

INTRODUCTION OF THE OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION, TREATMENT, HOPE, AND DIGNITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2010

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation along with Representative MIKE CASTLE and Representative LOIS CAPPS to save and reclaim the lives of mothers and their babies. The Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act of 2010 authorizes funding to reduce obstetric fistula, a terrible condition which can be prevented and repaired. More than two million women worldwide have obstetric fistula resulting from prolonged labor without medical attention. The pressure created internally on a woman from this obstructed delivery kills tissue and causes a hole to develop between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving the woman without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if left without treatment. It often results in the death of the infant. Many women with obstetric fistula are abandoned by their husbands and families because they are considered "unclean". Left without support, the women are often forced to beg or turn to prostitution to survive.

The World Health Organization estimates that 50,000–100,000 new cases of obstetric fistula develop each year, adding to the estimated 2 million current cases, with most cases occurring in poor communities in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia where access to maternal and obstetric care is limited.

Fortunately, there is hope. This condition is almost entirely preventable. Prevention efforts include medical interventions such as skilled attendance present during labor and childbirth, providing access to family planning, and emergency obstetric care for women who develop childbirth complications as well as social interventions such as delaying early marriage and educating and empowering young women.

This condition also is treatable in up to 90 percent of cases, costing an average of \$300 for repair. The treatment requires a specially trained surgeon and support staff, and access to an operating theater and to attentive post-operative care.

This bill supports a comprehensive approach to end obstetric fistula—prevention to eliminate occurrences, treatment to repair those women who already suffer, and rehabilitation to help those recovering fully heal and reenter society. It focuses on efforts to build local capacity and improve national systems to prevent and treat obstetric fistula.

Women are fundamental to ensuring the health of their children and other family members.

Obstetric fistula is devastating; but doesn't have to be life-shattering. With our bill, we can provide hope and a healthy future. I urge my colleagues to support the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope, and Dignity Restoration Act of 2010.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE A. RUBIN—FATHER OF THE MACKINAC BRIDGE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a true Michigan legend, Lawrence A. Rubin, the father of the Mackinac Bridge. Through his hard work and unbridled passion, Larry was at the heart of funding and building the Mackinac Bridge. It was with a heavy heart that I learned of his passing on May 11 at the age of 97, but I know that Larry's spirit will live on each time someone makes their first trip across that five mile expanse of concrete and steel suspended over the sparkling blue waters of the straits separating Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Although he was born December 7, 1912 in the suburbs of Boston, Massachusetts, we Michiganders count Larry as one of our own. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1934 with a degree in business. In addition to his studies, Larry played on Michigan's football team serving as a backup to future President Gerald Ford. After graduating, Larry opened an advertising agency and held several transportation focused positions before being appointed as Executive Secretary of the Mackinac Bridge Authority in 1950.

The building of the Mackinac Bridge was by no means non-controversial, and Larry was a key player in negotiating both the funding and construction phases of this expensive and expansive project. He not only attracted investors to purchase the bonds needed to fund construction of the bridge, but he also worked to make sure those bonds were repaid.

Larry's vision for the Mackinac Bridge extended beyond simply making transportation between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas more convenient. From the beginning he recognized its potential to draw vacationers and tourists to the area. At five miles from shore to shore, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world in 1955 with 46-story tall towers stretching to the sky. Whether driving in daylight over the churning waters of the Straits of Mackinac or under the illumination of its thousands of lights at night, the trip across the Mackinac Bridge is a captivating experience.

One of the best known traditions of the Mackinac Bridge is the Labor Day Bridge Walk. This too can be traced to Larry, who organized the first Bridge Walk in June, 1958. The following year the Mackinac Bridge Walk was moved to Labor Day weekend. Larry's talent for accomplishing big things was again recognized—the Bridge Walk has grown from 68 participants its first year to an average of 50,000–65,000 participants.

Larry may have officially retired from the Bridge Authority in 1983, but even in retirement he continued his involvement with the bridge, writing two books about the Mighty Mac, participating each year in the Labor Day Bridge Walk and even building his home overlooking the straits to allow him to see his beloved bridge each and every day.

It was Larry's unfailing energy that ensured the success not only of the Mackinac Bridge, but in each endeavor he set out to do. He was active in the St. Ignace community, serving as

director of the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association, chairman of the Mackinac Straits Hospital board and as a founder and board member of the local library. He was an avid downhill skier, and could be found hitting the slopes until he was 90.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to envision how the Mackinac Bridge would exist today without the drive and the vision of Larry Rubin. The bridge is a lasting symbol of a unified Michigan and for this we owe our heartfelt thanks and Michigan pride to Larry. With his passing, Michigan has lost an icon and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Elma and their family. Therefore Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of Lawrence A. Rubin—the great champion and father of the Mackinac Bridge.

DEKALB COUNTY VETERANS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker: Whereas, DeKalb County serves as home for many of our Veterans that have served in the United States Military; and

Whereas, the day-to-day operations of our government on a local, state and federal level impact the lives of our Veterans either directly or indirectly; and

Whereas, our beloved county continues to rely on the wisdom and suggestions from the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board members to address concerns and issues of our military community; and

Whereas, this unique board has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve integrity, advocate for our enlisted service personnel and veterans; and

Whereas, the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board continues to serve our county by being involved in the planning, organizing and conducting of ceremonies that commemorate and recognize those who served our country in the United States military; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board for their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 24, 2010, as DeKalb County Veterans Affairs Advisory Board Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. McCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bakersfield National Cemetery located in Kern County, California. The Bakersfield National Cemetery opened in July of last year and we will all be honoring veterans at the cemetery's first Memorial Day

this weekend. This cemetery will serve as a final resting place for our veterans and their family members for many years to come.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery covers more than five hundred acres and includes full-casket gravesites, pre-placed crypts, in-ground cremation sites and columbarium niches. Additionally, the grounds will include a public information center, a maintenance complex, a flag assembly area, a memorial walkway, a committal service shelter, as well as interment areas, plus irrigation and support facilities that will keep the grounds pristine as the final resting place of many of our heroes from the Central Valley of California who have served and sacrificed for our country.

It is of the utmost importance that the brave men and women who keep us safe be honored. This cemetery provides solace to the families of service personnel; for others, it will serve as a reminder of the sacrifice that patriots have made, and will continue to make, on behalf of our nation.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a monument not only to the sacrifice of our local veterans, but also to Kern County's unending commitment to those who serve, and the cause of freedom for all. The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a small token of appreciation for our men and women in uniform who protect the freedoms that we enjoy today, and I am honored today to recognize its first Memorial Day ceremony.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF RAYMUNDO M. BARRERA AND PLACIDA P. BARRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. Raymundo M. Barrera and Mrs. Placida P. Barrera. I congratulate the couple on spending over half a century married and going strong together.

The couple is native to South Texas and has contributed to the community through their careers and service. Raymundo was born in 1926 in Mission, Texas to Dr. Cayetano Barrera and Maria L. Martinez. That same year, Placida Pena was born to Reynaldo Pena and Josefa Ramirez in Guerra, Texas.

Their life together began the day they met in Mission, Texas in 1940 at their young age of 14 years old. As fate would have it, Placida lived with her aunt and was next door neighbors to Raymundo's family. At the start of the World War II, a year later, Placida went back to live with her parents in Jim Hogg County in a community name Guerra or El Colorado Ranch. She graduated from the Rio Grande City High School in 1945. Eight years later, she went back to Mission and reunited with Raymundo. Raymundo had served his country by being recruited into the Army and served in Europe in 1945. After Raymundo and Placida saw each other, Raymundo went back to Delaware where he was stationed. The two corresponded through letters while they were apart.

By March 1950, in one of the many letters exchanged—Raymundo asked Placida to

marry him. By April, they were engaged and on June 4, they were married. Throughout the years, the two have been stationed at Laredo Air Force Base, South Korea, Yokota, Japan, and Kansas. By 1969, Sgt. Raymundo Barrera retired from the military and moved to Laredo, Texas. Following his retirement, Raymundo attended colleges in Laredo and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Placida earned her bachelor's degree in education and taught in Roma, Texas. She taught for 21 years within the United Independent School District, in Laredo, Texas. In 2001, she retired.

Today, Raymundo and Placida are retired in Laredo, Texas. They have been blessed with six children, 20 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

I congratulate Raymundo's and Placida's 60th wedding anniversary. They have experienced a great deal together, served the community of South Texas and the nation, and continue going strong jointly.

HONORING WILLIAM (LARRY) LUCAS, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (PhRMA)

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor Mr. Larry Lucas—who is retiring from his position as vice president, Government Affairs, of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, PhRMA—for his dedication and illustrious career which, over many decades, has always championed the improved health and wellness of all people, but particularly of the underserved.

During his tenure at PhRMA, Larry honed his expertise and energy around coalition building and grassroots development, and developed strong and strategic partnerships with African-American and Latino state legislators throughout the country. But Larry also worked with a diversity of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle on issues that were and remain critically important to expanding access not only to medicines, but also to quality health care information, services and treatments. He launched numerous efforts to work with a broad coalition of key stakeholders—from patients, to healthcare providers and administrators, to for-profit and not-for-profit health organizations—to raise greater awareness about the factors that exacerbate the racial and ethnic differences in access to quality health care, as well as in health preferences and health outcomes. Ever the communicator—Larry did a stint in radio as a young man—he also wrote a nationally syndicated monthly column about new developments in the pharmaceutical industry.

Larry's incredible accomplishments, however, began long before he joined PhRMA. Not only did he receive a bachelor of science degree in education from Jackson State University in Mississippi and honorably serve the Nation in the United States Air Force, but he conceptualized and launched a landmark outreach campaign at the Bureau of Census for

the 1980 census program that involved over 86,000 government jurisdictions. One testament to the success of this effort—which is but one of many during his 16 years with the Bureau—is that the program was replicated in the 1990 and 2000 censuses.

Recently appointed to the Africa Diaspora North Initiative Strategic Planning Committee Board, as well as to the board of trustees for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP—where he is involved in their contribution fund and health committee—Larry holds numerous leadership positions on the boards of directors, as well as advisory boards and councils of some of the Nations' most influential and prominent organizations. Among them are the following: the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Hispanic Medical Foundation and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Larry Lucas also serves on the boards of directors for the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute, the Providence Health Foundation Providence Hospital, Yale University's School of Nursing External Advisory Board, and is a founding member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators' Business Board of Advisors.

Through his commitment to excellence and unwillingness to accept mediocrity, Larry is highly regarded as a respectful, trustworthy, prepared and savvy federal and state legislative affairs expert. Through his perseverance and unrelenting focus on and dedication to reducing racial and ethnic, gender and geographic health disparities, Larry is widely known as one of the Nation's most passionate health equity champions. And, through his continued support of the efforts of not only the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, but of the Congressional TriCaucus, Larry is not only a brilliant mind, but a great mentor and friend who will be missed, but who also will serve as an inspiration to so many others for many decades to come.

On behalf of all those who have been touched and informed by Larry Lucas's efforts, and whose health, health care, wellness and thus life opportunities have been improved by his myriad professional and personal successes, I thank, honor and congratulate Mr. Lucas today, and wish him health and happiness during a long retirement with his loving wife Camille, family and friends.

RECOGNIZING MR. BOBBY STOUT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has honorably served his country in the United States Navy and his community of the City of Wichita and Sedgewick County, Kansas.

After 53 years of involvement in the local criminal justice system, Mr. Bobby Stout will be retiring from his position as the Wichita Crime Commission's Executive Director, effective June 30th, 2010.

This remarkable achievement is the culmination of an extraordinary career. After completing his military obligation in the United