

RECOGNIZING GYNECOLOGIC
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 473, a resolution recognizing September as the seventh annual Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. I and 74 of my colleagues have co-sponsored this resolution. We firmly believe that raising public awareness, detecting gynecological cancers early, and educating women to the risk of reproductive tract cancers are powerful methods with which to combat this disease.

The Gynecological Cancer Foundation (GCF) seeks to promote these important goals by leading the Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month events and through the Foundation's work year-round. I commend the GCF for its efforts and accomplishments to date. I congratulate the GCF on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 27,000 of 71,000 women diagnosed with gynecological cancers succumbed to their diseases during 2002. Uterine cancer is the most common among women today. Ovarian cancer is the most deadly. Cervical cancer, for instance, was a leading cause of death for American women. But medical advances and early detection efforts during the last 40 years have significantly increased a woman's chances of surviving it. But a revealing 2005 GCF poll showed that 45 percent of American women could not name a single symptom common to gynecological cancers. Clearly, more must be done here.

Through awareness, early detection, education and better treatment we can make more progress toward increasing survival rates for women at risk for or diagnosed with gynecological cancers. The passage of H. Con. Res. 437 will help improve the rate of early detection of these cancers. The passage of H. Con. Res. 437 will also help to save lives. Lastly, the adoption of H. Con. Res. 473 will help bolster gynecological cancers education and research. Taken together, these actions will help researchers and physicians discover better treatments and ultimately a cure for these debilitating cancers.

Raising awareness and early detection coupled with better education and treatment programs for women who suffer from gynecological cancers is of particular concern to my constituents. Guam does not have an oncologist. Most oncology services are thousands of miles away in Hawaii or on the mainland. Adequate care and information regarding gynecological cancers are similarly inaccessible for women from other isolated or rural communities across America. They are at particular risk. We must do more to help them.

I was among thousands of people who stood at the Reflecting Pool on the West front of the U.S. Capitol to honor cancer survivors and mourn the loss of those who succumbed to the disease last week. Attendees were invited to light a candle in memory of survivors and victims of cancer. Each candle represented a person's battle, a family's grief, and a community's struggle. I memorialized Guam's cancer survivors and victims in this

way. This Ceremony of Hope was an emotional display of strength and optimism. But the sight of a sea of candles flickering before us was also a disturbing testimony to the loss and heartbreak associated with this dreadful disease.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 473. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the House Energy and Commerce Committee to report H.R. 1245, the Cancer Education and Awareness Act. H.R. 1245 enjoys the support of 256 members of this body. The bill is colloquially known as Johanna's Law, named in memory of Johanna Silver Gordon, who lost her life to a battle with ovarian cancer which was not diagnosed until it had reached an advanced stage. Johanna's Law would make education and outreach on gynecological cancers an ongoing effort and a national priority. The House should have an opportunity to vote on this bill. Together, H. Con. Res. 473 and H.R. 1245 would do much to raise awareness and improve early detection of gynecological cancers while facilitating better education and treatment programs for women who suffer from gynecological cancers.

COMMEMORATING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, July 4th each year, Americans young and old, of every ethnicity and political persuasion, unite in our celebration of our Nation's independence. We proudly stand and honor our democratic ideals and the liberty we all enjoy. It is a day to reflect on our shared history and remember those who have sacrificed their lives to ensure our freedom.

For the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, July 4th is just another day on the calendar. But on October 1st each year, they celebrate their independence, which was attained in 1960 after decades of British colonial rule.

I want to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Cypriot people on the 46th anniversary of their independence.

I also want to reaffirm the strong and enduring relationship between Cyprus and the United States. Over the past few decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Cypriots and Americans alike share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 46th Independence Day, I share the Cypriots' joy for and love of their nation, a prosperous and open society based on solid foundations. The celebration of this anniversary is an opportunity for the United States and Cyprus to draw closer together as we stand united in our resolve to fight the ongoing battle against terrorism and to promote the spread of freedom and democracy around the world. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. ELAINE MAR, SUPERVISOR OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER DNA IDENTIFICATION UNIT OF THE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent of mine, forensic scientist Elaine Mar. Ms. Mar is the retiring Supervisor of the World Trade Center DNA Identification Unit of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner [OCME].

For 4½ years, she has shown extraordinary leadership and made a commitment to public service far above and beyond the call of duty. She has remained fully dedicated to putting names to the innocent victims of 9/11 and allowing their return to their families so that they may be laid to rest with dignity and love. She has been the quintessential "behind the scenes" hero.

On the morning of September 11, Elaine was flying from New York's Laguardia airport to San Francisco, which was grounded in St. Louis as a result of the attacks that day. When she returned to New York she was detailed by the Medical Examiner to the lab, helping clear the decks of the rape and homicide case work that is the normal business of the OCME. But by late November, she was part of the team working to identify over 20,600 human remains of 2,749 people who died in Manhattan. By December, she was the lead supervisor of that team, and has continued in that role well into 2006.

Although I am told that she never sought managerial advancement, Elaine was a gifted leader under the most incredible of pressures. Many professional forensic scientists have left this project. Some have found the work so heartbreaking that they have left the profession altogether. Despite the staggering weight of her task, Elaine has always been wholly dedicated to the identification effort; for the first three full years she could almost always be found still at her desk at 11, midnight or 1 a.m. On more than one occasion, she worked straight through the night on a complicated DNA identification, surprising colleagues when they arrived in the morning. Elaine Mar has been the only person who has worked on identifying—quite literally—truckloads of fragmented human life for nearly the entire time since we were attacked.

Partly because of her humble approach to her responsibilities, only a few people appreciate how many of those killed have been identified solely because of Elaine Mar's faithful and steadfast commitment to the victims and their families. She has led her team by example, showing a professionalism and selfless citizenship that inspires those around her. On the few occasions where recognition for the work of her team has been given, she has put forward one of her subordinates to accept the thanks of a grateful city. However, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Ms. Mar for all the work she has done for a grateful city and nation. I wish her well as she makes a new life for herself in Michigan.