

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ROBERT
“CY” LAUGHTER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations and best wishes to one of my dearest friends, Robert “Cy” Laughter, on the upcoming occasion of his 80th birthday on July 26, 2005. As birthdays are often a time for reflection, I think it is fitting to pause and pay tribute to this truly remarkable man, and share some of his more memorable exploits. As a devoted husband, a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, industrious businessman, philanthropist, and veteran of World War II, Cy has truly led a full and distinguished life.

A life-long native of Dayton, Ohio—but to me an Honorary Hoosier—Cy is probably best known to his friends and neighbors as an industrialist and founder of the famous Bogie Busters Golf Tournament. Held for over 35 years in Dayton Ohio this charity tournament always drew a distinguished list of participants including a few former U.S. Presidents and Vice-Presidents, Cabinet members, Members of Congress, governors, athletes, celebrities and national business leaders. Numerous organizations, including the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Johnny Bench Scholarship Fund, the Dayton’s Children’s Medical Center, and the City of Dayton itself received invaluable financial support and recognition through the Bogie Busters Tournament thanks to Cy’s extraordinary efforts.

Over the years, Cy has given of himself in other ways, most notably by serving on the board of directors of Wendy’s International, and as a trustee for Sinclair Community College and Wright State University of Dayton Ohio. And when President George Herbert Walker Bush called, Cy did not hesitate to answer that call to duty and service on the Federal Home Loan Board and the Battlefields and Monument Commission; just as Cy did not hesitate to answer his Nation’s call to service during World War II in which he served as a U.S. Army light infantry foot soldier, and was awarded the Purple Heart for serious injuries sustained in combat during the legendary Battle of the Bulge. Cy recently came to Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the D-day invasion and listening to him talk about his experiences during the war it was obvious how profoundly he was changed by those events and how proud he is to have been a small part of saving the world from oppression and tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to consider Cy Laughter one of my dearest friends, and I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cy’s lifetime of service to our Nation. I’m sure that Cy’s family, longtime friends and colleagues will also join me in wishing him many more years of happiness. Happy birthday, Mr. Laughter.

RECOGNIZING ASTELLAS PHARMA
ON OPENING ITS NORTH AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. I would like to recognize a very positive and significant development in the continuing growth of the biotech industry in Illinois. On April 1, 2005, Astellas Pharma U.S., Inc. officially opened its North American headquarters in my home Congressional district of Deerfield, Illinois.

Astellas Pharma U.S., Inc. is a new global company created by the merger of two leading pharmaceutical firms. Fujisawa Healthcare, Inc., based in Deerfield, and Yamanouchi Pharma America, Inc., based in New Jersey, merged their North American headquarter operations at Fujisawa’s former headquarters in Deerfield, Illinois. This merger resulted in the creation and retention of a significant number of biotech industry related jobs for the State of Illinois and the 10th Congressional District. The merger of these two international pharmaceutical entities creates a global company with the mission of improving healthcare around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products.

In the past, this Deerfield based company has been an excellent corporate citizen and served the local healthcare community well. In addition to developing pharmaceutical therapies, Fujisawa’s philanthropic activities included a large endowment to the Pediatric Dermatologic Research conducted through the Children’s Memorial Institute for Education and Research. This particular act of philanthropy was the largest gift ever made to Children’s Memorial Hospital by a corporation.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus, I am aware of some of the life-saving therapies that Fujisawa and Yamanouchi already pioneered in areas such as solid organ transplantation, immunosuppression and urology. I look forward to working with the global firm of Astellas as it continues to tap the potential of the life sciences and support healthy living for people around the world. I congratulate the people of Astellas and wish them well in their efforts to make contributions to health and employment in Illinois.

ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF
VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for two bills that I have introduced that address the needs of our veterans. We have recently celebrated Flag Day, and I believe an appropriate way to celebrate Flag Day is to introduce bills that will help veterans in pursuing their education and gaining admission to state veterans homes.

My bill, H.R. 2365, the “Montgomery GI Bill Flexibility Act”, improves education benefits. An important piece of the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization bill that Congress

passed was a provision that extends the time limit from 10 to 14 years for members of the Selected Reserve to use their GI Bill education benefits. Life in 2005 can make it difficult to finish an education in 10 years. Many times, veterans with families, work commitments, and economic difficulties are unable to fulfill all their requirements to receive a degree or certification within the 10-year period, and Congress recognized this difficulty for members of the Selected Reserve. It is time to extend the number of years for all participants of the Montgomery GI Bill.

A veteran who is interested in seeing H.R. 2365 pass writes: “I served 8 years of active duty in the Army, including the Persian Gulf War. I am also a family member of an active duty service member. In support of my husband’s military career, I have moved six times, currently planning move number 7, in the past 9 years. That, coupled with three babies, has made it difficult for me to use my GI Bill benefits.” H.R. 2365 will ensure that more veterans are able to avail themselves of the educational opportunity that they have earned.

I have also introduced H.R. 3009, “A Guaranteed Home For Our Veterans Act”, to address a problem that has been called to my attention by my constituents. One was told by his state veterans home in California that if he chose to transfer to his home state of Minnesota, he would have to wait a year in order to establish state residency before being accepted. Veterans should be able to transfer to any other state veterans home on a space-available basis. H.R. 3009 would make that change to save veterans from severe hardships if they want to move to be closer to their families.

Better Long Term Care and Education Benefits for our nation’s veterans! I urge my colleagues to support these veterans’ bills.

CONGRATULATING DR. GILBERTO VELEZ AND PASTOR SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE HISPANIC CHURCH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Gilberto Velez and Pastor Samuel Rodriguez for their leadership in the Hispanic Church.

Dr. Gilberto Velez, Policy Director for the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, was recently recognized by the Assemblies of God as one of America’s premiere Pastors. Gilberto began what would eventually become the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia through a home Bible study in Laredo with a handful of people, in March of 1995. Just last week, the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia celebrated their 10th anniversary with a brand new 3,300 seat facility.

Because of its growth and vision, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference President Samuel Rodriguez has chosen the Iglesia Cristiana Misericordia as the Evangelical Hispanic Church of the Year, a role model for other Hispanic Churches and Pastors to follow.

Through the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Pastor Rodriguez