

individual well being and community stability. These services are provided in settings which preserve and protect the essential privacy and rights of each individual. The organization advocates public policies which guarantee these rights and ensure the understanding of the individual and societal implications of human sexuality. The Planned Parenthood Association encourages research and the advancement of technology in reproductive health care and the understanding of inherent bioethical, behavioral, and societal implications. In addition, the agency employs trained educators who conduct extensive community outreach and educational programs, offering comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education and health programs to thousands of New Jersey residents every year. Everyone is welcome, regardless of race, age, income, sexual orientation, or disability. Fees are based on the ability to pay and no one is turned away.

First as board vice president in 1997, then as board chair, Ms. Grounds successfully led the PPAMA through several managerial transitions. She has had leadership roles on Development, Finance, Facilities, Personnel, and Public Affairs Committees. She was an incentive for the board to re-evaluate its own role in the organization. A modest, exceptionally organized woman, Ms. Grounds excels at "the big picture," keeping the board cohesive and efficient, while recruiting extraordinary leaders.

Ms. Grounds is a phenomenal fundraiser. Through both Annual and Capital Campaigns, she has made possible the improvement of services offered to clients, and during her tenure the number of patients treated has significantly increased. This is no small task. The annual budget of the PPAMA is about \$2.8 million, making possible the service of about 15,000 clients per year.

Ms. Grounds has been an editor, writer, fundraiser extraordinaire, and tireless worker for the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area. She leaves a legacy of fund raising skill, governance expertise, and strong board leadership that benefits not only the organization, but also the individual, community, and State.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 12th district of New Jersey, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Marilyn W. Grounds for her service on the board of the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area.

POLISH AMERICAN MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this month I proudly join the thousands of Polish-Americans living in Chicago in a national celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride during Polish American Heritage Month.

Celebrated in October, Polish American Heritage Month includes General Pulaski Memorial Day, which honors the American Revolutionary War patriot Casimir Pulaski. In 1777, General Pulaski attended his first meeting with Benjamin Franklin, to champion the freedom of the American people. This early partnership has been mirrored by the present-day alliance between Poland and the United States.

Polish-Americans have made strong contributions to American culture in virtually every field, including literature, technology, and music. My hometown of Chicago has more people of Polish descent than any other city outside of Poland. I am dedicated to continuing the strong record of cultural and economic ties between our two nations.

The United States is grateful to Poland for its friendship and commitment to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. Poland has also proven to be a strong ally of the United States, assisting in global efforts to combat terrorism, and providing troops and resources for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the citizens of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country in recognizing, remembering, and celebrating Polish American Month.

REMEMBERING SYDNEY TALLY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Sydney Tally for her tireless commitment to better the lives of active duty servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and above all their families through a distinguished career with the National Military Family Association.

Widely known and beloved in military circles, this Air Force daughter and Navy spouse trained as a nurse and pursued her specialty in public health nursing before becoming a full time mother and volunteer after the birth of her first child. Among many service endeavors, she freely devoted her time serving as teaching assistant, Brownie and Girl Scout leader, Red Cross pediatric nurse, and president of four naval officers' wives clubs.

In 1983, she joined the NMFA government relations staff and served as vice president of the department from 1987 to 1990 before rising to the position of first paid professional staff member and director. She also sat on the NMFA's board of governors until her recent passing. Mrs. Tally used her leverage through this organization to benefit military families everywhere. Her focus on the military family drove her in creating the Military Coalition. Women, infants, and children found nourishment after her advocacy secured legislation for an overseas nutrition program targeted specifically for military families.

Mrs. Tally received numerous awards and recognitions for her altruistic work, including the Military Coalition's Award of Merit, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Defense Commissary Agency, 1993 Defense Transition Services Award from the University of Central Florida, and recognition of her outstanding citizenship by the Military Chaplains Association.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Mrs. Tally for her life's work and continuing legacy that brought forth significant awareness of the needs of military families. I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing her accomplishments, and in sharing our condolences with her family and friends.

A CALL TO ACTION THE POLITICS OF DISEASE ADVOCACY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an October 10, 2006 article in the Wall Street Journal by Amy Dockser Marcus, entitled "Advocacy Overload?" The article reviews the current state of disease-funding advocacy, and specifically cites the efforts of the Princeton-based Melanoma Research Foundation to coordinate the advocacy activities of a wide variety of melanoma organizations. In the past year, MRF has worked to organize a coalition of these groups in order to develop a coordinated message to Congress and the National Institutes of Health. The goal of this "One Voice" for melanoma research is to develop a common agenda, focused on securing the additional resources to fund the research into better treatments and cures for melanoma.

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) was founded 10 years ago and has become the leading research foundation for melanoma. The Foundation has worked closely with the research and medical communities encourage dialogue and education about melanoma through their research congresses; participated in National Cancer Institute initiatives; organized the first steps of a melanoma coalition for advocacy; and hosts an interactive website for patients and caregivers. Their three part mission—supporting basic and translational research, education of patients and caregivers, and advocating for the melanoma community—is funded primarily through community fundraisers across the United States organized and managed by MRF volunteers. Other primary sources include memorial donations, individual gifts, and unrestricted grants from pharmaceuticals.

The need for a coordinated attack on melanoma is more critical now than ever before. Here are some of the facts about melanoma: It's the fastest growing cancer currently in the U.S.; It's the most common cancer in young adults aged 20 to 30; For women, age 25 to 30, melanoma is the primary cause of cancer death; For women, age 30 to 35, it's the second leading cause of cancer death, after breast cancer.

One of the primary causes of melanoma is UV exposure, most of which comes from too much time in the sun. Melanoma is survivable, if diagnosed early. When a superficial melanoma is found and diagnosed early, the 5 year survival rate is 100 percent. But at the opposite end, when the melanoma advanced to what's called Stage IV, when it's disseminated to major organs, the 5 year survival rate drops as low as 7 percent. Yet, despite these figures and the growing incidence of melanoma, no significant advances in medical therapies (or survival) for patients with advanced melanoma has occurred in the past 30 years.

Clearly, there's a great need for public awareness of the dangers of overexposure to the sun. There's also a need for increased research in identifying the causes and potential cures for melanoma. Once again, I commend the good work of the Melanoma Research Foundation in bringing greater public awareness to this disease, and advocating for more