

HONORING THE WALL THAT HEALS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the legacy of the Vietnam War veterans from the state of Missouri through The Wall That Heals which will be displayed in the City of Blue Springs from September 30th to October 3rd.

The Wall That Heals is a mobile, half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located here in Washington, D.C. and has been seen by millions of people in more than 300 cities and towns throughout the U.S. The exhibit was first inaugurated on Veterans Day, 1996 by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and offers the opportunity for those who lost their lives in the Vietnam War to be honored by family and friends in their respective communities.

I would like to thank Mayor Carson Ross, the Blue Spring City Council, local business leaders, and all the volunteers who dedicated great effort to bringing this distinct honor to Missouri. The traveling exhibition will allow veterans, families and friends in our community to honor our local heroes who served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, the dedication and service these men and women gave in the name of freedom in Vietnam is humbling, and it is an honor to represent them in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in saying thank you to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund for commissioning this monument and to encourage more cities and towns to sponsor this exhibit honoring our veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Desert Botanical Garden on being awarded accreditation by the American Association of Museums, which is the highest recognition of a museum's commitment to public service, professional standards, and excellence in education.

A small group of passionate, local citizens started the Desert Botanical Garden in the 1930s when they saw the need to conserve their unique desert environment. The Garden, which is now located on 145 acres in Phoenix, has emerged as an Arizona treasure. The Garden boasts more than 50,000 plants, 1,100 volunteers, and 640,529 attendees every year.

Since the Garden's beginning, it has been steadfast in its commitment to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world, with emphasis on the southwestern United States. For more than 70 years, it has been teaching and inspiring visitors from around the world to help them understand, appreciate and preserve the desert's natural beauty.

The Garden now joins an impressive group of 778 institutions currently accredited by the

American Association of Museums, which includes only those museums that have demonstrated a firm commitment to providing outstanding programming and experiences to the public while also meeting the highest standards of collections care. In fact, it is 1 of only 44 botanical gardens accredited by the association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and congratulating the Desert Botanical Garden for its impressive and unique contribution to Arizona.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL, LOS ANGELES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Good Samaritan Hospital located in Downtown Los Angeles in my congressional district.

Since 1885, when the hospital was founded as a 9-bed infirmary by Sister Mary Wood, the hospital has been fulfilling its mission to provide accessible, quality, cost-effective and compassionate health services to the community.

A year after its founding, the facility adopted its current-day name in tribute to a Good Samaritan—Mrs. Mark Severance—who donated \$4,000 for the purchase of land for the construction of its first hospital building.

Today, Good Samaritan Hospital located at 616 South Witmer Street in Downtown Los Angeles is much more than a community hospital. With 408 licensed beds, the hospital has earned a reputation as a world-class academic medical center that is affiliated with the USC Keck School of Medicine.

For 4 years in a row, Good Samaritan has been recognized as "One of America's 50 Best Hospitals" by HealthGrades, Inc., the nation's leading independent health care ratings company. U.S. News & World Report also recognized Good Samaritan as one of "America's Best Hospitals for Top Medical Care in 16 Specialties" in 1998.

In addition to providing outstanding diagnostic, surgical and therapeutic care in a state-of-the-art setting, Good Samaritan supports eight Centers of Excellence that focus on advancing the science of medicine while providing outstanding patient care. The hospital's acclaimed oncology program, for example, offers the widest range of options for gynecological, breast, brain and prostate cancers.

Under the leadership of Charles T. Munger, head of the hospital's Board of Trustees, and Andrew B. Leeka, the hospital's president and chief executive officer, Good Samaritan admits approximately 17,000 patients annually (excluding births, which would add approximately 3,600 more to the total) and handles more than 93,500 outpatient visits. More than 7,500 surgeries are performed annually in 18 surgical suites.

Good Samaritan is also a sizeable employer in the community. The hospital employs more than 1,500 employees, including approximately 650 physicians and 550 nurses on its medical staff. Together, the medical staff and

employees speak more than 54 languages and dialects, a direct reflection of the hospital's international reputation and diverse patient base.

The broad range of renowned medical services and programs at Good Samaritan include the Heart Institute, which offers a complete heart care program including invasive and non-invasive cardiology, electrophysiology and cardiothoracic surgery. The Neurosciences program features Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for brain tumors. The Orthopedic Institute combines many subspecialties together in one centralized location designed to take care of any orthopedic problem including serious injuries to the pelvis, hip and knees.

The hospital also offers specialized medical services that include a state-of-the-art Gastroenterology Program, Women's Health Services (obstetrics, gynecology, gynecologic-oncology, perinatology, neonatal intensive care, breast care and assisted reproductive services), Ophthalmologic care (including retinal surgery), Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) treatment, comprehensive Oncology Services (including High-Dose Rate and IMRT treatment), the busiest Kidney Stone Service in the western U.S., and a Transfusion-Free Medicine & Surgery Center.

Other special services include housing accommodations for patients and families at the Weingart Guest House located on the hospital campus and specialized ground and air transport programs for critically ill cardiac and maternity patients. Plans are also underway for the completion of the hospital's new Medical Plaza & Outpatient Pavilion in 2012.

Good Samaritan also provides significant community outreach. In the last Community Benefit Plan update, the quantifiable costs to Good Samaritan Hospital for its community benefits activities totaled more than \$21.4 million, including unreimbursed medical care, services to vulnerable populations, and funding for health research, education and training.

Madam Speaker, I have had the privilege of working closely with Good Samaritan Hospital over the years. I have seen firsthand the important role the hospital plays in improving the health of our communities and I am very proud to have a top-notch hospital such as Good Samaritan in my district.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Good Samaritan on its 125th anniversary of serving the health care needs of families in our community and I extend to this world class medical facility, and all of the individuals who make it the success that it is today, many more years of healing, growth and innovation.

HONORING MR. JOHN N. WALSH, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John N. Walsh, Jr., who passed away recently at the age of 89.

As a child, Mr. Walsh was a student at Bufalo's School 64 and Nichols school. He later graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and continued on to Yale where he majored in history and played center field for the baseball team.

From 1942 to 1945, Mr. Walsh served in the Navy as an ensign on a sub chaser in the Pacific. He was at the invasion of Okinawa on April 1, 1945, the same day his wife gave birth to their first child. Mr. Walsh spent an additional seven years in the Navy before retiring as a lieutenant commander.

In addition to his lifelong work at Walsh Duffield Insurance, Mr. Walsh served on innumerable corporate and civic boards. He was the former director of National Fuel Gas and Tops Markets and was on the boards of both Marine Midland Bank and Buffalo Savings Bank. He was chairman of Buffalo's Chamber of Commerce committee and a critical leader in the work leading to the construction of Ralph Wilson Stadium. He also led campaigns to build Nichols School's hockey rink, its former science center, as well as other fundraising projects throughout western New York.

Mr. Walsh was president of the James H. Cummings Foundation board and held directorships at Hospice Buffalo, Millard Fillmore Hospital, and the YMCA. He was chairman of the boards of the Greater Buffalo Association of Insurance Agents, Nichols School, United Fund, Child and Family Services, NCCJ, AAA, Millard Fillmore Hospital, the Saturn Club, and the Bishops Lay Advisory Council.

A devout Catholic who was a member of Blessed Sacrament Church, Mr. Walsh was named to serve on numerous religious committees. He headed the Bishop's Lay Committee on behalf of Bishop James McNulty, the Schools Review Committee at the request of Bishop Edward Head, and was honored with a diocesan nomination and papal appointment as a Knight of St. Gregory and Knight Commander. Over his lifetime, Mr. Walsh had been recognized as a Buffalo News Outstanding Citizen and the Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year. He held season tickets for both the Buffalo Bills and Sabres. With his family, Mr. Walsh received the United Way's Volunteer of the Year salute and the Seymour H. Knox Humanitarian Award.

Mr. Walsh was married to his wife, Sarah, on July 3, 1943. They recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary at their family vacation cottage on Georgian Bay, Ontario. In addition to his widow, he is survived by three sons, John N. III, Michael, and Theodore B. K. "Barney"; a daughter, Sally Demaree "Demi" Walsh Ayres; three sisters, Eleanor Wertimer, Gerry Clauss, and Sheila Parizeau; and his brother, Edward.

John Walsh, Jr. was a World War II veteran, businessman, father, and proud western New Yorker. Madam Speaker, I was honored to know Jack Walsh and am honored to call members of his family my friends. I ask you to join me and our colleagues in honoring Jack's life and legacy, and to wish his family Godspeed in the days and weeks ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of peaceful German Reunification.

With this anniversary celebration, we acknowledge the influences of the United States and its people, who have come to the aid of the people of Germany. From the Marshall Plan, to the Berlin Airlift, to the support that finally brought down the wall, the people of the United States have stood alongside the German people. From Presidents Truman and Kennedy, to Reagan and H. W. Bush, that support has not wavered.

In 2005 I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit our wounded troops at Landstuhl Air Force Base in Germany. There I saw the remnants of the wall that were erected as a reminder of that time—and the triumphs of German Democracy over tyranny.

The United States has many ties to Germany which we celebrate, as well as the important impact the German heritage has had not only in the DFW Metroplex, but the State of Texas and the entire United States. These influences are found in many aspects of our culture, such as food, arts, and business, and for this, we are thankful.

This year we also recognize the 61st Anniversary of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of German Reunification. Germany is an important ally to the United States, and we are thankful for their partnership.

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on Republic of China's National Day.

In the last two years, Republic of China President Ma Ying-jeou has even further strengthened the ties between Taiwan and the United States. Taiwan has been reducing its trade surplus with the U.S. year after year and supporting our war against global terrorism. Taiwan's offer of humanitarian assistance to Iraq and Afghanistan has been generous and laudatory. I sincerely hope our mutual relations will continue to prosper as we are committed to the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA, the cornerstone of our mutual relations. In keeping with the spirit of the TRA, we must facilitate and complete our arms sale to Taiwan. Despite the reduction of tensions in the Taiwan Strait, the undeniable reality is that China still has over a thousand missiles deployed and aimed at Taiwan around the clock. Taiwan's need for defensive arms is greater than ever.

Madam Speaker, we should applaud Taiwan's recent rapprochement with its major adversary, the PRC. Yet, we should always remember a well-armed Taiwan is the best way to maintain the status quo across the Taiwan Strait. To safeguard Taiwan's security, the U.S., as a longtime friend of Taiwan, must continue to provide necessary defensive weapons to Taiwan. Furthermore, we should continue to advocate for the greater inclusion of Taiwan in international organizations. One good example will be for the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, to accept Taiwan as an observer, following the model of the

World Health Organization, which has invited Taiwan to be its observer for two consecutive years.

On the occasion of its National Day, I wish Taiwan even greater success in the future and appreciate the continued friendship of our two nations.

NATIONAL NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Rep. MICHAEL BURGESS, on this bipartisan legislation and I want to thank him for his leadership on this important issue. I also want to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Chairman PALLONE, Ranking Member BARTON, and Ranking Member SHIMKUS for their support.

Our staffs have worked long and hard in a bipartisan manner to get to this point today. I particularly want to recognize Ray Thorn on my staff, Anne Morris on the Committee staff, and JP Paluskeiwisc on Rep. BURGESS' staff for their work on this legislation.

While thousands of Americans are affected by Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, or other neurological diseases, very little accurate information exists to assist those who research, treat, and provide care to those suffering from these diseases. Accurate incidence and prevalence information is critical and needed to gain a better understanding of these diseases. This lack of information inhibits research, treatments, programs, and services.

In 2000, the Pew Environmental Health Commission, recommended that neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis, be tracked by a national data system. Today, we take an important step implementing that recommendation by establishing a national neurological diseases surveillance system at CDC.

Quite simply, the National Neurological Diseases Surveillance System Act will help improve and enhance the infrastructure in tracking the incidence and prevalence on neurological diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. The information collected through this surveillance system will provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding many factors such as geographic clusters of diagnosis, variances in the gender ratio, disease burden, and changes in health care practices.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents an opportunity to move neurological disease research in a meaningful way that aims to improve the lives of all Americans suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, or other neurological diseases.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.