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of New Mexico for her many years of outstanding service and dedication to Indian Country.

Agnes earned her bachelor of Arts degree in education in 1937 and then taught at BIA schools in Oklahoma for over a decade. Along with becoming an educator, Agnes devoted much of her time in the 1970's to serving as an advocate for Native American people, particularly Native American women. Agnes served as one of the founding members of the North American Indian Women's Association and served as its President in 1973.

All of her efforts led to Agnes being appointed by President Ford to the National Advisory Council on Women's Education in 1975.

Not being one to rest on her laurels, Agnes took all of her knowledge and traveled extensively through the country to set up job and talent banks that would encourage Native American women to seek careers that were thought of as "non-traditional" during the time. These efforts encouraged Native American women to seek jobs in the fields of medicine, law and business. All of her work was driven by one motivating factor that she described in her own words in a recent interview: "Anything a man was doing, I tried to get a woman to do."

Agnes continued to drive policy on these issues when she served on the board of directors of Indian Pueblo Marketing, Inc., which promotes and funds the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Agnes also served on the National Advisory Committee for the White House Conference on Aging and has extended her focus to Native American youth serving as President of the New Mexico chapter of NAIWA and Director of New Mexico Indian Council on Aging.

With such an amazing history as an advocate, I am very proud of her numerous accomplishments and I'm proud to represent and honor her today in the Congress. From her beginnings as an educator, to her national advocacy roles, she has demonstrated how commitment to public service for Native American communities can inspire us all to improve our own lives and get involved with these important issues.

Even at the youthful age of 96 years old, her unwavering commitment to advocating for

improvements to Native American education and healthcare is a great example for all of us to look to and continue her work into the future.

REGARDING THE 90TH ANNIVER- SARY CELEBRATION OF THE NA- TIONAL AMERICAN LEGION AUX- ILIARY

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the Vinita Post 40 unit of the American Legion Auxiliary in Oklahoma.

This year marks the 90th Anniversary Celebration of the National American Legion Auxiliary. Although not the first such organization of its kind, the National American Legion Auxiliary is the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world. Its nearly one million members are dedicated to promoting allegiance to God and Country, supporting veterans and youth through various community programs since 1919–1920.

The Vinita Post 40 unit was chartered on March 4, 1929 and has proudly served its Oklahoma community, sponsoring events that include the widely renowned Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo since its inception in 1935. I would like to congratulate the Vinita Post 40 unit and the American Legion Auxiliary for their outstanding patriotism and commitment to community, and today, I celebrate their achievement.

HONORING FLOYD CARSON FRISBEE FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE KOREAN WAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Floyd Carson Frisbee of Iron Duff, North Carolina for his valiant service in the United States Army. From March 1951 to March 1953, Mr. Frisbee fought bravely on the Korean peninsula in order to protect the sovereignty of South Korea, and the freedom of its people.

Mr. Frisbee received numerous medals for his service in Korea, including the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, CIB, Combat, Medal, Occupation Medal, and the 50th Anniversary Medal. These medals represent the courage and commitment that Mr. Frisbee exhibited during his service in the 1st Cavalry Division.

After his service in the military, Floyd Frisbee continued to display his strong personal character as well as a commitment to provide for his family through 19 years of hard work at the Dayton Rubber plant. Since his retirement Mr. Frisbee has maintained a strong attachment to the Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute and has preached at various churches in the community.

Madam Speaker, Floyd Carson Frisbee provided an exemplary service for the people of

our great country through his service in the Korean War. His dedication and commitment to the United States is truly a source of pride to Western North Carolina. I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Floyd Carson Frisbee for his valiant service in the military and the sacrifices he has made for our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS ON WINNING THE STANLEY CUP

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago Blackhawks on winning the 2010 Stanley Cup. After an incredible season, no team is more deserving.

The Blackhawks lightening-fast pace and tremendous skill level delivered the team the second-best league record in the regular season. Coach Joel Quenneville guided his team masterfully through the playoffs, where the Blackhawks defeated the Nashville Predators, Vancouver Canucks, and San Jose Sharks to win the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl as Western Conference champions.

Led by captain and Conn Smythe winner Jonathan Toews, who equaled the Blackhawks single-season playoff scoring record with 29 points, the team met the Philadelphia Flyers in the Stanley Cup finals. Each player on the team made significant contributions as they battled the Flyers until the overtime period of game six, where Patrick Kane notched the series-winning goal, earning Chicago its first Stanley Cup since 1961.

As a lifelong fan of the Chicago Blackhawks, I take great pride in congratulating the team on an incredibly thrilling season. I thank them for bringing the Stanley Cup back to the Madhouse on Madison.

THE ISRAEL BLOCKADE AND THE FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Israel has the right and the duty to defend itself and its citizens. Part of its defense includes seeking to inspect ships run by Islamist extremist groups. These extremists were seeking to enter Hamas-controlled Gaza despite repeated requests from the Israeli government not to do so.

I am very concerned by these recent events that have occurred in the Mediterranean Sea. As we now know, on Monday, May 31, the Israel Defense Forces intercepted six ships, known as the "Free Gaza" flotilla. We have learned that this flotilla attempted to break Israel's blockade of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. Although many have said that its primary aim was to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, it seems apparent that its main objective was to provoke Israel and disrupt the blockade. More than a million tons of humanitarian aid and medical supplies have entered