

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
GENE MACDONALD

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Gene MacDonald is the founding president of the Appalachia Development District and served admirably with that association, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association for 30 years; and

Whereas, he is a 30-year board member of the Muskingum Area Technical College/Zane State College; and

Whereas, Gene MacDonald worked as the Zanesville Industrial Program Executive for 14 years; and

Whereas, he served as the director of planning and physician recruitment at Bethesda Hospital/Genesis Health Care System for 21 years; therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Gene MacDonald for his contributions to his community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 10, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall Nos. 108–110. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 108—“yea”—National 9–1–1 Education Month; rollcall No. 109—“yea”—E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building; rollcall No. 110—“yea”—Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex Post Office Building.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE
ORAL HEALTH REHABILITATIVE
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman CANTOR (R-VA) to introduce budget neutral legislation that will strengthen and enhance the Medicare program by allowing dentists and the surgical arm of dentistry to refer their patients directly to physical therapy, PT, services. This necessary legislation will save significant time and Medicare resources by allowing qualified dental professionals to directly refer and establish their patient's rehabilitative process.

This simple yet necessary legislative fix will permit physical therapy services to be furnished under the Medicare program to individuals under the care of a dentist. Current Medicare statute prohibits the direct referral of patients for PT under the care of dentists as well as oral and maxillofacial surgeons, OMS.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons, the surgical arm of dentistry, regularly treat patients with

medical conditions that require physical therapy. These conditions include, but are not limited to, facial trauma such as jaw fractures, temporomandibular joint disorder, TMJ, and reconstruction procedures subsequent to pathological and/or congenital anomalies. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons undergo rigorous hospital-based education and training that allows them to perform complex surgical procedures of the head and neck. Nationally, they treat thousands of patients each year.

Unfortunately, current Medicare law prohibits an oral and maxillofacial surgeon from directly referring their patients for physical therapy services. Instead, a dentist or OMS must first refer their patients back to an allopathic or osteopathic physician and work with such a physician to establish a therapy plan when an OMS believes physical therapy should be part of their patient's treatment. Such consultation has proven to be inefficient, unnecessary and cumbersome, and it ultimately delays patient treatment and the continuum of care.

Congressman CANTOR and I are proud to have crafted a budget neutral bill that will allow patients to access necessary PT services, restore their oral health and quality of life, and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and cost that currently slow the rehabilitative process.

My colleague and I would like to thank our local New Jersey and Virginia oral and maxillofacial surgical communities as well as the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, AAOMS, for supporting this legislation and working closely with us to improve patient access to oral health physical therapy services.

IN HONOR OF DR. W. JOE LEWIS

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Dr. W. Joe Lewis of Tifton, GA, on the occasion of his selection as a recipient of the 2008 Wolf Foundation Prize in Agriculture. This prize is given annually to recognize the achievements of outstanding scientists in six fields and comes with a \$100,000 award.

Dr. Lewis is being honored by the Wolf Foundation for his key role in discovering mechanisms governing plant-insect and plant-plant interactions. His scientific contributions have greatly assisted the development of an ecologically sound approach to integrated pest management and have helped to advance agricultural sustainability worldwide.

Madam Speaker, this award is just one example of Dr. Lewis's scientific contributions. Long recognized as a leader in the field of research entomology, his work has been featured in more than 200 scientific publications and highlighted on a number of broadcast programs. Dr. Lewis is often sought out by others for his knowledge and experience, and has mentored numerous students and scientists who are now making their mark on the world through their own scientific contributions.

Although recognized for his achievements, Dr. Lewis began life humbly as a sharecropper's son in Mississippi. His college stud-

ies led him into entomology and eventually brought him to Georgia.

From 1967 until his retirement in 2006, Dr. Lewis was a researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Tifton, Georgia, and also held adjunct faculty positions with both the University of Georgia and the University of Florida. In his time with the USDA, the Secretary of Agriculture promoted him to supergrade rank, and his numerous grant awards included \$4.3 million to explore the possibility of training insects as biological detectors.

Dr. Lewis has also been active in civic and community affairs. For more than a decade, he has served as the vice mayor of Tifton, GA. Previously, he served as a member of the city council and was involved with his community's downtown development and historic preservation. He also served on the board of elections, planning and zoning, and mental health services.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in recognizing the scientific and civic achievements of this great Georgian and American.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. GRAFF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, tonight many of Tom Graff's friends and associates will be honoring his career and accomplishments at a dinner in California. Because I can't make it to Sacramento for tonight's dinner, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great leaders, strategists, and intellectual engines of the environmental movement of the last several decades.

Tom Graff founded Environmental Defense Fund's California office in 1971, and he has been one of the most influential, effective, and important voices in California environmental policy—and especially in the water world—ever since. Indeed, Tom has been deeply involved in the messy and fascinating world of water politics and policy since before I came to Congress. Not many people can say that.

Over our decades of friendship, Tom has frequently been a lifesaver to me, to my staff, and frankly to the people of California. He always looks for solutions, even to the most intractable problems, and whenever we've needed to get the latest thinking on environmental policy water policy, the first call we make is to Tom.

Now, despite his genius, he hasn't always seen the wisdom of my approach to every specific issue, so from time to time, I have been on the receiving end of his strong—even passionate—views. But every interaction with Tom is educational, and leaves you wiser at the end of the day.

Among many other accomplishments, Tom's negotiating prowess and his wisdom were critical to the passage of legislation that I authored in 1992 to protect the Bay-Delta of California: the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

The CVPIA took us many years to put together, and Tom's hard work is visible throughout the statute. One of Tom's great insights was in advocating for, and helping to