

hearing on August 2nd on the global health issue of hydrocephalus, a serious—and seriously neglected—health condition. The hearing also focused on a relatively inexpensive, technologically-sophisticated advancement for curing it, created, designed, and perfected by one of our distinguished witnesses, Dr. Benjamin Warf.

I had the opportunity to learn more about hydrocephalus when I was traveling in Africa last March. Children who suffer from it characteristically have heads that are far out of proportion to the size of their small bodies. I was horrified to learn that in Africa, where superstitions still are widespread, hydrocephalus is commonly perceived as a curse or caused through witchcraft. A child may be subjected to horrific abuse, and even killed, as a result. It was therefore a real eye-opener for me to see the cultural context of hydrocephalus in Africa, and the extraordinary efforts of a number of courageous, compassionate individuals to address it.

The human brain normally produces cerebrospinal fluid which surrounds and cushions it. The fluid also delivers nutrients to and removes waste away from the brain. This fluid is drained away from the brain and absorbed into blood vessels as new fluid is produced.

Hydrocephalus occurs when this draining process no longer functions properly. The fluid levels inside the skull rise, causing increased pressure that compresses the brain and potentially enlarges the head. Symptoms include headaches, vomiting, blurred vision, cognitive difficulties, imbalance, convulsions, brain damage, and ultimately, death.

Hydrocephalus can occur in adults, but most commonly is present at birth. Our witnesses testified that there are believed to be more than 4,000 new cases of infant hydrocephalus in Uganda, and 100,000 to 375,000 new cases in sub-Saharan Africa, each year. By comparison, in the United States, hydrocephalus occurs in 1 out of every 500 births. Another 6,000 children under the age of 2 develop hydrocephalus annually. The U.S. National Institutes of Health estimates that 700,000 Americans have hydrocephalus, and it is the leading cause of brain surgery for children in this country.

A major difference between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa is the number of neurosurgeons available to treat this condition. The U.S. has 3,500 neurosurgeons, whereas Uganda, for instance, has only four.

Another major difference between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa is the methodology used to treat hydrocephalus. In the Western world, doctors surgically insert a shunt into the brain in order to drain the fluid through the neck and into another part of the body where the fluid can be absorbed. A shunt is only a temporary solution, and there is always a danger that any one of a number of things may go wrong. For example, the tube may become blocked, an infection may develop, catheters may break or malfunction due to calcification, or the valve may drain too much or too little fluid. In almost half of all cases, shunts fail within the first two years. And when they do, the patient must have immediate access to a medical facility and a doctor who can correct the problem.

This precarious situation must be a constant source of concern and stress for people in the United States who suffer from hydrocephalus and their families. However, in a place like

sub-Saharan Africa, a shunt is fundamentally impractical. Trained neurosurgeons, as I noted, are extremely few in Africa, as are properly equipped hospitals. And roads and transportation systems on the African continent make travel arduous and long for the vast majority of people under even the best of circumstances. A hydrocephalic child in a place like Uganda, even if he or she could be treated with a shunt, would have little hope of living for more than a couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. John Mugamba, one of the four neurosurgeons in Uganda. With the help of a video such as we viewed during the hearing, Dr. Mugamba explained the fascinating surgical procedure that he is performing several times daily in Uganda to cure small children of hydrocephalus. This treatment being provided at CURE Children's Hospital of Uganda is not only overcoming a medical barrier that children afflicted with the condition face; it is also serving to educate Ugandan communities that the condition is not the result of a curse and is not a reason to kill the child. Parents whose children have been cured are helping other parents to identify the condition early in an infant's life, and to know where to go for treatment.

Dr. Warf was the first to identify neonatal infection as the chief cause of pediatric hydrocephalus in a developing country. He also developed the new surgical technique, a combined endoscopic third ventriculostomy with bilateral choroid plexus cauterization (ETV/CPC), which holds great promise not only for the children of Africa but potentially for children in developed countries as well. As Dr. Warf testified, hydrocephalus has never been a public health priority in developing countries. Most infants in Africa do not receive treatment, and even when treated, they often succumb to a premature death or suffer severe disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we find the causes in order to develop public health prevention strategies. Our distinguished witnesses explained this innovative procedure, efforts being undertaken to determine the causes of hydrocephalus, and initiatives to end the suffering caused by this life-threatening condition. I plea with all stakeholders who care about the children of Africa, including African Ministries of Health, non-governmental organizations, and our own U.S. Agency for International Development, to urgently provide tangible support to these efforts and initiatives.

SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT
OF GENERAL WESLEY CLARK AS
SPECIAL ENVOY TO CAMP
ASHRAF, IRAQ

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my support for the appointment of General Wesley K. Clark, Sr. as the special envoy to resolve the crisis in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. As one of the most highly decorated officers in the history of our nation and an authority in foreign policy as demonstrated by his ability to resolve the crisis in the Balkans while serving as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe of

NATO from 1007–2000, I encourage Secretary Clinton to seriously consider General Clark for this position.

Camp Ashraf is home to 3,400 members of the principal Iranian opposition group, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK). There are 1,000 women among the residents, as well as children. The Iraqi Government has on two occasions attacked the unarmed residents of Camp Ashraf, killing dozens and injuring hundreds of defenseless men and women.

In a press conference on July 30, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki stated that western countries should not provide refuge to the residents. He has already stated that he intends to expel, and has threatened to arrest Camp Ashraf residents by the end of the year. If Ashraf residents are left at the mercy of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who has repeatedly acted at the behest of Tehran, the residents could be killed, tortured or even sent to Iran where they would surely be murdered.

We need to play a very active role to ensure that no other resident of Camp Ashraf is subjected to massacre, given that we signed an agreement with every resident of Camp Ashraf in 2004 to protect them until their final disposition and that the United States recognized them as “protected persons.”

I strongly endorse the appointment of a special envoy to resolve the looming humanitarian catastrophe in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. The envoy should not only have notable credentials and experience, but should also have the trust of all parties including the residents of Ashraf, European countries and the United Nations.

General Wesley Clark has proven himself to be a diplomat of the highest order as well as an outstanding military commander and strategist. General Clark graduated first in his class from West Point. He completed degrees in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University where he earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees as a Rhodes Scholar.

In 38 years of service in the United States Army, he commanded at the battalion, brigade and division levels. He served in a number of significant staff positions including being appointed as the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Clark rose to the rank of four-star general as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander of Europe and led forces to victory in Operation Allied Force where 1.5 million Albanians were saved from ethnic cleansing.

His awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Defense Distinguished Service Medal (five awards), Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, honorary knighthoods from the British and Dutch governments, Commander of the Legion of Honor by the French government and numerous other awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to stand with me in urging Secretary Clinton to consider General Wesley Clark to lead a special envoy to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. It is in the best interest of the residents of Camp Ashraf that this effort be led by someone such as General Clark who has military experience and demonstrated successful conflict resolution.

IN HONOR OF MR. TONY
PETKOVSEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tony Petkovsek on the 50th anniversary of his Polka music radio show. Deemed "Cleveland's Polka Ambassador," he has worked tirelessly to advance Slovenian culture and Polka music both in Cleveland and around the world.

Starting in August of 1961, Tony began broadcasting a polka music radio show fused with interviews and discussions on the Cleveland community. Tony was also instrumental in establishing the United Slovenian Society and Greater Cleveland and the USS Concert.

In addition to his career, Tony uses polka as a vehicle to perform invaluable community service. Through his Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club's "Radiothons," Tony has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Slovene Home for the Aged which helps elderly members of Cleveland's Slovenian-American community receive various therapies as well as recreation activities and entertainment. He has also helped form many cultural organizations in Cleveland such as the United Slovenian Society of Greater Cleveland and the Cleveland-Slovenian Radio Club.

Tony has received countless accolades and awards throughout his long and selfless career. He has served on the Ohio Arts Council and in 1991 was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in Akron. He has received the Slovenian Man of the Year Award from the Federation of Slovenian homes. This year he is being inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise to honor Mr. Tony Petkovsek on the 50th anniversary of his radio show and his recent induction into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame. He is a staple of Polka culture and is a vital member of the Slovenian-American community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE
RAMOS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 5, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late George Ramos, a longtime Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist in Los Angeles, a Cal Poly professor, and a decorated Vietnam War veteran who devoted much of his life to honoring the Latino community that he knew so well and loved.

Mr. Ramos grew up in the area of East Los Angeles known as Belvedere Garden. As we learned through his own writings, Mr. Ramos escaped the trappings of poverty, drugs and gang life that plagued the area to attend college and embark on a distinguished career in journalism.

Among his many professional highlights, Mr. Ramos is heralded for his contributions to a Los Angeles Times groundbreaking series on Latinos in Southern California that earned the newspaper a 1984 Pulitzer Prize.

As part of this series, Mr. Ramos authored a July 27, 1983 article entitled "Going Home: American Dream Lives in the Barrio," in which Mr. Ramos shares with readers the story of his boyhood life growing up in the "hillside barrio." I would like to honor his memory today by submitting the full text of this article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On a more personal note, I was also deeply impressed by another thorough, fact-filled, and beautifully written article about Los Angeles' Latino community that Mr. Ramos authored—my father's October 25, 2005 obituary. In the first sentence, he described my father, the late Congressman Edward Roybal, as a "pioneer in Latino politics in Los Angeles and a godfather and mentor to scores of lawmakers." I find it truly fitting that many of the same words are being used over and over to describe his own life's contributions to journalism.

In addition to his reporting, I have also had the privilege, year after year, of joining Mr. Ramos and other Latino veterans on Memorial Day at Cinco Puntos in Boyle Heights near the Mexican-American All Wars Memorial. A Purple Heart recipient and proud Latino veteran, Mr. Ramos made it a priority to honor our fallen men and women in uniform and often served as the event's Master of Ceremony.

To more fully capture Mr. Ramos' life and accomplishments, I would also like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following article that appeared in the online publication, CalCoastNews, where Mr. Ramos most recently volunteered as an editor. In the July 26 article, Los Angeles elected officials are quoted universally praising Mr. Ramos' talent for storytelling and his devotion to Los Angeles' Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, as his family, colleagues, fellow veterans, students and many friends prepare to gather for his memorial service August 6 at the Veterans' Memorial Building in Morro Bay, I ask my colleagues to please join me and the entire Los Angeles community in extending our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Ramos' loved ones and all of those whose lives he touched. By all accounts, this self-described "kid from East L.A." served Los Angeles well and will be greatly missed.

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNS IN
MEMORY OF GEORGE RAMOS

(July 26, 2011) CALCOASTNEWS—The Los Angeles City Council adjourned today's meeting in memory of George Ramos, a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, columnist and editor for the Los Angeles Times, Cal Poly professor, and CalCoastNews editor who was more comfortable referring to himself as "the kid from East L.A."

Ramos, who suffered from increased complications from diabetes, was found dead at his home in Morro Bay Saturday. He was 63.

"George was a tenacious reporter and a brilliant story teller who always wrote from the heart," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "A proud son of the Eastside, he intimately captured the Latino experience in Los Angeles and never lost sight of the human dimension in journalism. He will be greatly missed but his legacy and enduring love for our City will live on through the many young journalists he mentored throughout the years."

Ramos was born in Los Angeles on Oct. 1, 1947. He grew up in Belvedere Garden, a neighborhood he described in a 1984 Pulitzer Prize series story as an East L.A. hillside barrio inhabited by "poor but proud people" with "hopes as resilient as tall wheat in a summer breeze." Ramos graduated from Garfield High School and attended Cal Poly San

Luis Obispo where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1969. He joined the Vietnam War effort, serving in the U.S. Army from March 1970 to September 1971 in West Germany and South Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart after suffering a leg wound.

"I first met George over the phone when I was studying in Oxford more than 15 years ago and recently saw him on Memorial Day at Cinco Puntos. In the intervening years, I came to appreciate his unique perspective on issues facing our great city. His death is a loss for us all," said Council President Eric Garcetti.

First District Councilmember Ed P. Reyes said: "George Ramos was a street reporter, passionate and fiery, who constantly searched for the human side of the news. We will miss his ability to seek truth. It's a perspective that's needed now more than ever and we will miss him."

Ramos joined the L.A. Times in 1978 after working for Copley News Service and the San Diego Union. During his career at the Times, he went on to win three Pulitzer Prizes, an honor only a handful of Latino reporters has accomplished in journalism history.

"As a teacher, journalist and veteran, George Ramos was a friend and mentor to many," said Fourteenth District Councilmember José Huizar. "His influence crossed generations. His keen intellect, sharp sense of humor and deep sense of humanity will be dearly missed. I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to see all his gifts displayed at our annual Veterans' Memorial commemoration at Cinco Puntos in Boyle Heights, which George participated in numerous times. My thoughts and prayers go out to all mourning the loss of this great man."

Tenth District Councilmember Herb Wesson said: "George Ramos had roots in many communities, and the fact that he cared about those communities was reflected in his writing. He was a fine journalist, and a great role model. The many young journalists he trained, and who maintain his high standards, are the important legacy he leaves us."

"George Ramos had a monumental impact because he was fearless in seeking out the truth and sharing it with the public. I am among the many fans who greatly admired him for his journalistic skills, personal and professional integrity and incredible dedication. Most of all, I appreciate how much he accomplished not just through the printed word but through his own humanity, as he was a wonderful and caring person who mentored countless others, giving them tools and wisdom with which to build a better career, life and world," said Fifth District Councilmember Paul Koretz.

Ramos and former Times editor Frank Sotomayor were co-editors of a groundbreaking series on Latinos in Southern California that won the paper the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Meritorious Public Service in 1984. Seventeen Latino journalists worked on the 27-part series. Ramos also was part of the Times reporting teams that were awarded Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Seventh District Councilmember Richard Alarcón said: "Molded by the mentorship of Rubén Salazar and Frank del Olmo, George Ramos had a very personal connection to his Los Angeles roots and his writing reflected this. By embracing his background, Ramos helped shape the conscience of Los Angeles."

In 2003, Ramos left the Times to return to San Luis Obispo where he served as Cal Poly Journalism Department Chair. Ramos, a mentor to young Latino reporters, also